



April 2023 Newsletter

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It's the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. Harrogate Borough Council is no more and from what parishioners have been saying, not many tears will be shed at its demise. Since the inception of your Parish Council in 2016, there has been a constant fight, not only to get positive things for our parish but also stopping imposition of things that would have been detrimental for us. The feeling from many is that HBC was town-centric and surrounding parishes were simply left to get on with it.

We look forward to getting a better deal with North Yorkshire Council (NYC). No longer should there be a dichotomy between HBC's over-the-top housing numbers and inadequate provision of infrastructure. One **should** pay for the other. Hopefully NYC, with its greater clout, should tackle developers to insist they provide what is required rather than side with them to allow housing that doesn't meet today's, or future, carbon zero requirements.

There will be a formal Parish Charter in place where both parishes and the county council must observe their respective sides of the bargain. Such co-operation has been sadly lacking under the previous system. That charter, which has been developed by parish representatives throughout North Yorkshire and council officers, is now out for consultation with the parishes and will be implemented as soon as practicable.

KING CHARLES' CORONATION EVENT

Your Parish Council is hosting a Family Fun Day on Sunday May 7th on Crimple Meadows recreation ground starting at noon until around 5pm. The format will be similar to that of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year but with some additions and improvements. Admission is free and there will be food (burger style) and drink (alcoholic, non-alcoholic and coffee) for sale. There will also be a bring-and-buy cake stall. You may not be used to using cash so much these days but please bring some with you as some stalls can't use credit card machines. We'll have a supervised bouncy castle, fun races and games and there will be a raffle with some decent prizes. Tickets will be on sale on the day and beforehand.

This weekend will give one the opportunity to watch the coronation on Saturday, pop down and have some fun and a get-together with other Pannalonians and Burn Bridgers on Crimple Meadows on Sunday and then leave the Bank Holiday Monday free for other activities.

So please "save the date" and look out for flyer receipt and posters advertising the event.

More possible positive news...

INFRASTRUCTURE

We have provided our suggestions to County Cllr Keane Duncan, Cabinet member with responsibility for Highways, along with our consensus input to WACG (Western Arc Cooperation Group). Our previous attempts were rebuffed by both County and Borough councils but now our hopes are raised that at last officers and elected councillors will respect our local knowledge and take our suggestions on board. We

thank Cllr Duncan for his time and trust that he will take appropriate action, as he has already proven by abandoning the second stage of the ill-fated Otley Road Cycle Route.

We have advocated 20's Plenty in our submissions, calling for 20MPH speed limits, not only directly outside schools but on approach roads too. However, some engineering work and a few signs are no substitute for enforcement. This is where NYPolice doesn't seem to want to act and we haven't heard anything from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on the matter to-date.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Thanks are due once again to DKB Consulting in Burn Bridge for their provision and maintenance of a unit affixed to their property opposite the Black Swan. The unit, held within a bright yellow box is sited within their car park and, although not evident from Burn Bridge Road, it cannot be missed once one pops one's head into the car park entrance. As is normal practice in a medical emergency, 999 must always be phoned first and ask for the ambulance service. They will issue the access code and location of the defib unit and, most importantly, send out paramedics/ambulance crew to assist. The use of the defibrillator is automatic and "idiot-proof" once the orange box is opened containing the unit.

We're hoping the next one will be in place at the Methodist Church before long, supplementing the two at the Golf Club and one at Pannal Village Hall.

LITTER/DOG-WASTE BINS

After more discussions, we have managed to get agreement from NYC to shift the ugly green bin away from the bench on Station Road, replace it with another and move it a little closer to the bridge and off the pavement. Residents will soon be able to use that bench without the whiff of canine excrement pervading their space. The other latest HBC bin addition on Malt House Lane will also be shifted a few metres along the road rather than adjacent to a private garden.

ANOTHER BENCH

For those of us who find the trudge up Walton Park a bit of a challenge, a new bench will be provided by the Parish Council just along Drury Lane from its junction with Walton Park's spine road. It will commemorate the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It's already on order but there is a lead-time before it can be delivered and installed.

ROAD SURFACES

Many of you have asked if/when NYC will resurface Main Street/ Station Road and Pannal Bank as this section is one of the worst in the area. To this end, we posed the following question to Area 6 Highways at NYC on 3rd April:

Parish councillors are requesting a copy of Area 6's schedule for road upgrades / repair / resurfacing over the next two financial years be sent – please would you be good enough to do this?

We received the following answer on 5th April:

Thank you for your request, I am just waiting for the approved list of schemes due for delivery in 2023/24. I should have this in the next 2 weeks, I will send this to you once I have it.

Subsequently, a further comment from NYC on 11th April stated that there are no plans to tackle our diabolical road surfaces until financial year 2024/25 and, even then, there's no commitment to do so.

It is somewhat surprising to us that as we are already in the 2023/4 financial year, the approved list is not yet to hand. We can only hope it is being revised and that we'll be further up the priority list after all our protestations. The recent patching, which starts deteriorating almost immediately it is done, is no

substitute for resurfacing. Gaping holes in the roadway outside the village hall were ignored in this last repair. One presumes we have to report them again before action is taken. No white lines around potholes seems to indicate nothing is being done and by the time the repair teams get to them, many markings have disappeared.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

NYC has advised us that the official consultation for our plan will commence on Monday 17th April and conclude after 6 weeks on Wednesday 31st May. Hard copies of our submission will be available for viewing at the Civic Centre and in Harrogate Library with advertising through NYC. If you would like to look at a hard copy locally, please let our parish clerk (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk) know and we'll arrange a viewing.

NYC has agreed with the Parish Council's preferred choice of Neighbourhood Plan examiner and will start the process of engaging her as soon as practicable.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

This took place over the Easter weekend and despite several residents being away over the holidays, much rubbish was collected. Our thanks and appreciation are extended again to Mrs Liz Brown: we are grateful to her for her continued commitment in the organisation of this worthwhile event. If you missed it this time, then we'll be doing the same thing in September. Most litter is generated by commuters coming through our parish although the current system for recycling paper and plastic is not without its faults and does contribute to the detritus. Hopefully, the big blue-top bins which are being trialled in some areas in Harrogate will be available to us soon. While appreciating storing such bins can be problematic when there's limited space on one's property, as in Harrogate town, most back gardens in our parish can easily be used to store the various bins when they're not out for collection.

You will have noted that garden waste is now being collected on a different day of the week from the glass, paper and plastic. This is not at our behest and obviously planned to aid the county council rather than the residents.

CRIMPLE MEADOWS FOOTPATH

The winter quagmire continues at the entrance to the recreation ground and pushing prams and buggies across the bog is still a strain. We have had some positive meetings with NYC regarding the creation of a footpath to make progress to the play area a 365-day possibility rather than just limited to the summer months. There's still a way to go as planning permission will probably be required but 3 contractors have already given quotations and a route for the path has to be agreed.

Just a note to those who believe Allen Wood is a depository for discarded pruning, branches and even whole trees; it is not, it's fly tipping. Twigs and branches that fall within the wood are part of a natural process. Dumping detritus from one's garden is not and such activity is liable to prosecution.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

At our recent Parish Council meeting we approved the End of Finance Year 2022/23 statement which resulted in an excess of income over expenditure. The 2023/24 budget was also approved. It was also resolved to place approximately half of our reserves into an interest-bearing account now rates have risen from years-long lows. If you would like to see details, please refer to meeting minutes on our website and at the noticeboard at the village hall.

DAMAGED WALL

The Parish Council fully recognise the irritation caused by the continued stone obstruction of the footpath damaged wall at the bottom of Spring Lane. Repetitive requests have been made through NYC for its reparation during the last eight months; unfortunately, to-date, no action has been taken. We will continue to press this forward.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

As parishioners are aware, the Parish Council always welcomes the attendance of public members (and / or press) to any meetings. The Parish Council will hold its annual meeting this year on Thursday 11th May when the agenda will include its more formal annual functions. Following the conclusion of this meeting there will be the annual Parish Meeting.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk
and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb, Andrew Farrar and Neil Permain

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Notice Board (at the Village Hall) and all newsletters are posted on the website here: <http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/Documents.aspx>

Also, if you use Facebook, please join our group where you'll get any breaking news more quickly than through these periodic newsletters:

<https://www.facebook.com/Pannal-and-Burn-Bridge-Parish-Council-1655335551445518/>