



# Media Release

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## **TRANSCO TO HELP ENTENTE FLORALE BID**

Gas pipeline company Transco is saying sorry with flowers after a lengthy road works scheme in Harrogate.

The company recently finished a major gas mains replacement scheme in Otley Road, which caused months of disruption for drivers and residents.

But now the area is set to be sitting pretty as the town starts its nail-biting build-up to the prestigious Entente Florale (Europe in Bloom) competition.

As well as re-turfing the verges to prepare for judging in July, engineers have also handed over a £1,000 donation towards planting.

Harrogate Council's Chief Engineer (Highways and Transportation) said Transco's work in Otley Road had caused added problems for local people by over-running by two weeks. "As a gesture of goodwill we are very pleased that Transco has responded in this way. Although Transco would usually only be required to 'soil and seed' the damaged grass verges they have agreed to fully re-turf them so that they can be well established in time for the July judging.

"Entente Florale is an important event for the district. Thanks to Transco, they have made sure that their work in Otley Road will not let us down."

Transco Network Operations Manager Mark Chapman said the project to replace gas mains in Otley Road was vital to maintain the safety and security of gas supplies to thousands of homes in Harrogate.

"It involved replacing around 1.5km of large diameter pipe and cost us about £200,000. Although we had hoped to finish the work at Easter, during the course of the project a further 100m of mains was identified as needing replacement which is why it took slightly longer than anticipated. We can only apologise for this.

"With a bit of luck, our horticultural makeover in Otley Road will add to the town's already stunning display in Entente Florale. Harrogate is as pretty as a picture and can rival anywhere in Europe. We want to keep it that way."

**Ends**

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Entente Florale is a prestigious European competition similar to Britain in Bloom. Each country puts forward two representatives, one for the Town category (population 10,001 and upward) and one for the village category (population up to 10,000). The Jury then visits the town/village during July and early August and an assessment is made. The overall aim of the competition is the improvement of the quality of life for local urban and village communities.

The other participating countries are Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands and Slovenia, each of which nominates one of the judges who will visit Harrogate and Darley this summer. The competition is organised by the "Association Européenne du Fleurissement et du Paysage" (AEFP.) and was founded more than 25 years ago, initially between Great Britain and France.

**Britain's only entries are ...Harrogate & Darley.**

The Award Ceremony is to be held Friday 10 September 2004 in Aix-les-Bains, France.