



**February 2023 Newsletter**

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Things have been relatively quiet over the past month except perhaps for the evolving transition to the new unitary authority – North Yorkshire Council. Most of the HBC officers will be transferred to NYC so one cannot expect a sea-change in the way matters are handled. One hopes for the planning department to react in a seamless way with Highways, which hasn't always been the case in the past.

### **WESTERN ARC HOUSING AND TRAFFIC**

You will be aware that we have asked on many occasions as to what is planned for road infrastructure to accommodate the extra traffic from some 4000 homes being built in West Harrogate. Many of you have got involved with social media asking the very same questions. On our website we have published a letter from the WACG (Western Arc Coordination Group of which our Parish Council is a member) to HBC which asks for replies to many outstanding issues. We have also published the reply from HBC so that we are seen to be even-handed and fair. Both “questions and answers” are too long to be included in this newsletter, so please refer to the website.

The bottom line is that there is still no finite date for plans to solve our congestion and rat-running through our parish. This has been a long-running saga but maybe a little longer than most of you think. The following is what was stated in an HBC publication about the future housing requirements for Harrogate and the concerns voiced over traffic due to those increased number of properties.



Included in the text is the following:



### Why are we putting forward this option for consultation?

We cannot identify enough land for housing on previously developed 'brownfield' sites and smaller greenfield sites.

With an already generally congested road network, and compared with Growth Option 1, this option would disperse the traffic impact of new growth more evenly across the town's road network.

All three sites are either close to existing good bus services and/or offer the potential for bus services to be provided within the new development.

### Main drawbacks:

Development north of Skipton Road would have a significant adverse impact on the local landscape.

Traffic will increase along more minor roads such as Penny Pot Lane and into the town, the B6162 Otley Road and the roads leading to the A61 towards Leeds.

Until the Harrogate North Sewage Treatment Works is upgraded, there is no spare waste treatment capacity for housing north of Skipton Road and Penny Pot Lane.

### What about the impact of traffic?

These urban extensions and other growth in the town will place additional pressures on an already busy road network. In planning for this growth, we will be working with North Yorkshire County Council (the highway authority) and local transport operators, to maximise the opportunities for travel by bus, rail, bicycle and foot. There will be a need to consider improvements to local road junctions and address issues such as increased 'rat running' through traffic calming.

We are investigating the need for, and feasibility of, these forms of traffic mitigation and this work will be an important consideration in determining which urban extension option is chosen in the

### Community involvement

If these sites were chosen to go forward for development, we would, in consultation with the local community and landowners, agree a plan on how and when each site should be developed. These would be called 'masterplans' and be the basis upon which planning applications for future development would be assessed.

### Other preferred site options

Common to both options for larger urban extensions and also needed to meet the town's housing target, are a number of sites where smaller scale housing (and employment) might be appropriate.

To find out more about what they might look like if developed please visit [www.harrogate.gov.uk/ldfconsult](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/ldfconsult)

Q. When was this published?

A. See below...

# Tell us what you think

## ● Write to us at:

**FREEPOST HG11  
Department of Development Services  
Harrogate Borough Council  
West Grove Road,  
Harrogate HG1 2ZR**  
*(no stamp needed)*

## ● or email: [LDF@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@harrogate.gov.uk)

*(to make it easy for you to respond, a short questionnaire is included in this newspaper.)*

**Thank you very much for taking the time to respond**

**The closing date for comments  
is Friday 4 November 2011 (4.30pm)**

All that was based on 1300 homes in 2011. Now we're up to 4000 houses and counting and there's still no road infrastructure. The WACG wrote to the NYC chief executive, Mr Richard Flinton, on February 7th requesting a more meaningful discussion with members than has been the case to-date. His speedy response came back which appeared to reiterate the reply from HBC - but still with no date for a solution to the traffic problems or even meaningful discussions about the issue.

Please take the time to read the questions asked by WACG and the reply from HBC in January on our website. We would be grateful if anyone can tell us about any significant improvement in highways infrastructure that has been made to the West of Harrogate since 2011 to alleviate congestion.

Partial completion of the Otley Road cycle path obviously doesn't count as it fails to mitigate even 1% of traffic flow and, from what we hear, is detested by residents, cyclists and pedestrians alike. Fortunately, the rest of it has just been cancelled. Perhaps a reasonable consultation beforehand rather than a fait accompli might have been a better idea before creating this "white elephant".

### **KING CHARLES' CORONATION**

The Parish Council along with volunteers from the community are organising a Family Fun Day to celebrate the King's Coronation on Sunday May 7th. It's not too late to get involved in helping with the organisation and running of the event on the day. The more people we have the better! Please get in touch with Cathy Burrell ([cathy.burrell@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.burrell@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)) or Jane Marlow ([parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)) to offer your services. Thank you.

### **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL LAUNCH**

We have been sent an information package from NYCC which launches the new council, due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April this year. It is reprinted in its entirety on our website as it is far too long to include in the newsletter text. Please do not contact the Parish Council regarding dealing with the new council. We don't know any more than individual residents about the implementation. Please check the information package from NYC. We are led to believe there will be more updates from NYC as we near April 1st.

### **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING**

A first meeting took place with the sub-group of Cllrs Steve Cobb and Andrew Farrar and a stalwart of our neighbourhood plan steering group - Mrs Jane Chung. Planning for a potential disaster affects us all, so more volunteers will be needed once the initial studies and due diligence have been done to ensure its effective roll-out. The earthquake disaster in Syria and Turkey shows why advance planning should be in place before any such eventuality.

### **TWENTY'S PLENTY**

The distressing road traffic accident outside Ashville school demonstrates why 20MPH limits are essential in some areas. When asked, NYP had not charged anyone regarding the incident but one wonders what would have been the outcome if speed had been limited to 20 instead of 30MPH. There is an increasingly vocal drive to have all 30MPH limits in towns and villages reduced to 20MPH. Please let us have your views on this matter – especially as our parish is used extensively for rat-runs. It doesn't help that the road surfaces in our parish appear worse than many elsewhere. Main Street was used as an example of bad surfaces on a recent local evening TV report on potholes. We have already had one hospitalisation due to poor surface conditions in the very location shown on TV. We don't want any more.

Requests were made to NYCC Highways for the introduction of 20MPH limits, especially to the West of Harrogate where traffic has increased exponentially, prior to the tragic accident but the reply is always the same – without any serious incidents or history of accidents, nothing will be done. Regrettably, the accident statistics are now in place and we understand discussions are in hand with Highways. Local people know best, so why does the stable door always get closed after the horse has bolted? We have a number of schools nearby so why a blanket 20MPH limit isn't created to encompass Ashville College, The Grammar School, Rossett School, Rossett Acre Primary, Oatlands Junior and Infant Schools, St John Fisher and St Aidan's Schools, Western Primary and our own Pannal School AND THE ROADS LEADING TO THEM is a subject for a debate – very quickly.

### **GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN**

This runs from 17th March until 2nd April this year. Our plan is to hold a one-day litter clean up on Saturday 25th March or the day after if inclement on the Saturday. We'll publish more details in our March newsletter but please pop it in your diary for now. We'll organise the pick sticks; all you need to do is to turn up and make our parish a litter-free zone. Thank you.

## **BENCHES**

The bench that disappeared from the old bus turning bay just opposite the village hall will be returned in the very near future. We have no idea why it has taken 2 years (with frequent requests from your Parish Council) for this to happen.

You may recall we responded to a request for a bench on Drury Lane near the top of Walton Park some time ago. HBC has now raised no objections regarding nearby grass-cutting but only now have they referred it to NYCC for their comments on its positioning on the verge, as that's NYCC territory. This could/should have happened concurrently and had we been informed, no doubt the bench would be in place by now.

There are still benches awaiting repair in the parish. Once again, we have no idea when HBC or NYC will get around to doing the work.

## **DOG FAECES**

Now HBC has removed the two red bins from the Ringway footpath in our parish and the replacement sought for near the cricket pitch hasn't materialised, dog walkers have taken to leaving their poo bags either along the path or suspended in the trees. With all the cuts in funding, the poo fairy doesn't cover this area any more so instead of making the place look a disgrace, take the bags home. If one has spent 30 seconds loading the excrement into a bag what thought process would cause anyone to leave it in that plastic bag by the wayside? *PLEASE* either bin it or take it home.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, [howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)  
and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb and Andrew Farrar

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/>