

Chair, Councillors, council officers, members of the public. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

I speak for Nidd Gorge Community Action - one of the confirmed groups on the Key Stakeholder Engagement list.

We would like to thank Rebecca Burnett and North Yorkshire County Council for agreeing to widen the brief of the Steering Committee to include the alternative/complementary measures such as

- Park and Ride, (
- Significant investment in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure (
- and other more sustainable measures. (We accept that there is clearly a problem with the traffic management in Harrogate. However we do not believe that there is necessarily a silver bullet solution - but rather a series of incremental improvements. For example item 7 - a solution for Bond End air improvement. It would be helpful if these ideas were all pulled together to produce a truly coherent approach. (

We have a few further options that we would like to be considered by the Steering

Group including more and better bus services, and changes to traffic signalling and

priorities. We will submit these with evidence, very shortly.

For example: Are the junction changes at Oatlands and Woodlands now complete?

Have these been put through the new traffic model? Are they working at

optimum

capacity? If we are to solve our traffic problems then all works need to be followed

through.

What is clear to us is that the traffic problems are 'here and now' and although there

is always a need to view the long term, much can be done to alleviate the problems

now if only we have the imagination and courage to embrace change.

We note that NYCC has secured the services of Mouchel to cover three different

aspects: estates and valuations, property projects and highways. Specifically how will

Mouchel contribute to the alternatives to road building? We would like to understand

what other tools Mouchel have in their tool box - other than their main focus - road

building.

To close, Nidd Gorge Community Action remain opposed to the blue and green routes – these being too high a cost to both the environment and the Nidd Gorge community.

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