



August 2022 Newsletter

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Although we have continued to hold no Parish Council meeting in August each year, this doesn't mean we have been inactive during this month. You may recall that we couldn't comment upon the missing bit of the WHPP (West Harrogate Parameters Plan) last month as we only found out about it half an hour before our last meeting. You may also recall that if an item is not published on a parish council agenda with three clear days' notice, no resolution can be made concerning that subject at that meeting. We have however, consulted with our partners in the West of Harrogate Co-ordination Group and have contributed to their input – which is in the public domain on the HBC portal, so there's no point in regurgitating it here.

WEST HARROGATE INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY STRATEGY

We were provided, as stakeholders, with some slides covering some of the proposals in the strategy a couple of days before the "consultation". Regrettably, there was so much detail missing, we were unable to make any reasoned comment. We were informed that deliberations were ongoing but there were no finite dates on exactly what would be produced and – importantly – there was nothing concrete regarding the DELIVERY SCHEDULE and no costs and specifics. We now learn that RPS Consulting Services based in Oxford have been given a £200K contract to determine what junction improvements are necessary. We believed all that was to have been undertaken over the past couple of years. We were also led to believe that another contract had been made for other consultants to come up with similar solutions; whether that went ahead, we don't know.

However, our contention is that whatever is devised between HBC, NYCC and the developers, will be the absolute minimum the developers can get away with rather than what is really necessary. Improved roadways are essential to alleviate the current congestion and to take account of the extra traffic resulting from >4000 homes. Active travel, cycling and pedestrian paths will hardly make a dent in the overall traffic problems, yet they're being heralded as the solution. Hopefully, RPS might see things differently but much depends on the brief they were given.

TRAFFIC SPEEDS IN OUR PARISH

The SID results have been collated for July and the results unfortunately do not make good reading. On Church Lane there was one case of over 80 MPH, seven of more than 70MPH and 31 over 60MPH which, of course, is double the 30MPH limit. Fortunately for the safety of our residents, most of these appalling speeds were late at night but that's no excuse. We therefore welcome the continued presence of North Yorkshire Police's safety cameras.

It has been pointed out to us that social media is being used to alert residents when the safety camera is in operation. We also learnt that "*alerting other drivers to speed cameras or police vehicles could also be a breach of Section 89 of the Police Act 1997*", which carries a maximum penalty of £1,000. Part of the section reads: "Any person who resists or wilfully obstructs a constable in the execution of his duty, or a person assisting a constable in the execution of his duty, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale, or to both."

According to the Crown Prosecution Service, examples of the type of conduct that may constitute the offence include "*giving a warning to other motorists of a police speed trap ahead*". So, police could charge anyone who appears to be obstructing their ability to carry out speed checks on other motorists with this offence.

Therefore, we are being very public-spirited in advising that such warnings are not only illegal but could lead to fines and/or imprisonment. The purpose of safety cameras, is as their name implies, SAFETY of all residents – especially the safety of our children who have little spatial awareness and safety of our older citizens who may not have the reactions they once did. There is of course a very simple solution – stick to 30MPH!

WASTE BINS

You may have noticed the replacement of some dog mess bins with what appears to be conventional household waste bins. We have received comments from parishioners and have passed these onto HBC. It is all very well combining dog waste and general litter but - unless the frequency of emptying is reasonable - then a large accumulation could become a smelly problem as is already the case with the unit at the entrance of Crimple Meadows recreation ground.

COMMEMORATIVE JUBILEE BENCH

It has been delivered in the parish and we're now waiting a suitable date from the contractor to fix it in this holiday period.

PHONE BOX BOOK EXCHANGE

Th old kiosk still hasn't been painted as was promised by the organisation which guaranteed its upkeep and its maintenance and it's looking more of an eyesore day by day. Will those responsible *please* take action now?

MILL POND

Complaints have been received regarding the foul smell emanating from the pond during this prolonged hot dry spell. Once again, we remind residents that the pond and its maintenance is the sole responsibility of its co-owners – those whose properties adjoin the pond.

FOOTBALL PITCHES ON THE FORMER DUNLOPILLO SITE

There appears to be an impasse with Bellway and HBC regarding the future of those pitches. HBC refuse to get involved with discussions over their future but they do have the ultimate option of sanctioning Bellway until they make adequate provisions. The Enforcement Team at HBC have not taken any action against Bellway as far as we know but, unless they do, we're worried nothing will happen and come the new football season the pitches will still not be used. That would be shameful and a disgrace.

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/>

Best wishes

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