

## Otley Road Cycleway

### Harlow & Pannal Ash Residents Association (HAPARA) Submission to NYCC Area Constituency Committee – 12 October 2022

Now that stage 1 of the Otley Road cycleway has been finished, HAPARA believed it was a good time to seek the views of local residents in relation to the scheme as a whole.

At the end of June leaflets were distributed to homes and businesses along the Otley Road. A copy was also posted on the HAPARA website and on social media, with residents being asked to submit comments on the issues raised in the leaflet.

On the recently constructed **Phase 1**, comments were very heavily negative with safety issues for both pedestrians and cyclists being voiced as the major area of concern. Here are just some of the comments:

***“Fundamentally flawed - a nightmare - an accident waiting to happen – unworkable in its crazy golf construction – and many more comments of a similar nature***

A recurring theme being expressed related to poor segregation between cyclists and pedestrians in Phase 1, that had made Otley Road less safe for all users while at the same time making it aesthetically less pleasing.

Only two responses supportive of the current scheme were received.

**A summation of the feedback received by HAPARA indicates the overwhelming majority do not want a continuance of the Phase I approach and consider the scheme as it stands to be entirely misguided.**

Very little comment was received in relation to **Phase 2** from Cold Bath Road to Beech Grove since residents are confused as to what exactly the design involves and when it will commence.

The scope for constructing **Phase 3** with full segregation of cyclists and pedestrians, the so called LTN 1/20 standard, was considered limited and would involve a significant loss of green landscape, since verges along the Otley Road are simply too narrow to accommodate both paths.

**Given the poor track record of this scheme we are asking the committee to:**

- 1 Carry out a full, meaningful and proper consultation with residents and businesses along Otley Road during the option development stage for the remainder of the Otley Road scheme, before designs are firmed up.  
and,
- 2 In the meantime, issue the timetable for implementation of phases 2 and 3 of the cycleway scheme plus route details.

**The general feeling is that this scheme will do very little, if anything, to offset the impact of the huge housing growth to the west of Harrogate, and nothing that has been proposed so far convinces us that the core traffic problem will in any way be mitigated.**

**In response to the Harrogate and Pannal Ash Residents Association (HAPARA) – News Letter featuring Otley Road cycleway.**

A consultation with residents and businesses in the vicinity of proposed phase 2 will be undertaken in October 2022, we will be seeking opinions from residents and key stakeholders on 3 options. As part of this, residents and stakeholders will also be invited to a meet the designer event, allowing them to discuss these options further.

This additional engagement and further consultation is to ensure that all user groups and residents views have been carefully considered.

Phase 1's final road safety audit has been completed and the contractor will undertake necessary amendments and remedial work. At the time of preparing this response a date is not yet confirmed but they hope to secure road space early in November to complete this.