

# Boost for North Yorkshire's growth as A1(M) junction improvements head towards completion

The £10m project at junction 47 (Allerton Park) involves widening three of the four slip roads onto and off the roundabout to increase capacity as well as a number of junction improvements.

Yesterday, Harrogate and Knaresborough MP Andrew Jones visited the works to get a progress report from North Yorkshire County Council which is delivering the project and National Highways, formerly Highways England, which is part-funding it.

As well as widening the slip roads, traffic signals will be installed on the roundabout to improve traffic flow. Signals will also be added to the T-junction between the A168 and the A59 a short distance from junction 47 on the York side to benefit drivers turning on to the A59 and improve safety.

To the west of Junction 47, between the A1 and the Flaxby roundabout, a lane will be added for traffic travelling east, so there will be two lanes in each direction between those two roundabouts.

Andrew Jones MP with representatives of the project team including North Yorkshire County Council, National Highways and Farrans Construction.

Mr Jones said:

A vital aspect of enabling the levelling up of this area and the wider region is ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support economic development and the jobs, homes and prosperity that delivers.

I am delighted to see the progress being made on this key junction. This upgrade will strengthen transport connections and enhance resilience, adding an important piece to the jigsaw that will guide sustainable growth in Harrogate and Knaresborough in the coming years.

Simon Boyle, Yorkshire and North East Divisional Director for National Highways, said:

We are delighted to be working with North Yorkshire County Council, York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and developer Forward Investment LLP on this project. Better transport links and

improved journey reliability are key to the economic success of an area.

This scheme will unlock future growth to Harrogate and Knaresborough by enabling better movement of people and goods as well as improving traffic flow and safety for local road users. We look forward to its completion.

Cllr Don Mackenzie, Executive Member for Access, said:

These upgrades will address congestion at this location, improve road safety and support sustainable development in Harrogate and Knaresborough. This investment is also vital to address one of the County Council's top transport priorities, improving east-west connections across North Yorkshire.

The project has been supported by £2.47m from the government's Local Growth Fund, secured by the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, along with contributions from the County Council, National Highways and developer Forward Investment LLP. Work is scheduled to be completed in December 2021.

David Dickson, Chair of the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Infrastructure and Joint Assets Board, said:

Improved connectivity will enable good economic growth for the region. We're delighted to see the continued progress of this scheme.

The contractor is Farrans Construction and the scheme designer and supervisor is Aecom.

### **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

### **Media enquiries**

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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# Sentence increased for man caught with over 5,000 indecent images of children

News story

Nathan Delgado has had his prison term increased after the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer, QC MP, referred his original sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.



A North London man who made thousands of indecent images of children has had his prison term increased after the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer, QC MP, referred his original sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.

Nathan Delgado, 49, was arrested in March following a search of his home. Analysis of Delgado's mobile phone found over 5,000 indecent images of children, of which 26 were identified as being taken by Delgado himself. It also was identified that Delgado had been discussing the sexual abuse of children online, distributing the indecent images as well as engaging in offending intended to involve a young child online.

On 18 June Delgado was convicted of a number of offences relating to making, taking and distributing indecent photographs of children, and attempting to cause a child to watch a sexual act. Delgado was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment at Wood Green Crown Court. He was also issued with a Sexual Harm Prevention Order for life and placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

On 3 September the Court of Appeal found the original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased his sentence to 3 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Lucy Frazer, QC MP said:

Delgado's offending was wide-ranging and it will have had a serious effect on the children involved. I welcome the decision of the Court of Appeal to increase his sentence.

## [£9 million fund for local authorities to tackle air pollution](#)

Local projects to improve air quality across England will get a £7 million funding boost this year, the government confirmed today, as applications opened for this year's scheme.

The government's [Air Quality Grant](#) helps councils develop and implement measures to benefit schools, businesses and communities and reduce the impact of polluted air on people's health.

At least £1 million of the £9 million available this year will be dedicated to projects to improve public awareness in local communities about the risks of air pollution, following a recommendation in the Coroner's Prevention of Future Deaths report after the tragic death of Ella Kissi-Debrah in 2013.

These could include projects to inform people about the ways to reduce their exposure to emissions by avoiding pollution hotspots. Projects that deal with improving air quality, as well as improving knowledge about the health risks, are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Local authorities can also bid for a portion of the fund for a wide range of other projects to improve air quality and create cleaner and healthier environments. The criteria for this year's grant period will prioritise three areas:

- Projects which reduce air pollutant exceedances, especially in those areas that are projected to remain in exceedance of the UK's legal targets;
- Projects that will improve knowledge and information about air quality and steps individuals can take to reduce their exposure to air pollution; and
- Projects that include measures to deal with particulate matter, which is the pollutant most harmful to human health.

Since it was established, the Air Quality Grant scheme has awarded almost £70 million to a variety of projects, including a digital education package to teach children and parents about the health impacts of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide, the development of a community website to share air quality information and raise awareness with local residents and visitors, and a project to highlight the air quality issues that surround domestic burning.

Other applicants in previous years have also been awarded funding for projects including training GPs as Air Quality Champions to deliver air

quality improvement messages in their surgeries, and monitoring PM2.5 levels at schools.

The Westminster Cross River Partnership received £573,370 from the 2019 fund alongside £160,000 match funding from Business Improvement Districts and local authorities to develop initiatives to improve air quality across London.

The partnership, led by Westminster City Council in collaboration with 16 project partners, has engaged with businesses through the Clean Air Villages project to develop local initiatives to support organisations in reducing their emissions from deliveries and servicing trips. This includes nine cargo bike schemes, replacing car and van deliveries with cycle freight; a citizen scientist air quality monitoring project to help provide information about local air quality and an air quality ambassador programme.

This project and others funded by the grant scheme have contributed to the significant improvement in air quality seen in the UK in recent decades. Since 2010, levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) – particles or liquid droplets in the air which present the greatest risk to public health – have reduced by 11% while emissions of nitrogen oxides have fallen by 32% and are at their lowest level since records began.

Environment Minister Rebecca Pow said:

“Air quality has improved significantly since 2010 but still poses enormous health risks, which is why we are boosting our funding to local authorities to help them take action.

“This is part of the Government’s wider strategy to tackle air quality. Our landmark Environment Bill places a duty on us to set at least two air quality targets by October 2022, including an ambitious, legally-binding target to reduce fine particulate matter – the most damaging pollutant to human health.

“We know local authorities are best placed to address the issues they face in their areas. We look forward to receiving innovative ideas for ways to reduce emissions, help communities understand how they can limit their exposure to air pollution, and promote cleaner, greener alternatives.”

Transport Minister Rachel Maclean said:

“From schools to local businesses, the Air Quality Grant will help local councils implement measures to clean up our air as we build back greener, reduce our carbon footprint and look ahead to COP26. These could include projects to help businesses make the switch to greener transport, or help local authorities better monitor pollution from roads.

“The funding announced today will help us improve air quality, meet our climate change obligations, and support economic growth right across the country.”

Kate Fenton, who led the Clean Air Villages project funded by the Air Quality Grant, said:

“Defra’s Air Quality Grant has enabled Cross River Partnership to bring together its members from the public and private sector, to deliver both tailored local initiatives and cross-borough schemes that improve air quality in London and beyond.

“The recently launched Clean Air Tool supports businesses and individuals who are considering switching from diesel vehicles to zero or ultra-low emission options to understand the impact of their choices. The latest phase of the Clean Air Villages project to be funded by the grant, and led by Westminster City Council, provides the opportunity to continue promoting and launching cargo bike and shared electric vehicle schemes.

“There are also a wide range of freight interventions being delivered, some of which are to support businesses in understanding the impact of the expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone on their business. Through working together, we can improve the air that we all breathe.”

Applications for the grant open from Friday 3 September and close on Friday 8 October.

The Air Quality Grant forms part of the wider [UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations](#), which includes a £3.5 billion investment into air quality and cleaner transport. The plan is supporting the uptake of low emissions vehicles, getting more people to cycle and walk, and encouraging cleaner public transport.

It also contributes towards meeting the objectives of Defra’s 2019 Clean Air Strategy, which has been praised by the World Health Organisation as “an example for the rest of the world to follow”.

The government has also recently taken bold action to cut pollution from household burning – the single largest source of the pollutant particulate matter (PM2.5), which is the most harmful air pollutant for human health. A ban on the sale of coal and wet wood for domestic burning came into force in May this year.

Local Authorities in England are invited to apply via Bravo. Further details on how to apply are available on the [Air Quality Grants GOV.UK page](#).

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## [Avian Influenza – UK declared free from bird flu but Chief Vet urges ongoing vigilance](#)

News story

The UK has been declared officially free from Avian Influenza (bird flu) following a major outbreak of the disease last winter



The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, Christine Middlemiss, declared today that international standards have been met to declare the country free from bird flu. However, she also reiterated calls for all poultry keepers to remain vigilant for signs of the disease as we move into this coming winter.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to circulate in both wild and captive birds in Europe and as winter approaches the risk of migratory wild birds flying to the UK over the colder months will mean that the risks for domestic poultry are likely to rise.

Between November 2020 and March 2021, 26 cases of Avian Influenza were confirmed in kept poultry and wild birds in the UK. In all cases, movement restrictions were put in place to limit the spread of disease and carried out thorough investigations into the source and possible spread of infection.

The Government also introduced UK-wide measures to protect poultry from infection from wild birds, including a requirement to temporarily house birds and a ban on bird gatherings.

### **The UK Chief Veterinary Officer Christine Middlemiss said:**

The last year has been very challenging for all those who keep poultry and captive birds, and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in helping us contain the disease. This is an important milestone that will help our efforts to re-open export markets.

While we are now free of bird flu in this country there is a constant risk of the disease returning through wild birds and this is likely to increase as winter approaches, temperatures fall, and more migratory birds start arriving in the UK.

Poultry and captive bird keepers should maintain good biosecurity practises, such as cleaning footwear, feeding birds indoors, and minimising contact with wild birds. Building these simple actions into routines now will go a long way to limiting the risk of future outbreaks.

Declaring the UK free from Avian Influenza means trade discussions on UK poultry and poultry products can restart with existing and potential new trading partners.

## **Advice to bird keepers**

Simple measures can help to keep flocks disease free. All keepers – whether they run a large commercial farm or keep just a few pet chickens in their back garden – can take these simple steps to reduce the risk of disease before the migration of wild birds begins again this winter:

- Keep the area where birds live clean and tidy, control rats and mice and regularly, disinfect any hard surfaces. Clean footwear before and after visits.
- Keep chickens and turkeys completely separate from ducks and geese.
- Place birds' food and water in fully enclosed areas that are protected from wild birds and remove any spilled feed regularly.
- Put fencing around outdoor areas where birds are allowed and limit their access to ponds or areas visited by wild waterfowl.
- In Great Britain, stay alert by signing up online to a free service to receive text or email alerts on any outbreaks of bird flu in the UK.

The Government carries out ongoing surveillance in poultry and wild birds and publishes regular disease updates for industry and back-yard keepers. Further information on biosecurity measures all bird keepers can take to keep their birds safe can be found [here](#).

## **Further Information:**

- Under World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) rules, 28 days must elapse from the application of measures to prevent the spread of disease or completion of final cleansing and disinfection of the last infected premises before a country can be declared disease-free. The final cleansing and disinfection on the last affected infected premises was completed on Thursday 5 August 2021.

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**[Industrial Injuries Advisory Council  
public meeting – online event](#)**





Due to technical difficulties we are rescheduling this meeting.

We will advise a new date in due course. Anyone who had a link to join the original meeting will automatically receive a new link.

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) provides advice to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland on matters relating to the industrial injuries scheme. In particular, they give advice on which diseases, and the jobs that cause them, should be included in the scheme. The Council is formed of medical, scientific and legal experts, and representatives of employers and employed earners.

The aim of the meeting is to give members of the public, their representatives, and people with a professional interest in occupational diseases, the opportunity to learn and ask questions about the Council's work.

The online event will include:

- describing the Council's role in relation to Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, including a brief overview of its work in the past year
- specific presentations may include:
  - COVID-19 and occupational exposure
  - reviewing the occupational exposure for Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome
  - a review of the prescription for pneumoconiosis and silicosis

There will be opportunities to ask questions at the meeting, but as this meeting is being held online, only questions posted in the meeting Q&A sidebar will be accommodated on the day.

Should anyone wish to send in questions in advance of the meeting, the Council may not be able to address these at the meeting, but written responses will be provided after the meeting.

Questions should only pertain to the work of the Council as it cannot respond to questions on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. IIAC cannot become involved in matters pertaining to individual claims or the decision making process.

It may not be possible to accept all applications if the number of requests is higher than expected.

You can find out more about IIAC on [GOV.UK](#).

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Last updated 25 October 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 25 October 2021

The meeting has been rescheduled. New date to be confirmed.

2. 3 September 2021

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