

URGENT - PLEASE READ!

HARROGATE CONGESTION STUDY

A flyer will soon be dropping through your letterbox - you may already have seen it. It's a public consultation on local congestion, and contains plans for a so-called "relief road" which will bring **massive amounts of extra traffic to Harrogate and Knaresborough** - a fact North Yorkshire County Council has decided you don't need to know.

After huge public and political pressure, the County Council has also designed a sustainable package of transport measures with no new road. It's cheaper, quicker, better for the environment and much more effective: crucially, it will reduce traffic congestion instead of increasing it.

This is your only chance to influence the decision. For the sake of our district, please, please, please respond to the public consultation to support the package with no relief road by visiting www.northyorks.gov.uk/harrogatecongestion from April 15.

Turn over for the full story...

Package without relief road

- ✓ **Less traffic in our district**
- ✓ Cheaper, quicker, greener and much more effective
- ✓ Sustainable improvements to our transport network
- ✓ Improved quality of life in our towns and cleaner air
- ✓ Protection of green belt from development
- ✓ Preservation of Nidd Gorge and Nidderdale Greenway

Package with relief road

- X **Huge rise in traffic in our district**
- X £150 million cost to the taxpayer
- X Developers gain access to the green belt
- X Destruction of Nidd Gorge and Nidderdale Greenway
- X Opposed by our MP and almost every local councillor

HARROGATE & KNARESBOROUGH CONGESTION - THE FULL STORY

You may have heard proposals for a new "relief road". It's being presented as a solution to congestion, but it would actually flood Harrogate and Knaresborough's roads with through-traffic by providing an alternative route to the M62. From April 15 -July 8, you have a chance to stop it.

Right now, our district is being asked if we want a bypass - as part of a public consultation on Harrogate congestion.

It's a questionnaire asking for your views on traffic in Harrogate, and on two different packages of measures aimed at reducing congestion. The two packages are almost the same - both include a range of measures like better trains and buses, new signal technologies and school travel plans.

But one includes a project which will be very bad for our district: a new £150m "relief road", which will flood our towns with traffic.

A couple of powerful council officials have been dead set on building this bypass for years, and they have to run this public consultation to apply for Government funding to build it. The consultation is really a smokescreen for their main aim, which is to get you to answer yes to one question: "Do you want a new road?"

They know lots of people are against it: it would involve demolishing people's homes and destroying the Nidd Gorge and the Nidderdale Greenway. Our MP, the leader of Harro-

gate Council, Knaresborough Town Council and the vast majority of local politicians from all parties are against it too.

However, those NYCC officials also know many of us are so sick of traffic that we might say "yes" to anything that sounds like it would help. And calling it a "relief road" certainly makes it sound helpful.

But it won't help. In fact, it would actually make congestion much worse. It would make our roads far, far busier by attracting huge volumes of extra traffic.

Why? Because its main aim is to turn our district into a new east-west route to relieve the heavily-congested M62.

That's North Yorkshire County Council's end goal. It's working with other authorities to increase TransPennine road travel, and our district is currently the main bottleneck. It's why through-traffic makes up just 7% of the traffic on Harrogate district roads (the other 93% is local).

Their new road would hugely speed up the journey, making our district the quickest route for thousands of long distance lorry and car trips which currently take the M62.

How many? The County Council isn't saying - they've refused to make any predictions.

So you're being asked to consider the impact of this bypass, with no information about how much new traffic it will bring.

And there's one more thing you should know.

Building a new road between Harrogate and Knaresborough would open up something developers have wanted for a long time - an access road to the green belt.

That huge swathe of protected land between our two towns (the part that keeps us as two separate towns) would have its protected status weakened, paving the way for thousands of extra homes and the thousands of extra cars that come with them.

It's not all bad news. The package without the relief road is filled with great ideas to tackle congestion and improve our quality of life.

Please help solve Harrogate and Knaresborough's traffic problems and respond to support this package.

And please voice your opposition to the so-called "relief road". Whatever your views on its environmental impact, the extra traffic that road would bring here would be very bad news for all of us.

Visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/harrogatecongestion to respond.

This leaflet was crowdfunded and delivered by hundreds of Harrogate and Knaresborough residents under the banner of HALT: the Harrogate and Knaresborough Alliance for Less Traffic.

