Options to manage congestion in Harrogate and Knaresborough

15th April to 8th July 2019

Introduction

Our research together with anecdotal evidence indicates that there is congestion in Harrogate and Knaresborough. Housing and employment growth in the area is expected to continue, and while local improvements might offset the direct impacts of this growth, they will not help to solve existing congestion.

What are the reasons for this?

The reasons for this can broadly be explained as follows:

• A lot of people commute into and out of Harrogate
• The existing road network wasn’t designed to deal with so much traffic
• Journeys in the morning and evening are the main cause of the traffic issues but there are problems throughout the day
• A lot of journeys are very short, with many of these being made within the towns themselves by car
• There are currently low levels of cycling
• Bus use in Harrogate is low
• There are air quality issues in the area
• The number of cars on the road is expected to increase
We want to know whether you think congestion is a problem, whether it affects you, and what measures you would be prepared to support to help reduce it. We all contribute to congestion, so we all need to be part of improving the situation. Everyone has a stake in making the roads easier to use, safer and healthier for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

What are we doing?

We’re asking for your views about a number of possible measures that could be used to relieve congestion – we want to hear from as many people as possible. We are asking questions in a survey, and we would like to hear your comments. The survey will be available online, via the council’s website. We can also provide paper copies of the survey and accessible formats on request and will make copies available in libraries.

Throughout this process we are following national guidance set out by the Department for Transport. We are making every effort to ensure the process is open, accessible and transparent.

Why are we asking for your views?

Because we want to:

- Improve the quality of life for people in the area
- Support sustainable housing
- Support economic growth
- Improve local air quality

Implementing measures to help with congestion will be a long process, and we are aware that even if we ‘do nothing’ it doesn’t mean that nothing will change.

Who can take part?

Anyone can fill in the survey - we want as many people as possible to tell us what they think, including the following groups;

- residents and people who work in, and visit Harrogate and Knaresborough
- businesses and organisations based in Harrogate and Knaresborough

We want to know what all members of the community see as the issues.

How long will the survey be open?

The survey is open for 12 weeks, starting on 15th April 2019 and ending on 8th July 2019.

What will we do with your comments?

All views expressed in the survey will be taken into consideration when a decision is made on the type of package to take forward.

Using your comments, we will produce a package of measures designed to deliver the best outcomes. There would be consultations on any specific measures as they were developed.
Measures to relieve congestion

The complexity of the area’s traffic issues means they are unlikely to be addressed by a single solution, so two indicative packages combining a range of measures have been developed. The packages simply illustrate what could be done and are wholly flexible.

There are measures we already take, or plan to take, to help to reduce congestion. These include providing better traffic and travel information, creating better public spaces, managing traffic, roads and parking and improvements to public transport and cycling provision. Measures of this sort would, to a greater or lesser degree, be likely to be part of any package taken forward.

We have then compiled a package of measures aimed at managing demand for travel and changing people’s travel behaviour (known as package B). These include providing information in different, accessible ways, encouraging use of public transport, cycling and walking for shorter trips, investing in car-sharing and car clubs and working with residents, schools and businesses. Most do not involve major infrastructure changes.

The final series of options (package E) looks at major changes. These include a new road to relieve congestion in the towns and on the key roads leading into them, a park and ride scheme for Harrogate, and improved priority for buses through bus lanes and changes to junctions. If any of these measures were taken forward, it would be alongside measures to manage demand and change behaviour.

More detail on the above congestion measures can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/harrogatecongestion

And if you require any further information, please email harrogatecongestion@northyorks.gov.uk

How to take part

Please fill in the online survey, at www.northyorks.gov.uk/harrogatecongestion

If you would like a paper copy or accessible version of the survey, please call our customer service centre on 01609 780 780 or email customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk

You can pick up a paper copy of the survey from your local library.

There will also be a series of public exhibitions to allow people without access to the internet to view information on the proposals. Details of the events and dates confirmed at the time of printing are:

The Cairn Hotel, Harrogate, HG1 2JD

Wednesday 8th May • 15:00 - 17:00 & 18:00 - 20:00
Thursday 23rd May • 15:00 - 17:00 & 18:00 - 20:00

Saturday 15th June • 10:00 - 12:00

**Best Western Hotel, Bond End, Knaresborough, HG5 9AL**

Tuesday 14th May • 15:00 - 17:00 & 18:00 - 20:00

Wednesday 5th June • 15:00 - 17:00 & 18:00 - 20:00

**Killinghall Methodist Hall, Ripon Road, Killinghall. HG3 2DG**

Wednesday 5th June • 16:30 - 18:30

**Pannal Village Hall, Station Road, Pannal. HG3 1JG**

Thursday 16th May • 17:00 - 19:00

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**Please fill in the survey by 8 July 2019**

It’s important that as many people as possible take part because:

- This is the first important stage towards understanding what measures might be put in place. We want to hear as wide a range of views as possible on what people think are the best ways to reduce congestion in Harrogate and Knaresborough now and in the future.
- Congestion is not just a problem for drivers. It affects pedestrians and cyclists, people who live, work and shop in the towns, young and old, parents who have chosen to raise their families here, businesses, and visitors.
- Any decisions taken will potentially have a long-term impact on the towns.

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**Contact us**

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Our Customer Service Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm (closed weekends and bank holidays). Tel: 01609 780 780
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