



February 2024 Newsletter

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Condition of roads within the parish

We are all acutely aware of the dire road conditions – not only within our parish – but on so many of our surrounding roads. We have again appealed to NYC to make address with Main Street and Station Road continually flagged up by parishioners, and from others travelling through the parish, as being particularly bad. Indeed, a cyclist was hospitalised not so long ago from her tyres being caught in a rut with that situation addressed by NYC as a priority. What we really need – and with some immediacy – is a total resurface of the length of the road.

NYC have indicated that Main Street and Station Road are included within their 2024/25 Capital Programme of repairs and maintenance but with no definitive timescale within the year. Please support your Parish Council's endeavours in keeping the pressure up to accelerate the timings by reporting pot holes on the following link <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/potholes-and-road-condition-issues> and remember that if your car sustains repair damage from a *reported* pothole that the likelihood of acquiring compensation from NYC is much greater.

Imminent road closures

You may – or may not – have received and been alerted to the significant road closures commencing on 4th March for three weeks during which time Northern Gas Works will be undertaking pipeline work. **Spring Lane will be closed completely together with the top section of Main Street.** We believe there will be some single lane access on to Rosedale. Clearly these closures will cause considerable difficulties to the movement of traffic through the parish – never mind homeowners just trying to leave or get home along the routes – and no doubt school drop off and pick up times will prove horribly problematic.

Pannal Green

Pannal Village Green forms an important part of the green space at the heart of the village centre and we are working to enhance the Green to improve the quality or usability of the space and its value to the local community. Despite some efforts last year - working with NYC as landowner - there is recognition of the sorry state of some areas within Pannal Green, and especially the NYC so-called "rewilding" growth of some vigorous "cherry bolters" growing under the walnut tree.

Your council has therefore employed its own arborist to provide a comprehensive report on its various conditions. It is very much hoped that NYC will give its permission for some general tidying of trees to be undertaken together with a reduction to ground level of a number of tree stumps which exist as a potential trip hazard. This modest activity would not only sustain the longer-term health of the trees but, give a more kempt appearance, open up more usable space, and also provide a safer environment for users of the Green.

Crimple Meadows footpath

We're glad to see that the new path is being well used during this continued very wet weather and that the sign indicating that this is a public right of way has been restored by NYC.

There remain some continued finishing works to be done to the path over the coming weeks including some surface filling and patching, patching of gaps outside of the wooden baton edging and levelling/seeding of the rutted and waterlogged areas near to Crimple Meadows entrance. We're assured that these will be worked on over spring and early summer to continue the bedding in of the path and

restoration of damaged areas. Over this period, please respect the fenced off areas which will remain in situ.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the work has created lots of attention on, and enthusiasm for, additional improvements on the wonderful network of paths and rights of way across the parish. Watch this space for some further initiatives on paths in the coming months!

Former Police Training Centre off Yew Tree Lane

Cathy Burrell recently attended NYC's Planning Committee meeting to represent the Parish Council's objections to deficiencies within this Reserved Matters application for 200 houses. You may be aware that the Outline planning permission has already been considered and which was granted permission in 2020. Reserved Matters covers planning features such as design, appearance, layout, access and landscaping. It was predicted that approval would be given, which it was, but it is also hoped that - in line with NYC councillors' request - they be kept updated with regard to the West Harrogate Infrastructure Strategy.

The main thrust of the council's objections as presented by Cathy were:

"The Parish Council continues to have grave concerns regarding the local road infrastructure, its ability to accommodate the additional traffic generated from development and the impact on road safety on affected routes across the parish. Our concerns are expected to be identified and addressed, with an appropriate strategy, as part of the West Harrogate Parameters Plan and West Harrogate Infrastructure Strategy. However, this application has come forward ahead of the West Harrogate Infrastructure Strategy being finalised and so the development will cause adverse impacts on the surrounding area ahead of the strategy having been adopted by the Council, which is considered unacceptable. Planning decisions should be planned, but in this instance the decision is being developer led."

Arrangements for D-Day anniversary celebrations and a family "Fun Day"

Thursday 6th June 2024 is the 80th Anniversary of D-Day when there will be a national beacon-lighting at 9.15pm. The Parish Council, in wishing to celebrate this important anniversary event, hope you will all join us in St. Robert's church car park from 8.45pm when prosecco or squash will be served and before we light our beacon.

If you would like to be our guest of honour and light the beacon, we are looking for someone either in their 80th year, or in the armed forces who lives in the parish. If this is you, or you would like to put someone forward, please email cathy.burrell@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk

Continuing the D-Day celebrations we will be holding a "Family Fun Day" on **Sunday 9th June**, again at St. Robert's church car park and on Pannal Green. There will be a bouncy castle, dog show, bar, food and lots of other activities for all ages. More details will be released in due course but *please* put these dates in your diaries.

Council's resolution to submit a formal complaint to NYC regarding the handling of the Western Arc infrastructure process

Councillors continue to give this matter their in-depth thought. It is not through any lack of attention and there is certainly some considerable and substantive information which could support this way forward. Councillors wish to thoroughly review their options with an end goal in achieving the most productive result.

Planted bulbs

It is good to see that spring bulbs planted by the Parish Council are again making their presence felt not only on Pannal Green but also in the surrounding verge of the Crimple Meadows Road sign. Please tread carefully in these areas to enable their best show.

Bellway playground

We are delighted – at very long last – to have received confirmation from NYC that as the Open Space Management Plans for both the football pitches (to be managed by PSJFC) and playground (owned by Forward Investments) have been approved and that the playground will be "open for business" within 28 days and that is by 13th March 2024. Councillors will be keeping a weather eye out to ensure adherence to this timescale.

Spring Litter Pick – please save the date

We are pleased and grateful to Mrs Liz Brown who has again agreed to organise the first of two annual litter picks. This will take place on Saturday, 13th April starting at 10.00am from the church car park. It will prove another great opportunity to clear our parish of discarded rubbish and dog poo bags which accumulate all too quickly between events: some tens of black bags have been collected on previous occasions which is a sad and rather disgusting testament to people's neglect or carelessness. Your assistance for an hour or two in the morning will be much appreciated by Liz and any volunteer will now be well-armed with the Parish Council's high-viz vests and litter pickers.

Repair of Spring Lane wall

Having provided further information to NYC regarding the confirmation of their responsibility to undertake the repair to this long-damaged wall section, we eagerly await its restoration.

Movement of dog / waste bin on Station Road

As you may recall from previous newsletter updates, the Parish Council is acutely aware of the need for a dog / waste bin close to Mill Lane exit onto Station Road, especially given NYC's last year's removal of dog waste bins on the PROW from Burn Bridge. Following constructive meetings and with assistance provided by NYC's Environment Operations Manager, it was agreed last year to more conveniently re-site a bin on Malthouse Lane and close to an entry / exit on the PROW.

Additionally, and in response to a recent request, the green bin currently located just above the bridge on Station Road and positioned set back within the privet hedge, will shortly be moved to the other side of the road and in the vicinity of the grit bin. It is very much hoped that dog walkers will take advantage of these facilities.

Best wishes

Cllr Cathy Burrell (Chairman of the Parish Council), Cllr Neil Permain (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Steve Cobb, Andrew Farrar, Elatia Sharkey, Cliff Trotter and Helen Hayes

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/>