

## **Reply from Cllr Keane Duncan to the Parish Council statement to the November 2022 NYCC Executive Meeting**

“In response, County Councillor Keane Duncan made the following statement:

“Thank you for your question. The county council is working to address congestion in and around Harrogate, now and in advance of the planned development in the west of OFFICIAL Harrogate, which will see an extra 2,500 homes constructed between now and 2035. This major, strategic development is key to providing much-needed housing and promoting Harrogate’s future economic growth, as is the proposed Maltkiln development. It is vital, therefore, that the council continues essential work on both of these schemes in parallel. While the west of Harrogate development is spread over several sites and a number of separate planning applications, a unified approach is being taken to delivery of essential infrastructure and mitigation of traffic impacts. We are working with the land promoters and their consultants, who have been instructed to look at traffic impacts cumulatively and this will be documented in a Transport Strategy. As part of the planning application process, promoters must also produce Travel Plans as part of the pre-application process to show commitment to promoting sustainable travel into the future. We continue to work with and support Harrogate Borough Council through this process.

The Transport Strategy work has already identified a number of junctions where capacity would be exceeded once development traffic has been factored in. These junctions will require mitigation, and this will be funded by the developers and delivered by the county council. This work is significant and will cost developers between £15-25 million. As this work continues, community consultation will be critically important and stakeholder events will be convened to allow local people to receive information and give their views. I have asked officers to ensure dates of these sessions are shared with the parish council when they are available. The Transport Strategy will also be submitted alongside the individual planning applications giving all stakeholders a formal opportunity to comment on it as part of the planning process.

Consultants RPS have been commissioned to carry out a “buildability check” of all mitigation proposals to assess basic design parameters, determine the achievability of constructing the proposal and to provide construction costings for each of the proposed mitigation measures. I have asked council officers to share a copy of the brief for this work with the parish council. With regard to a potential park and ride facility in Harrogate, a number of sites across the town are being considered, and their ability to reduce congestion forms part of these considerations. No decisions have been taken and the work is still very much in the feasibility stage and will be included in a report detailing the findings. Given this, it would be wrong to rule out or rule in any particular sites at this stage.

The county council would value input from the parish council over coming months and years. We would be happy to provide further updates as work progresses, take on board suggestions and respond to any further questions you may have.”