

ANDREW JONES MP
Harrogate & Knaresborough



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr David Collett
Chair
Hampsthwaite Parish Council
Manor Farm House
High Street
Hampsthwaite
Harrogate
HG3 2HA

17 June 2016

Dear David

My thanks to you and your fellow councillors for meeting with me earlier this month to discuss local democracy in North Yorkshire and issues within Hampsthwaite parish which your council is seeking borough and county council support to resolve. I have addressed the points we discussed individually below.

Parish Councils and appealing planning permissions

The Government has decided not to introduce a third party right of appeal against the granting of planning permission. It is believed that the planning system is already centred on community involvement. Communities, including parish councils, have statutory rights to become involved in the preparation of the Local Plan for the area or neighbourhood plan and to make representations on planning applications and planning appeals. Planning policy is clear that where a planning application conflicts with a neighbourhood plan that has been brought into force, planning permission should not normally be granted.

Objections to planning applications are considered by the local planning authority or on appeal by an Inspector on behalf of the Secretary of State. All views are taken into account before reaching a final decision to accept or reject an application. If communities are concerned that their plans are not being respected as they should be, the Secretary of State has powers to intervene.

North Yorkshire County Council highways department

I have written to Mr Richard Flinton, Chief Executive of North Yorkshire County Council, to request that he examine how the highways department has been interacting with local parish councils. I have highlighted to Mr Flinton issues within Hampsthwaite where you feel the highways department has ignored the wishes of the parish council. I have asked Mr Flinton for a highways officer to contact the Parish Council directly to discuss your concerns.

Speeding on Church Lane, Hampsthwaite

I have written to Mrs Julia Mulligan, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, to ask that she arrange for a speed survey to take place on Church Lane. I have informed Mrs Mulligan it seems to have been several years since such a survey took place.

I will contact you again when I have received a response from either of the above.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Jones MP