

North Yorkshire County Council

Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

16 September 2021

Receipt of Petition “Remove the barriers blocking Beech Grove & Lancaster Road, Harrogate and stop this proposed LTN”

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise of a petition containing more than 500 signatures.
- 1.2 To ask the Area Constituency Committee to consider a response.

2.0 The Petition

- 2.1 An email has been received by the County Council which provides a link to an online petition. The link advises that there were in excess of 700 signatures to the petition at the time of writing this report.
- 2.2 The wording of the petition is set out below:-

“Remove the barriers blocking Beech Grove & Lancaster Road, Harrogate and stop this proposed LTN

Please remove the barriers on Beech Grove & Lancaster Road because:-

- 1. There has been no consultation with the residents about the LTN.
- 2. Very little notice before the barriers were put up.
- 3. Inconvenient for residents to access their own homes.
- 4. Traffic is forced to use the surrounding roads such as Otley Road and Cold Bath Road, both of which have schools on.
- 5. Inconvenient for those with difficulty with mobility, who rely upon their cars.
- 6. Harder access for emergency services.
- 7. Harder access for deliveries.
- 8. Harder access for refuse collection.
- 9. Longer car journeys due to longer route around the barriers.
- 10. More congestion caused by channelling traffic into already busy congested roads, particularly in rush hour. Rather than easing the traffic flow.
- 11. Longer time in the car, which is pumping out fumes, due to the congestion and delays.
- 12. Dangerous now that cars are diverting round the back of the Beech grove properties down a narrower, double parked road.
- 13. Trial set up during a pandemic.
- 14. No evidence of data being taken, despite asking NYCC which company they are using to gather the data.
- 15. No evidence of many cyclists actually using the road at all.

** Also please note we've just been informed they are intending to prohibit vehicles from entering Otley Road from Victoria Road as part of the Otley Road cycle route changes.”

2.2 A copy of the petition has been requested from its organisers, to enable the Council to ascertain the location of the people who have signed it. At the time of writing this report, the copy of the petition has not been received.

2.3 The petition organisers have been invited to join today's meeting to present their petition, or to nominate someone else to present it on their behalf. At the time of writing this report, the petition organisers have not responded to that question, although they have emailed saying that "(they) think it is very important that this is investigated properly and that the petition is presented at the meeting".

3.0 The County Council's Arrangements for Receiving and Responding to Petitions

3.1 The key features of the County Council's arrangements for receiving and debating petitions, as published on the County Council's website, are as follows:-

- Receipt of the petition is published on the County Council's website (which has been done in the case of this petition).
- If a petition contains 500 or more signatures (but less than 30,130 signatories), it will be scheduled for debate at the next meeting of the appropriate Area Constituency Committee.
- At the meeting, the petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition. Subsequently the petition will be discussed by County Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- The petition organiser is offered the opportunity to speak for five minutes to present his/her petition at the meeting. (If the petition organiser would like the local County Councillor, or someone else, to present the petition on their behalf, contact should be made with Democratic Services on 01609 532591 at least ten working days before the meeting and the process will be explained.)
- At the meeting, after the petition organiser has presented his/her petition, the petition will be discussed by County Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes and a decision will be made on how to respond to the petition.
- Possible responses by the County Council to petitions are:-
 - (a) to take the action the petition requests;
 - (b) not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate;
 - (c) to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee; or
 - (d) where the issue is one on which the county council executive are required to make the final decision, the county council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.
- The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on the website.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 That the Committee notes the petition and considers a response.

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Background Document: North Yorkshire County Council's petitions information and advice, a copy of which is on the County Council's website at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/petitions-information-and-advice>