

A STEP CLOSER TO A SAFE PLACE TO CROSS

In 2020, the Parish Council applied to the AJ1 fund; this was money raised by the sale of the historic AJ1 vehicle registration, the first number plate used in the North Riding of Yorkshire, by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. To be eligible for funding, projects had to be Community based and Road Safety focussed.

The Hambleton PC application was to help fund a pedestrian crossing in Hambleton to give people a safer place to cross the A63. The application was successful and the PC was awarded the maximum amount of £20k. Unfortunately, NYCC refused permission to install a crossing. This refusal was fought for several years, with various reasons being given for why a crossing was not appropriate. An investigation is ongoing and the PC has no intention of giving up on getting a pedestrian crossing for Hambleton.

The deadline for spending the AJ1 fund was fast approaching (31st March 2023), and as a pedestrian crossing was no nearer being approved, it was decided that rather than lose the funding, it should be spent on another Road Safety project in Hambleton.

Working with NYCC and the AJ1 Panel frantically over the last few months, the Parish Council has been able to secure approval for the funding to be used to install a much improved pedestrian refuge which will be 1.9m wide!

Finally, a space big enough to fit a pedestrian pushing a wheelchair or a pram; a safer place to cross with your toddler and their bike; or cross with your dogs. It will replace one of the existing traffic islands outside the Red Lion and the size of it might also encourage drivers to slow down too, as the road will be narrower.

This is not what the PC ideally wanted, but it is the closest we could get and it will provide a *safer* location to cross the A63, which is exactly what the PC wanted to be able to offer.



Enormous thanks goes to Nicole Hutchinson from the Commissioning and Partnership Services for North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner who has been a great help and had endless patience.

As mentioned, the PC will continue to advocate for a pedestrian crossing. For now, it will focus on ensuring the pedestrian refuge scheme progresses as it should via North Yorkshire Council. Updates will be given on Facebook and in the newsletter.