

DEPUTATION TWO
WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Please make your speech now to the Council, which should not be longer than five minutes, and please begin by introducing the people in your deputation.

MR CHAPMAN: I am Harry Chapman, Town Councillor of Wetherby. We have Barbara Ball, who is the Town Clerk of Wetherby.

My Lord Mayor and Leeds Councillors, hello and thanks for inviting a Wetherby Town Councillor to your meeting.

Fellow Councillors, Wetherby is looking for your support.

Wetherby is a Market Town that is struggling in providing the right environment to ensure that visitors, tourists and its own population visit the town shops and spend money. I appreciate we are not alone with this problem. Shops are closing due to lack of business and we are looking for a way to reverse this cycle.

We have had various changes over the last few years affecting the town, especially the upgrading of the A1 and the access to changes to the town that followed.

One of our great concerns is traffic management - as getting into and out of our town plus parking when there - can be very difficult.

I could spend a lot of time talking about the various problems but the one I am looking for your support on is to put a mini roundabout at the junction of the A661 and Linton Road. The A661 is the main road the Harrogate from Wetherby and is used by Harrogate traffic as a short cut from the A1 Motorway.

At the moment we allow parked cars on this road at a very narrow point on its exit to the town on the Harrogate side and near this proposed roundabout. This restricts the road as it narrows to one lane of traffic and so stops vehicles speeding but also means that we have traffic back up right through the town to the bridge over the river Wharfe. I am sure you will appreciate this not helping to make Wetherby what we want it to be - a visitor friendly town. We have a Traffic Order for this area pending but it has not gone ahead due to lack of funding.

We feel that if the roundabout was built it would help several ways:-

- Parked traffic could now be restricted so that a clearer flow of traffic can take place and it should also meet the police requirement by acting as a Speed Regulator which is currently undertaken by the parked vehicles.
- Vehicles coming from Linton Road would have easier and safer access to the A661.
- Speeding Traffic coming down Spofforth Hill, we have had lots of complaints, should be curtailed dramatically as they would have to slow down for the traffic island.

Leeds Traffic Management Team agree with the idea of a the mini roundabout but say that it cannot be done at present due to lack of funds. The costings I have seen suggest it will

cost approx £70,000, which does sound an awful lot to me for what is involved. I am sure it will actually cost less than this when fully funded.

This matter has been going on since 2001 when Leeds came up with a traffic plan and presented it to the people of Wetherby. It was voted on and was put into “The Leeds Traffic Plan for Wetherby”

In 2006 there was a traffic management exhibition at Wetherby Town Hall. 2007 the traffic plan was approved by the Highways Board. 2007 to 2010 – nothing has been actioned. Thank you for your time and I hope you will be supporting us. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Bentley?

COUNCILLOR BENTLEY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Could we take a vote on that, please? (*A vote was taken*)
This is CARRIED.

Thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the consideration which your comments will receive. Good afternoon.