27th February 2018 Notes For Presentation

**Special Landscape Focus Group Phase 1 Fact Finding Status Report.**

Actions taken to Date

The Special Landscape Group has met 4 times and has as members Peter Wrigley, Mick Phipps, Katie Burke, Geoff Waterworth and Philip Thompson.

With support and guidance from Jackie Wootton, we set off to research our individual topics. We recognise the value of the Parish’s landscape and the needs to protect and maintain this asset. This landscape needs recognition whether the currently planned threats to the Parish materialise or not. Given the pivotal position of Pannal, other threats to the landscape will emerge in the future. Eg Rail development, more roads and more traffic.

Objectives were identified and allocated to members of the Focus Group.

**Heritage Assets and Planning-Mick**

Mick will provide detailed identification of all heritage assets, listed buildings and the conservation area within the Parish. Then outline their current status and what protection they enjoy.

Rules and regulations against development impacting on, Listed Buildings Conservation Areas and Non Heritage Assets, Plans and Maps to show locations. He will suggest how they might become more widely acknowledged, understood and cherished, especially by the local community – for example; how many people are aware the viaduct is a grade II\* listed building probably designed by George Stephenson. Mick will suggest ways to improve access, enhance settings and provide on site information boards, leaflets etc.

**Valued landscapes Green Belt and Special Landscape Areas -Peter**

Pannal people are proud of their village and do not see it as part of Harrogate. They wish to defend its identity and heritage.

There was probably a Neolithic settlement in the Crimple Valley on the south slope of Almsford Bank. In 2009(?) an axe head from that period was found above the left bank of the river Crimple.

Pannal is mentioned in the Domesday Book as part of the manor of Rossett. A wooden church dedicated to St Michael and All Angels was sacked by the Scots and replaced with a stone one in the 14th century in the name of the local St Robert of Knaresborough

In 1894 a large part of the Parish of Pannal was taken under the control of Harrogate. The Parish Council was merged with the Borough of Harrogate in 1937. In 2016 the Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council was re-established by the wish of the people.

The Crimple Valley Special Landscape Area(SLA) was written into the Harrogate District Local Plan in 2001. Justification for this and the other areas states “their long-term protection is considered to be essential for the maintenance of the special character of these settlements”

This designation of SLA of this area, approved by HBC, has been confirmed in further reviews in 2004 and again more recently.

Policy C2 as altered in 2004, requires that development protects existing landscape character. This was reinforced by Policy C9 which lists the Special Landscape Areas. The HBC review in 2008 remarked that” these areas (58 and its adjacent area 61) provide land of exceptionally high landscape quality. This area plays an important role in separating Harrogate and Pannal and is sensitive to development which would result in coalescence They contribute distinctively to the landscape of the town.”

**Habitats and Biodiversity -Geoff**

The proposed development would have a negative impact on local wildlife and biodiversity. There are a good number of hedges providing habitat for birds, and a number of established native trees. There is also a wide range of wild flowers including orchids.

N.B. The environment FG may take the lead on this topic as it overlaps 2 interest areas and they may be more effective in influencing planning.

**Public Perceptions and Priorities of the Local Community-Katie**

By way of contrast to the collection of data from records, files and historic files, Katie has set about gathering the opinion of the wider population of the Parish etc. by way of a survey which embraces new technology and uses the online **surveymonkey.**

The survey is designed in a way that will appeal to all. Particularly it is hoped to obtain the opinions of the younger generations of Pannal and Burn Bridge residents. Results to follow.

Bottom of Form

**Woodlands, Public Paths and Green Infrastructure -Philip**

1. The Landscape within the Parish is important to the local community, wildlife and to the setting of the nearby, but separate Spa town of Harrogate.
2. The Parish is located astride major transport routes into Harrogate.
3. A network of Public Rights of Way give access the land of the Parish.
4. Hedgerows with trees form a vital part of the local Green Infrastructure, they are important for wildlife. The long term health of some of those hedgerows is suffering from current land management practices.
5. Woodlands tend to be fragmented, but connectivity could be improved .
6. The Crimple Beck and tributaries naturally form wet flood plains.
7. **No** Local Nature Reserves, Country Parks, Common Land, Registered Village Greens or Local Green Spaces appear to exist in the Parish. No Cycle routes link the Parish to local destinations.

N.B. Since the 1950’s Harrogate Borough Council has retained a large amount of land within the parish.

**Request for Survey resources**

The FG requests that the Steering Group gives consideration to commissioning a Biodiversity and Landscape Design Survey, to determine preferred works to maintain and enhance the Parish Landscape. This would add weight to any longer term Countryside Management proposal. Cost unknown.

If required, Green Infrastructure planning could be initiated to explore possible ways to designate and physically improve the local landscape. Through partnership working it is possible to ensure the Parish has a more robust landscape for generations to come.

Partners could include Landowners, Tenants, representatives of the Parish, District and County Councils. Other organisations that may be able to assist include Northern/White Rose Forest, Woodland Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Forestry Commission and local Volunteers!

**Need for future Meetings**

The Landscape Focus Group is happy to continue meeting through March, and beyond if so required.