PROTECT YOUR WAY OF LIFE!
You have chosen to live in a rural environment. If you value the quality of this lifestyle do not let the ill-conceived development plan for West Harrogate take it away. Act now. The public consultation period is the last chance to have your say before the plan is submitted for the governments seal of approval.

DEADLINE DATE
The deadline for comments is 4.30pm Friday 9 March 2018.

HOW TO OBJECT
A standard response form has been issued by the planning inspectorate - the government appointed body responsible for approving or rejecting the plan.

Only comments submitted on this form will be considered. The form can be found on the Harrogate BC web site: http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/localplan

It can also be downloaded from our parish website: www.northrigton.org

WE URGE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO RESPOND AND OPPOSE THE DRAFT PLAN

Harrogate district local plan is reaching its final stage. If implemented as drafted it will have a major negative impact on North Rigton and surrounding area.

This negative impact will come from:
1. a huge increase in traffic. An ‘upgrade’ is planned to the rural road through North Rigton to make it more efficient at relieving congestion in West Harrogate;
2. increased competition for school places and other local services and,
3. erosion of the rural quality and beauty of the area.

Your Parish Council believe the plans for west Harrogate are ill-conceived and NOT SOUND. We will be submitting a formal objection on the following grounds:

1. **Not sustainable** – the developments have no access to rail or bus transport and are roads dependent. The rural road network in the area is not adequate to cope with the additional traffic volumes generated. In 2014, the Harrogate plan was dismissed by the planning inspector because of a lack of infrastructure – nothing has changed other than plans to enhance rat-runs.
2. **Not justified** – Government guidelines on the number of new homes required per year is 395 not the 669 proposed in the plan.
3. **Not deliverable** – the plan claims that 40% of new homes will be ‘affordable homes’. This of course is subject to them being viable for a developer to build! With house prices in Harrogate 35% higher than the North Yorkshire average is there much chance of this?
4. **Not compliant** - the public consultation stages have only been an "exercise" and little has changed from the original ill-conceived draft plan.
A £3m package to improve road efficiency is now part of the development plan for West Harrogate. These are shown alongside. They include a cycle-way and junction adjustments on Otley Road and a roundabout on the junction of Burn Bridge Lane with the A61.

This map also shows the ‘upgrade’ of the rural road through North Rigton to Beckwithshaw.

The intention to upgrade this road to relieve congestion has happened without any public consultation and came as a surprise to your parish council.

HOUSING NUMBERS IN DETAIL
Over 4,000 houses are either approved for construction or are allocated for the countryside in West Harrogate. About 3,000 of these will effectively urbanise Otley Road expanding the suburbs of Harrogate almost to Beckwithshaw and generating thousands more traffic movements every day.

Key to the plan:
Blue – already approved for construction
Red – pending approval
Orange – sites designated for housing in the local plan

If these plans horrify you please submit the formal ‘Response Form’ with your views
Download it from our web site www.northrigton.org
We suggest you ignore section 4 of this form as it requires linking comments to specific areas.

Alternatively log on to www.harrogate.gov.uk/localplan for full details of the Harrogate District Draft Local Plan

This newsletter is issued by North Rigton Parish Council
e-mail: northrigtonparishcouncil@gmail.com