



July Newsletter 2021

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Neighbourhood Plan

Every household and business in our parish has received the Policy Intentions Document (PID). A big thank you to the volunteers who helped our councillors and our clerk in delivering these. It is vitally important that you respond to the questionnaire that is accessible via the link on that document through Survey Monkey - as soon as convenient, please, and certainly before Friday 30th July 2021. Your answers will be collated to gauge the overall views of parishioners and businesses to go towards shaping the final Neighbourhood Plan. Please encourage your neighbours to provide the answers and comments as requested - and to sign up for this newsletter. As you're getting this by email, it's highly likely that you will respond online. For those not so computer-savvy, a paper copy can be obtained from Clarebria on Church Lane and from Crimple Fresh/Post Office. Survey Monkey also provides the collation service for online inputs so paper submissions do mean extra work for us although it is the inclusion of everyone's opinions which is important. Needless to say, some suggestions may not fit within the rules of planning (National Planning Policy Framework) or be approved by Harrogate Borough Council (HBC). Nonetheless, if you don't express your views, neither we, the Parish Council nor HBC will know of your concerns or wishes. Don't forget to reply before the deadline in case of internet breaks which are ever more frequent!

Planning

HBC has been dragging its heels over some planning applications. We still don't know why Pannal House Farm hasn't been approved but we do now know Pannal Green "the garages" application is being withdrawn but will probably re-emerge with modifications. The Crystal Court application is still not yet resolved. We have asked our Borough Councillor to protest at the lamentable service from some officers within HBC's planning department.

We believe that P&BBPC's intervention has helped to delay the Police Training College (PTC) application hearing until the Parameters Plan has been signed off. This was a condition laid down by one part of HBC's planning department but which another part wanted to ride roughshod over. An increase of some 40 homes was deemed by NYCC to have limited effect on traffic. However, they have said the same thing for each of the individual applications on Harrogate's Western Arc that will amount to 4000 houses - pure folly. The intervention of Homes England (which is in

effect a quango) in the PTC application, seeks to maximise house building at all costs, irrespective of any negative impacts. Fortunately, the planning committee listened to us on this occasion.

Land behind St Robert's Church

You will remember we wished to use part of a field next to Pannal School for: allotments for both residents and Pannal schoolchildren; the waste ground behind the church for a Park and Stride car park for the school and for weekend use by Pannal Sports Junior Football Club; a footbridge across the Crimble so children could avoid the busy A61 to get to PSJFC and an area by the Crimble for a nature area. After meetings with Cllr Oswin and Jane Marlow, with HBC officers, we have received a reply from HBC which is reproduced verbatim on our website. Please take the time to have a look at this reply which includes some inaccuracies:

- We have never requested all the land at PN20 for allotments – maybe a third of it at most.
- The area of land enclosed by Clark Beck Close, the churchyard, Pannal Green houses, the Crimble and the fence to farmland is not actively farmed. It is an overgrown and seemingly unused area.
- The area of land suggested for a nature area is not actively farmed as it is often too waterlogged to allow crops to be grown but would be a super nature wetland.
- HBC has no money for any of the above projects – could that be because it doesn't involve central Harrogate or cycling?

It is amazing that HBC states it cannot simply repossess land where there is a commercial agreement (in this instance a farming tenancy or leasehold) in place. However, this is exactly what it plans to do with PN18. The only difference being that it would make a significant financial gain from selling PN18 but appears to have little wish to enhance the lives of parishioners with facilities for our children.

We feel we should now raise this matter to higher authority. Please show your support for us.

Footpath by the Crimble

After some wrangling, we were told work was due to start on 26th July to restore the river bank and the Ringway footpath. North Yorkshire County Council seems to believe that their approved contractor did nothing wrong when effecting the “repair” last year. This is despite the contractor ignoring local knowledge and advice that their work was doomed to failure because of foreseeable annual saturation of the field behind the bank and constant erosion by the Crimble Beck. We have challenged NYCC, in that we believe the contractor should remedy the situation at his cost rather than have more public money thrown at it. We heard that NYCC is to review the situation but that will mean a delay to the start of any works. The team involved has a very small budget for all rights of way in North Yorkshire so it is even more surprising that they appear not to want to get the contractor to make good the work most people consider to be defective. Put it this way: if a builder made a wall in your garden that fell down within a year, you would expect him to correct that at zero cost to you.

More on Footpaths

We have organised clearance of nettles and weeds by way of strimming on some of the more used paths. This should make it easier to walk into the back of Crimple Meadows recreation ground and make things safer at the bottom of Spring Lane.

Strategic Sites Consultation

Cllr Dave Oswin and our clerk, Jane Marlow, attended this MS Teams session. Within this consultation, our concerns relate to what is known as PN18 – the site intended for employment purposes by the side of the A61 between Mercedes and Harrogate. We have expressed our views and can only hope they will be taken in to account. Rest assured, we will not hold back from fighting any proposals which would destroy the views of the Crimple Viaduct or desecrate the land that was bought by HBC half a century ago to prevent building on this approach to Harrogate. If any of you hear a whisper of anything affecting this piece of land, please get in touch with our parish clerk, Dave or myself.

Telephone Kiosk

We have received a number of comments about the sad state of the former BT-owned kiosk at the junction of Station Road and Pannal Avenue. The Parish Council supported BT's application to have it removed with an offer from Pannal Village Hall to host a book-swap in their new foyer not being taken forward by Facebook campaigners. After a transition phase, the responsibility for it now rests with the Guides. The Parish Council approached County Cllr Cliff Trotter for financial support from his Community Fund and very much appreciated his agreement to support the Guides in this endeavour. The initial costs for this restorative work will, therefore, come from his fund. Thereafter, it will be run entirely by the Guides. A tidying up exercise will be conducted in the next couple of weeks. Please do remember – it's a book-swap library, not a deposit area for unwanted books.

Parameters Plan

This saga continues with delay after delay. At the PTC hearing, it was even suggested this might not be finalised until the new year. We have been notified that we (P&BBPC) will be invited to stakeholder meetings in the not-too-distant future to discuss what is likely to be an almost final draft. Our offers of help have been met with a stone wall of "we-know-best and we'll tell you eventually what is going to happen" rather than have a meaningful iterative process with ongoing discussions. It could be likened to our Neighbourhood Plan being forced onto parishioners without any discussions. We wouldn't do that, so why should HBC? The Parameters Plan was insisted upon by the government inspector for HBC's Local Plan as he recognised its shortcomings for the west of Harrogate but, unfortunately, it will not have the same clout or legal status as the Local Plan.

We are not optimistic that anything substantial in terms of highways provision will result from the plan, so we'll be in gridlock, as neither NYCC nor HBC will comment on proposals at this stage.

YLCA Branch Annual Meeting

This remote meeting was attended by Cllr Don Mackenzie and Mr Karl Battersby

(Corporate Services Director a.k.a. Head of NYCC Highways). Jane and I attended on behalf of P&BBPC. We were treated to a presentation detailing what Highways do and what they plan to do. That will be available to see on our website for a limited time. Parish councils posed a number of questions and Karl presented NYCC replies. Answers relevant to our parish are published on our website. Of particular note is the specification regarding what constitutes a pothole.

Defect Investigatory Levels - the investigatory levels for defects arising from safety inspections are shown in the following table:

Item	Defect	Investigatory Level
Carriageway (horizontal direction)	Pothole / spalling	20mm depth (75mm across in any)
	Crowning	50mm (area as NRSWA Code of Practice)
	Depression	50mm (area 2 sq metres)
	Rutting	20mm
	Gap / crack	20mm depth (20mm wide)
	Sunken ironwork	20mm difference in level
Pedestrian Crossing	Trip / pothole	15mm depth
Footway (horizontal direction) horizontally)	Trip / pothole / sunken	15mm depth (75mm across in any)
	Rocking slab / block	15mm vertical movement
	Open joint	20mm depth (100mm x 50mm)
	Tree root damage	15mm trip
	Sunken ironwork	15mm level difference

Are parish councillors the only people reporting potholes? If you don't report them, NYCC will not only say they don't know about them but if there is no report of a pothole, there is no chance that a claim for damage to tyres/wheels/suspension will be considered. You have been warned. It is better to report potholes ten times than not at all. That might attract more attention and faster action!

Adult Gym Equipment

The new equipment is proving very popular and will help to improve the health and fitness of its users. Regular safety checks are conducted and reported to the parish clerk and will be noted on our website in future. Please remember, this equipment is for adults and the equipment within the fenced area is for children.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We would like to canvass opinion on what can be done in the parish to celebrate the jubilee at the beginning of June 2022. Parish councillor volunteers already have too much on their plates to organise this but would like to invite groups within the parish to contact us via our parish clerk so that a committee could be set up to plan

festivities. Watch our Facebook page for more information.

Diary

As usual, we will not be holding a Parish Council meeting in August so our next meeting will be on September 9th at Pannal Village Hall. If there are numerous planning applications, we will hold a planning committee meeting in August. Enjoy your summer holidays as best you can.

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