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Kristan Livingston Head of Asset Strategy

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Your ref:
Our ref: CH/major schemes/A1079
Enquiries to: Claire Hoskins
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Tel. direct: (01482) 391747
Date: 03/03/15

Dear Ms Wills,

A1079 Improvement Scheme

Thank you for your letter submitted on 26th February 2015 outlining Wilberfoss Parish Council's concerns regarding the A1079 improvement scheme.

The benefits of the A1079 improvement scheme have been clearly identified as part of the funding bid for the scheme and communicated to residents through the local media following the award of funding from the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Essentially, the scheme has been developed to increase capacity and improve journey times and journey time reliability along a key road link, particularly for drivers travelling to access employment, education and other facilities in York, the East Riding and Hull. The new section of dual carriageway will provide a safe overtaking facility for drivers to pass slow moving vehicles, reducing driver frustration. Finally, the scheme will also help to accommodate the increase in traffic flows which is anticipated to take place as a result of the significant proposed development allocated along the A1079 corridor. The scheme has attracted widespread local support and is ranked as the number one priority scheme by the LEP. It is also supported by the local MP, ward members, and local action groups.

As part of the development of the A1079 improvement scheme we are required to calculate the likely value for money that the scheme will offer. This ensures that the scheme delivers maximum benefits for local residents and communities while providing excellent value for every pound invested, which is particularly important given the current economic climate. This initial economic assessment suggests that the scheme will have a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of over 2, where Department for Transport guidance states that a BCR of over 2 offers 'high' value for money. The scheme will therefore benefit a significant number of road users and will offer excellent value for money.

To help to address Wilberfoss Parish Council's concerns regarding road safety East Riding of Yorkshire Council worked in partnership with the Parish Council to install a central island on the A1079 at the junction with the western end of Main Street in September 2012. Since the installation of the island there have been no recorded collisions at this junction, which appears to suggest that the island is having a positive impact in terms of improving road



safety. The current road safety record at this junction and the surrounding area means that a roundabout at this location cannot currently be justified on road safety grounds.

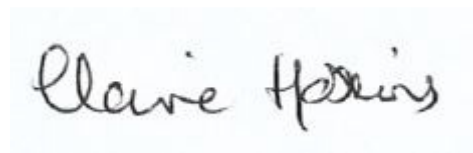
The A1079 junction study referred to in your letter was completed by independent consultants and formed part of an Infrastructure Study, which is included in the evidence base for the Council's emerging Local Plan. Each junction was modelled using specialist software to see if it could accommodate existing and anticipated future traffic flows. This assessment showed that the A1079 / Main Street (West End) junction was functioning well within capacity both now and with the addition of future traffic generated by new development, and that no mitigation is necessary to improve capacity at the junction. The Study has identified that a roundabout at this location is therefore not required to address capacity issues or to cater for future development traffic at this time.

The funding that has been awarded to the Council from the LEP can only be spent on the scheme detailed within the funding bid, which in this case is the A1079 scheme. Funding cannot be diverted from this to another scheme, and even if this were possible it is not something that we would consider because it would leave a funding gap for the A1079 scheme. Our highway development control team will liaise closely with applicants as part of the planning process and will work with the developers to ensure that any highway improvements required as part of the development are implemented, although given the scale of the new development this is unlikely to include a new roundabout.

The Council will be consulting on the A1079 scheme with local residents over the coming months. This will give the Parish Council a chance to discuss the scheme design with our engineers and to look at the proposal in more detail. We will also continue to monitor the road safety record and traffic flows at the Main Street/A1079 junction to allow us to identify any significant changes in travel patterns and collision rates.

I hope this goes some way to addressing your concerns but if there is anything further I can help with please do not hesitate to contact me using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Hoskins". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Claire Hoskins
Principal Transport Policy Officer