

# **HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSIDE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting Monday 16th, 7:15pm at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes.**

## **Please see the following statement:**

The proposals announced in a Press Release from North Yorkshire County Council, of a proposed scheme to introduce two way traffic using traffic lights in the Holme and the Market Place, leaving the Cobbles as a pedestrian only area except for access by residents, businesses and deliveries, were issued without any prior consultation on its content with the Parish Council, or with Cllr John Blackie as the local County Councillor.

This proposal was suggested by Highways Officers at the County Council, and would be funded by a windfall grant from Central Government through its Safer Road initiative. It is receiving an unwelcome reception amongst residents and businesses in the town, is seen to be unworkable, and will remove a considerable amount of free parking currently available in the Holme and in the Market Place. The prospect of cars queuing at traffic lights in the main Market Place will stem the free-flow of traffic whilst creating an unpleasant environment with waiting traffic emitting petrol and diesel exhaust fumes that will fill the busiest area in the town.

Cllr Blackie has been told by the Director of Business and Environmental Services at NYCC (David Bowe) that nothing is set in stone with regard to the proposals, and the options include abandoning them altogether. The County Council will consult fully on its proposals, and is very keen to hear what the local community think of them, before making any decisions.

However, Cllr Blackie, who is also Chairman of Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council, wishes to make clear that the final decision will lie with David Bowe in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways, County Councillor Don Mackenzie (Conservative) who represents a Division in Harrogate. They are duty bound to hear the response from Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council, and take it into account in their decision making, but this does not mean they have to abide by what we say.

Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council will decide its response at a special single item Parish Council meeting to be held in the Autumn – the meeting on Monday 16th July starting at 7.15 pm at the DCM is to hear about the proposals.

Neither the Parish Council nor Cllr Blackie have seen the proposals, so do not have the first clue as to how they will attempt to deal with the issues that are outlined above.

CC Don Mackenzie will be attending the meeting on 16th July but David Bowe is unfortunately on holiday.

Richard Marr, the NYCC Area Highways Manager for Richmondshire, has already accepted an invitation and will be attending what will be his first Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council meeting, and it is important we extend a warm welcome to him.

Cllr John Blackie reiterates the best way to get rid of these proposals once and for all is to stay calm and show them up for what they are - unnecessary, unwelcome, unworkable. Simply shouting them down will not do – we have compelling arguments to shoot them down instead. We need CC Don Mackenzie to listen to what we have to say, and take back to the County Council the message – Nothing doing, Chum !!

Members of the public are readily encouraged to attend the meeting, and may make contributions to the discussion, strictly however through the Chairman.