



# Media Release

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DATE: 15 April 2004

**photo opportunity – see below**

## **NO WAITING ON WETHERBY ROAD OR SKIPTON ROAD**

More no parking restrictions on Skipton Road and Wetherby Road in Harrogate are about to make traffic move easier along these two busy roads which, between them, carry nearly 50,000 vehicles a day.

Not one objection was received to the advertised Traffic Order to implement additional no waiting restrictions on parts of Wetherby Road and Skipton Road and they will now be brought into effect.

Councillor Julian Sturdy, Cabinet Member for Public Works, said: “Tackling traffic congestion is one of our highest priorities. We listened to what local people said at the public meeting held last year when they identified three locations where problems with parked cars and delivery vehicles create traffic congestion on these two busy roads.

“This measure is likely to bring major relief and is just one step on the road to tackling the problem. Any driver who has been stuck on one of these roads, or a resident whose life is made difficult because of the sheer volume of motor vehicles using them, will applaud any measures to improve traffic movement.

On Wetherby Road, cars belonging to parents dropping off and collecting children and supporters attending football matches obstruct the free movement of through traffic.

And on Skipton Road, the major problems occur between Chatsworth Road and Woodfield Road where domestic parking and service deliveries reduce the width of the road and obstruct through traffic. Similar problems occur on Devonshire Place.

“We do not wish to unreasonably restrict businesses from loading or unloading, added Councillor Sturdy, “But we do need everyone’s co-operation to ensure that traffic congestion is not unnecessarily caused during peak traffic periods. Because these new restrictions may cause problems for residents on Skipton Road, we will be examining the possibility of lowering kerbs outside residential properties to allow parking astride the existing footway, which is wide enough to accommodate this without causing problems for pedestrians.

Mr David Alexander, Operations Director of Harrogate and District Travel, said: "We welcome the introduction of these additional restrictions along one of our key route corridors."

The full proposals which are being implemented include:

- ❖ Selective waiting/loading restrictions on sections of Skipton Road between Chatsworth Road and Woodfield Road and the introduction of lowered kerbs
- ❖ Additional waiting/loading restrictions on Devonshire Place and peak hour loading restrictions between Regent Avenue and the bus stop
- ❖ Waiting restrictions on the remaining sections of Wetherby Road between the Empress Roundabout and Woodlands Corner that are not currently covered by yellow lines.

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: 11.00 am on Monday, 19 April 2004 outside Woodlands Methodist Church, Wetherby Road, Harrogate, when Councillor Sturdy will meet Mr David Alexander, Operations Director of Harrogate and District Travel and one of the bus drivers who regularly uses this route and will be one of the first to benefit from the improved traffic flow.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Julian Sturdy is available for comment on 07836 692010. Further technical information is available from Mr Chris McGonigle, Group Engineer (Highways and Transportation) on 01423 556606.**