

## **Birdgate Petition Briefing Note**

### **Petition Concerning the Ongoing Birdgate Highway and Water Ingress Issues, Pickering**

#### **Submitted in Support of a Community Petition with Approximately 900 Signatures**

#### **Executive Summary**

This briefing note accompanies a public petition signed by almost 900 individuals calling upon North Yorkshire Council to urgently address the ongoing issues affecting Birdgate, Pickering.

The matter has now been ongoing for almost eight months and continues to adversely affect local residents, businesses and visitors. Despite extensive engagement with Council officers, elected representatives, insurers and consultants, no definitive timetable for resolution has been communicated.

The petition demonstrates significant community concern regarding both the continuing disruption and the apparent lack of progress towards a permanent solution.

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#### **Background**

In September 2025, highway resurfacing works were undertaken on Birdgate in Pickering.

Following completion of those works, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 significant volumes of surface water began entering The Black Swan during periods of rainfall. The Black Swan, a Grade II listed coaching inn located on Birdgate, has experienced repeated water ingress events which were not present before the highway works were undertaken.

Subsequent investigations have been ongoing for many months involving North Yorkshire Council, insurers, engineers and other specialists.

Whilst proposals have been discussed, a permanent solution has not yet been implemented and no confirmed timetable for completion has been communicated.

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#### **Current Situation**

As of June 2026:

- Temporary traffic management remains in place.
- Excavations and barriers continue to affect Birdgate.
- Businesses continue to trade under difficult conditions.
- Residents continue to experience disruption.
- Concerns remain regarding ongoing water ingress and the condition of affected properties.
- No definitive programme for permanent remedial works has been communicated publicly.

The issue therefore remains active and unresolved.

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### **Duration of Temporary Measures and Public Cost**

The temporary traffic management arrangements associated with the Birdgate works have now been in place for six months and, if consideration of this petition is delayed until September, will have remained in place for approximately ten months.

Whilst petition signatories recognise the need for temporary measures to protect public safety, there is increasing concern regarding the length of time these arrangements have remained in place without a publicly communicated programme for permanent resolution.

Many residents, businesses and taxpayers have also questioned the ongoing cost of maintaining these arrangements and whether prolonged delays are resulting in additional expenditure from public funds that could potentially be avoided through a more timely resolution of the underlying issue.

Petition signatories would therefore welcome greater transparency regarding both the anticipated timescales for completion and the ongoing costs associated with maintaining the current arrangements.

### **Community Impact**

The impact extends significantly beyond any individual property.

#### **Residents**

Residents have experienced:

- Prolonged disruption caused by traffic management measures.
- Ongoing uncertainty regarding the final resolution of the problem.
- Reduced confidence that the issue is being addressed with sufficient urgency.

#### **Businesses**

Many local businesses continue to experience adverse effects arising from:

- Reduced footfall.
- Reduced visibility.
- Negative perceptions created by barriers and ongoing works.
- Customer access concerns.
- Continuing uncertainty regarding future timescales.

Multiple local business owners have signed the petition in support of urgent action.

## **Visitors and Tourism**

Pickering is an important tourist destination and gateway to the North York Moors.

The continued presence of barriers, excavations and temporary traffic management in a prominent location creates a poor first impression for visitors and risks undermining confidence in the town centre. It also adds significantly to traffic delays in and around the town.

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## **Public Support**

The petition has attracted approximately 900 signatures and continues to gain support.

Signatories include:

- Local residents.
- Business owners.
- Employees working within the town.
- Visitors with connections to Pickering.

The level of support demonstrates that this is not an isolated concern but a matter of wider community significance.

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## **Key Concerns Raised by Signatories**

The principal concerns raised through the petition are:

1. The length of time taken to resolve the issue.
  2. The continuing disruption to residents and businesses.
  3. The absence of a clearly communicated timetable for permanent resolution.
  4. The perceived lack of meaningful progress despite the passage of many months.
  5. The economic impact upon local businesses and the town centre.
  6. The continuing presence of barriers, excavation works and temporary traffic management arrangements in a prominent location within Pickering.
  7. Concerns regarding the ongoing cost to the public purse of maintaining temporary measures over an extended period without a communicated end date.
  8. Concerns regarding the adequacy and frequency of communication provided to residents and businesses affected by the ongoing works.
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## **Request to North Yorkshire Council**

Petition signatories respectfully request that North Yorkshire Council:

1. Provide a clear update on the current position.
2. Publish a realistic timetable for any remaining investigations and remedial works.
3. Explain the next steps required to achieve a permanent solution.
4. Ensure that affected residents and businesses receive regular and meaningful updates.

5. Give urgent consideration to the concerns expressed by the community through this petition.
6. Provide transparency regarding the cost of the temporary traffic management arrangements to date and any anticipated future costs should the matter remain unresolved.
7. Confirm how North Yorkshire Council intends to support affected businesses and residents whilst the issue remains ongoing.
8. Commit to ongoing engagement with affected stakeholders, including residents, businesses and petition representatives, until a permanent solution has been implemented.

Petition signatories are seeking clarity, transparency and a defined route to resolution rather than simply an acknowledgement that the issue remains under investigation.

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## **Conclusion**

This issue has now persisted for eight months and continues to affect the daily lives of residents, businesses and visitors.

The petition demonstrates substantial public concern and a strong desire for greater clarity, communication and progress.

Petition signatories therefore respectfully request that North Yorkshire Council consider this matter at the earliest available opportunity and provide a clear pathway towards resolution.

Submitted on behalf of the petition signatories.

Philip Hall

1<sup>st</sup> June 2026