

HAMPSTHWAITE  
ACTION GROUP

North Rigton Parish Council



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The Western Arc Coordination Group

November 2020

We are writing to ask for your support for our Sustainable Development Campaign to improve the large-scale developments on the Western Arc of Harrogate.

Our group represents most of the community affected by the extensive development proposals on the west side of Harrogate. We are pleased to attach our document **Campaign for Sustainability of Development** which sets out in three sections (covering housing numbers, traffic and green/low carbon matters) what we believe are the main issues which concern us all when it comes to what is being proposed in the Local Plan.

Whilst the principle of development has been decided upon, and the Local Plan adopted earlier this year, there still remain huge concerns on how exactly sustainability can be delivered to underpin such a large urban expansion in a part of Harrogate with an acknowledged weak infrastructure. In brief, these concerns relate to:

- The scale of the urban expansion proposed relative to the infrastructure provision
- The increase in housing numbers being applied for, over and above the Local Plan provision
- The inadequacy of sustainable alternatives to car travel
- The impact on local communities of generated traffic
- A lack of ambition when it comes to green and low carbon issues

We welcome the development of a Parameters Plan by Harrogate Borough Council looking at the area as a whole, and whilst useful discussions have taken place between our organisations and both Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council, we remain unconvinced that what is being planned for the Western Arc of Harrogate can be made fully sustainable. Whilst COVID 19 has rightly been at the forefront of the political stage in recent months, the big issue that will remain with us is sustainability and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner. Achieving that target will require an unprecedented transformation of our housing and infrastructure systems.

Whilst many of the principles contained within the Local Plan are sound, we believe that 3500-4000 additional dwellings, plus schools and further expansion for business, requires an infrastructure that can cope, not partially upgraded country lanes, which is currently the best on offer.

**Your support to help overcome the above problems is important since you are in a position to influence the decision making, and we will be more than happy to meet with you to discuss our concerns.**

With Regards

The Western Arc Coordination Group

You can contact us on [westarcgroup@gmail.com](mailto:westarcgroup@gmail.com) or through any of our partner organisations.