



August 2021 Newsletter

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As is usual at this time of year, council matters slow down appreciably. Hence there is no Parish Council meeting this month. Nonetheless, we carry on with our activities using email and devolved powers to our clerk, as necessary, and as resolved at an earlier meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The results of the Policy Intentions Document that was distributed to all households and businesses in the parish are being analysed. Only 106 replies were received. This is not an overwhelming response bearing in mind that almost 1000 copies were delivered. However, some of the inputs were indeed interesting.

One thing that is at the back of our minds is that our Neighbourhood Plan has to be in line with the HBC Local Plan. We can, however, request something that may not be in line with that plan but it would be up to a government inspector to decide whether it was reasonable or not. Our consultant bears this in mind as he looks at all the comments to check on their viability in planning terms. Some officers at HBC do not appear to look beyond the headlines of the Local Plan and appear to block anything that doesn't seem to conform to those headlines. Plans to make significant improvements for the parish have run up against HBC's statement that some land is being retained for agricultural use when in fact it isn't used for that purpose at all.

We had a meeting recently relating to design codes for future developments. This does not mean there will be any large-scale development like the former Dunlopillo site but rather that any infill would have to be of a certain type. However, there is no consistent specific type of house in the parish. We certainly don't want any more of the new Rossett Green Lane super-sized houses built in front of existing properties that the HBC planning committee recently sanctioned.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

While there will always be some anomalies, comparing the results of when we started back in 2016 and today, there is a marked reduction in the numbers of drivers breaking the speed limits in our parish. We believe this to be as a result of a combination of CSW, our SIDs and deployments by North Yorkshire Police (NYP). We have approached NYP to consider CSW deployments in more locations in the parish and - to serve those extra deployments - we would appreciate more people volunteering.

To those who make comments that we should operate elsewhere at any given time, we would be pleased if such individuals added their names to the volunteers list. "You should be outside the school, not here" might be a reasoned comment if it were not for the fact that at certain times on Main Street, cars cannot proceed at more than walking pace. The rotas are constructed to have maximum impact so if residents have reasoned comments, then please make them known to us so that they may be taken into consideration.

FOOTPATH BY THE CRIMPLE

It's open again (officially) but the work done appears to be only a small diversion to avoid the collapsed bank. We have pressed NYCC to see what their proposal is for a permanent repair. To leave it as it is would be totally unacceptable but, unless prompted, NYCC probably will not take action.

PLANNING

The Pannal Green saga grinds on with HBC failing to give answers to the questions and concerns posed by residents and the Parish Council. This has been ongoing since December 2020 with no sight of a solution. HBC does not appear to understand that one should not simply build a house and cut off access to someone's property. One could only imagine their reaction if the request came from a private individual rather than another department within HBC. Similarly, car parking spaces are already at a premium so one cannot just remove them without provision elsewhere and close to the originals.

UNITARY AUTHORITY

No doubt you will be aware that the minister for local government has decided in favour of the County Council's bid for a single tier authority for North Yorkshire with the anomaly that the city of York will still retain its single tier status. That means that Harrogate Borough Council will cease to exist after May 2023 which some commentators say have turned it into a lame duck almost overnight.

While all this may seem to be a long way off, we should take care that we don't get the worst of both worlds – being ignored by a far-off county council yet still have the perpetuated inefficiencies of the borough council. There will be ways to influence what will happen in the changeover and we must do our best to ensure that the best officers should be chosen to represent the new authority rather than have a simple direct transfer of staff. Parish councils all know which officers give the best service and should be first line consultees in reorganisation plans. If you have any bouquets or brickbats for officers at HBC or NYCC please let us know. To leave it to NYCC and HBC to make reasoned decisions on staff might be a forlorn hope.

HGVs

Unless specifically delivering goods in our parish, there is a prohibition for vehicles heavier than 7.5tonnes using either Station Road/Main Street/Church Lane or Burn Bridge Lane/Road. Many drivers just follow their satnavs and ignore any signs. Lorries delivering materials or equipment to the Whinney Lane development must only use the access from Otley Road. Policing this is exceptionally difficult as NY police don't really want to know and will only accept evidence from one of their own officers. Weights and Measures seem to take a similar attitude as they find proving guilt very difficult. However, Supermix, Hansen and HACs lorries have no right to use the aforementioned roads to deliver to Whinney Lane. There is little doubt that when the Rossett Green Lane development starts there will be more transgressions by lorry drivers. If you do have information regarding drivers ignoring the regulations, please inform HBC. David Potts is the compliance officer concerned – David.Potts@harrogate.gov.uk or 01423 500600 ext. 58120 or Mobile: 07525988472.

ROAD REPAIRS

Finally, we have had some repairs to the craters in the roadway on Crimple Meadows. It is essential that if you notice holes or surface deficiencies you report them to NYCC. Don't wait for someone else to file a report; do it yourself. It's better to have something reported 10 times than not at all. I received an email last week stating that the problems I reported had been resolved, so the system works – eventually. Now, how about those of you who live on Main Street, Station Road and other roads; have you reported the dreadful state of any of those roads yet?

CONSULTATION ON TRANSPORT FOR WEST HARROGATE

HBC is organising a meeting regarding highways issues in the Western Arc. When checking the invitees, along with P&BBPC and HAPARA, there are several of the usual leisure cycling fraternity, the environmentalists and interestingly, Homes England, whose sole aim appears to be the acceleration of

housebuilding. We have mentioned to HBC that there is no representation whatsoever from any transport company – taxis, buses, Hermes, Yodel et al, Amazon, Royal Mail, any of the supermarket home delivery companies and certainly no-one for private motorists.

While we are staunchly behind provision of facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and sustainable public transport while maintaining our wonderful countryside, it is clear that HBC/NYCC doesn't want to listen to 99% of road users (cars, vans and trucks) as that would probably cost them money. The Parish Council is doing its best, both off our own bat and within the Western Arc Cooperation Group. If you have strong views on the subject of increased congestion and traffic flow with no additional infrastructure to cope with it, please let us and HBC know. The voices of the majority should be fairly represented. At this time, they are not.

OUT OF PARISH NYCC ROAD CLOSURE

We have been informed that Pot Bridge on the B6161 at Pot Bank (between Beckwithshaw and the Jubilee Roundabout, Penny Pot Lane) will be closed for approximately five weeks from 16th August to enable the bridge to be strengthened. There will be NO access across the bridge during this time with a diversion signposted via Beckwithshaw, Norwood and the A59.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk

and Dave Oswin, Vice Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb and Ryan Dall

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/>