
Have your say on transport in Harrogate Let's Talk Transport briefing (June 2023)

Sick of having to take your car on short journeys because there's no reliable, affordable alternative? Do you avoid letting your kids ride their bikes because of dangerous road crossings? Fed up of traffic and worried about air pollution?

Now is the chance to have your say and make sure North Yorkshire Council prioritises the development of safe, sustainable and affordable transport options in our town. NYC is running a consultation to find out more about the concerns and priorities of local residents to help shape the new Local Transport Plan.

Why should I take part?

We all need to travel for various reasons but sometimes this isn't as easy or enjoyable as it could be. Using our cars is often seen as the "best" option despite the traffic and parking issues in and around the town.

Transport is the single biggest contributor of carbon emissions in our county and reducing this is a critical part of tackling the climate crisis. In the UK, just 25% of car journeys are less than one mile.

At ZCH we understand that people need to get from A to B and reducing our reliance on cars will not be easy. That's why we're calling on NYC to:

1. Ensure sustainability and carbon reduction is at the heart of the new integrated Local Travel Plan and that cutting-edge best practice is followed and adapted to meet the needs of local people.
2. Create an ambitious vision for a more sustainable future that inspires and reassures local people about the benefits of a more sustainable approach to transport.
3. Make it easier, safer and more enjoyable to walk, cycle or use shared or public transport.
4. Commit to ambitious, measurable carbon reduction targets.

How do I take part:

- [Click here](#) to find the survey online – it'll take about five minutes to complete
-

-
- Alternatively, you can email letstalk@northyorks.gov.uk for a paper form. You can also use this email address if you need further assistance or an alternative format.
 - The deadline is **Monday 17 July 2023** so don't delay, have your say today!

What to expect from the survey

Questions 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 are closed options with no space for your own words. They are to find out about your current and future transport habits, how you feel the transport network meets your needs and what measures might be effective in making positive improvements. When answering these questions, remember to think about all of the journeys you make, even the infrequent or short ones, as well as your aspirations for your future travel.

Question 4 asks you about changes you've made in the last three years, in your own words. This is a good opportunity to talk about why you've made these changes e.g. to reduce your carbon footprint, to make a healthier choice, to choose a cheaper option. You can also use this to share any concerns or barriers to making different choices. For example:

- Anything that stops you walking more – road safety, quality of pavements, air pollution, dog waste, cars on pavements
- Anything that stops you cycling more – availability of dedicated cycle lanes, poor condition of roads, lack of secure bike parking, road safety
- Anything that prevents you using public transport more – cost, reliability, routes

Question 6 asks you to rate different transport concerns. You might like to think about:

- **Isolation** - are suitable transport options available and affordable to you and the people you want to meet?
 - **Congestion** - are you concerned about the number of cars, vans and other vehicles on our roads?
 - **Pollution** - do you live or work near areas with heavy traffic? Can you taste, see or smell pollution and are you worried about the impact of this, particularly on children?
 - **Digital connectivity** - good connectivity allows people to reduce the number of journeys they make e.g. by working from home. Could improved connectivity help in your neighbourhood?
-

-
- **Impact of transport on climate change** – this is the big one for us at ZCH! By choosing ‘this is always a concern’ we can encourage NYC to take it more seriously. Remember, transport is the biggest carbon emitter in our region.
 - **Road safety** – do you, or your children or elderly relatives, feel safe when walking or cycling around Harrogate? Are the pavements clear? Is it easy to cross roads?
 - **Affordability of travel** – would you be encouraged to travel more by public transport if it was cheaper?
 - **Availability and reliability of travel** – are you able to make the journeys you need when you need to? Are you concerned that the large numbers of new housing aren’t currently adequately served by public transport?
 - **Difficulty reaching services such as shops and health facilities** – are you able to get to the services you need when you need them? Is there a bus service? Are walking or cycling viable options for you for these needs?

Question 7 asks whether you have any comments to add about your previous answers. You might like to think about your most pressing concerns and add more detail here, why are they such a concern for you? Why should NYC prioritise them?

Question 9 asks for final comments and is your last opportunity to have your say using your own words. You might like to talk about your own experiences, your personal priorities and what you see as lacking or needing improvements. You may like to reiterate how important a sustainable transport strategy is in reducing our overall carbon emissions. Don’t forget to give details of the journeys you are referring to. Name bus routes, streets, junctions so the Council become aware of specific issues that need addressing.

Finally, you will be asked for your email (to confirm you are a real person) and some demographic data to finish.

Remember, together, we can make sure NYC understand how important safe, sustainable transport is to local people. Don’t miss this opportunity to have your say on what’s important to you. Join our mailing list and/or follow Zero Carbon Harrogate on social media to stay up-to-date with our work and sustainable news and developments in the area. Thank you.
