



February 2022 Newsletter

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

If you want to know more about how the local electoral system works, please ask our parish clerk and she will endeavour to secure access to a Microsoft Teams Live meeting on Wednesday 16 February from 5.30pm to 6.30pm to update you on the process for parish council nominations ahead of the elections on Thursday 5 May. This is an HBC driven event so it will concentrate on the process of the election. However, to find out what is expected of a parish councillor is another matter. Your best option is to ask our parish clerk or any of the existing councillors.

Please do consider standing as a candidate as we need new blood in our council as some of our current councillors will not stand for election again due to changes in personal circumstances.

PARAMETERS PLAN

As mentioned last month, there was a stakeholders' meeting to discuss the findings of the long-awaited West of Harrogate Parameters Plan (WHPP). Unfortunately, there was a distinct lack of parameters, with, as expected, a lot of input from the developers and little of any substance from HBC. The biggest problem is that anything concerning roads has been hived off to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and we doubt if we'll see anything from that until May or June. The demand has been made that no councillor should sign off this plan until the road infrastructure part is complete. Without that, the whole plan is little more than an advertising brochure for the developers. Many of the stakeholders who attended the briefing thought it a complete waste of their time. HBC has also claimed that they are not legally obliged to consult on the WHPP and it looks as if that's the line they have adopted.

However, HBC has made a point that stakeholders have been "consulted" at every stage. Their idea of consultation is completely different from everyone else's. Theirs appears to be simply a tick-box exercise. Throughout recent years, HBC and NYCC have "consulted" on a number of projects and promptly ignored most of the inputs from those most affected. This has been relevant to the Local Plan, the Harrogate Gateway project, the Otley Road Cycle Lane, to name but three. The big difference in these is that the government inspector, Mr Richard Schofield, had the ultimate say on what was allowed in the Local Plan, so HBC were obliged to change that. We'll wait to see what they post on their website regarding comments from various sources after the stakeholders' meeting and before going for sign-off. Whatever happens, there will be no further "consultation" except for the IDP, so don't hold your breath.

Please have a look at our website, where there is a copy of an excerpt from HAPARA's February newsletter (under "News" tab: [Newsletter Feb 2022-two-pages.pdf](#)) that is especially damning of HBC's attempts with the Parameters Plan. It makes very interesting reading and shows that we (members of the Western Arc Coordination Group) are all united in our condemnation of HBC's efforts. If only the Government's Inspector for the Local Plan could see how HBC has failed to enact his demands in the way he intended, he

would be exceedingly displeased. Unfortunately, there is no policing or recourse for such inappropriate action.

BROADBAND

We all will have noticed our footpaths being dug up recently and many have asked what is going on. Clearly this is not a parish council matter, so we are grateful to County Councillor Don Mackenzie for clarification.

He stated, *“The County Council is responsible for the Superfast North Yorkshire (SFNY) project which has connected up about 200,000 premises in the county to superfast broadband since 2012.*

The CityFibre scheme to which you refer is, however, being delivered by the private sector. CityFibre has been laying gigabit fibre under roads and footpaths in and around Harrogate for the last two years.

In other words, I expect that you too will soon receive such communication from CityFibre or perhaps another associate provider offering you a service using CityFibre's recently installed network. You can check availability using your property's post code at www.cityfibre.com”

However, we have no idea how long it would take to be connected or how much it would cost; we assume one will have to wait for letters from a service provider.

FORMER DUNLOPILLO OFFICE BLOCK

We have had sight of the investigation results into how HBC's planning department performed in the first Prior Notice for Permitted Development (PNPD) for the old office block. We plan to comment after we have deciphered the message contained within the document. It's not immediately apparent as it's in “council speak” and the author is really marking his own homework. We cannot trace any agreement for an extension to the 56-day rule. When the planning law on PNPD was first drafted, it included the rider that the prior notice is automatically granted in favour of the proposal if the local planning authority has not made a decision within those 56 days. Subsequently, we believe an amendment was made allowing an extension to the 56 days when both applicant and LPA made an agreement to extend. We haven't managed to find such an agreement on the matter but the legislation is a minefield.

The second modified request which was submitted on 15th December, was approved on Wednesday, 9th February 2022. Apparently, NYCC Highways had some concerns so that the decision came on the 57th day after receipt. It is surprising that NYCC Highways didn't appear to have any concerns over the 48 flats in the first PNPD as it did over 38. We will be asking why NYCC didn't make the same raft of comments the first time around or if they did, where is the report.

There are many misconceptions surrounding the prior approval process and these abound from residents' opinions through to our MP's ideas on the matter. It had been suggested that the second request should have been decided upon by HBC's planning committee. As the first request for 48 flats has already been enshrined in planning law, whatever the planning committee might have decided for the second request would have been irrelevant, as the developer could always have reverted back to the plans for the monstrosity approved in the first request. It is the first request that should have been decided by the planning committee rather than the second. The Parish Council objected to both requests as we feel both are unsuitable and out of character and an even taller blot on our landscape that will be visible for miles around.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Volunteers within the focus groups and steering group have been beaver away fine-tuning the draft for our plan. As one would expect, some participants favour specific wishes for inclusion while others think we should concentrate on different activities. Our aim is to protect our parish yet provide for its future but we

need consensus. One question that needs input from you, our readers, is, “which hedgerows within the parish should be protected?” We know of the one on Spring Lane that was the subject of deliberations in the planning request for Spring Lane Farm, but what about any others? Please send your answers back to Jane, our parish clerk. Our same request applies to any particular trees in our parish which you may feel are in need of replacing.

We’re looking at the creation of new footpaths or converting existing trails into officially recognised rights of way. Here again, do you have any particular wishes or bugbears?

THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Parish Council has asked various organisations and individuals how they can best plan something to celebrate the jubilee. There is too much going on within the Parish Council for the volunteers on the parish council to organise such an event but we’re acting as a catalyst to get things started. At the first meeting on Tuesday evening, it was decided that, subject to granting of permissions and relevant risk assessments, we will hold a community bonfire on Thursday 2nd June with a beacon being lit at 2145hrs in line with national guidelines. On the Sunday of the extended bank holiday weekend (5th June), it is planned to hold a bring-your-own style picnic for parishioners along with games for children and some entertainment. Thank you so much to all those who took part in the initial Zoom meeting.

In addition to those who have committed to volunteer, we will need help from many people to assist with further organisation and physical effort over the holiday weekend. Please also look out for Facebook announcements for more details. There will be a follow-up meeting on Monday, 7th March, so if you can help, please let us know and we’ll contact you with more details.

PRECEPT FOR 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR

The “demand” we made on the borough council is for £37,630. We have used a figure of a 1.99% increase which is based on the actual number of houses rather than HBC’s guessed figure which always lags behind reality. Both County and Borough councils can add a percentage uplift each year (irrespective of population) but the Parish Council can only claim a finite sum in pounds sterling. There are many variables in HBC’s calculations such as tax bases, single occupancy rates and so forth. This is why when one gets one’s council tax demand from HBC the % uplift may not be stated as expected.

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - 33231-Drury Lane, Pannal

The closure will be in place for a period of 19 days between 21st March 2022 and 8th April 2022 to allow Northern Gas Networks to replace 434m of main and make 2 x connections. Resident access shall be maintained to residential properties within the section of road closed. This closure may be extended until 17th April 2022. However, it is hoped works shall be completed as planned on 8th April 2022.

The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link

<https://one.network/?tm=127478556>

The above notice was issued by North Yorkshire County Council; we’re just passing on the information. If you have any questions relating to this closure, please do not contact us – it’s NYCC you want. Why not volunteer for some Community Speedwatch deployments so that those who will inevitably choose Walton Park as an alternative during the works will see that speeding will not be tolerated in our parish.

BETTER EQUIPMENT FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN ON CRIMPLE MEADOWS RECREATION GROUND

Several years have gone by since HBC installed playground equipment for children. It's time for an update/additions, especially for equipment for very young children. This is technically the responsibility of HBC, so we have approached them to see what can be done. We'll see what their response is prior to making any further comment at this stage.

FORMER POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATION

Regrettably, the outline permission was granted after a chaotic planning committee meeting but now the finer parts of the scheme come under the microscope. Some residents may have received a leaflet from the new developers but just in case you didn't get one, it's available on our website. We can't change the number of houses being built but there's still time to argue the needs of infrastructure to accommodate a possible extra 400 cars from the site. We think that playing space on an estate of 200 homes is more relevant than some of the developer's ideas on the proposed scheme. Please make any comments as soon as possible.

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, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb and Ryan Dall