



June 2022 Newsletter

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Where does one start? After elections and the platinum jubilee celebrations, we're back to business as usual.

WESTERN ARC HOUSING

Yet another planning application has been submitted, driven by Homes England (who were behind the Police Training College Planning Committee fiasco) for what will become >500 homes at Bluecoat Wood – just opposite Cardale Park off Otley Road. Only recently there was another application for 780 homes – that will inevitably become 1000 – again off Otley Road. There is no road infrastructure planned, apart from a few minor junction improvements, to handle the traffic to/from these developments, let alone the cumulative effects of 4000 houses on Harrogate's Western Arc. Where will the traffic go? The answer is simple – any way it can to get to centres of employment and that means primarily through our parish's country lanes to add to the existing congestion and danger.

The long awaited WHIDS (West Harrogate Infrastructure Delivery Schedule) still won't have a preliminary outing until the second half of July. The final version is unlikely to be ready much before the end of the calendar year. There have been changes announced in the HBC political team. Cllr Rebecca Burnett, who was a leading light in the push for excessive housing numbers for the Local Plan, has been selected to chair HBC's Planning Committee in place of Cllr John Mann who proved a steady hand as the previous chairman. Logic would suggest that John should remain as chairman as he has been elected as the representative for the new North Yorkshire Council giving some continuity. Is this an attempt to push through all these unwanted and unneeded houses in the last throes of HBC rule?

We will be campaigning, along with North Rigton and Beckwithshaw parish councils and HAPARA against these new developments unless/until adequate highway infrastructure is in place. Anything else would fly in the face of the government inspector's comments regarding the Local Plan and the need for a Parameters Plan where the main subject should be infrastructure, with highways as No. 1.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Some parishioners have asked who should do what when it comes to actions by councils. We are frequently asked to sort out problems X and Y when it is not the Parish Council's responsibility or within its remit. Some residents state that they've come to us because they don't get any help from either HBC or NYCC. Unless those councils know of the problem, they can't handle it so using us as a post-box only wastes time. Below is a published summary from NYCC (North Yorkshire County Council) outlining areas of responsibility.

"We are a 'top-tier' council. This means that we provide important local services across the whole county. The UK Parliament decides what our responsibilities are. We as a county council are responsible for local services such as:

Education, Transport, Planning, Health and social care, Libraries, Waste management and Trading Standards

We work with 'second-tier' district and borough councils. District and borough councils cover smaller areas within the County. They run other services, such as: Refuse collection, Recycling, Council Tax Collections, Housing, Planning Applications.

What do parish councils do?

The services provided by parish councils vary depending on how large and how active the councils are. Some do not meet very often, and are not very active. Other larger parish councils carry out many duties such as street lighting, managing cemeteries, allotments, commons, village halls, war memorials and markets.

'Parish' (sic) Councillors are usually elected every four years. They are not paid, although they may claim expenses, and they have to obey a local government code of conduct. Each parish council may have its own code of conduct which you can consult either on the parish council website for your area, or by contacting the parish clerk."

These are the broad outlines of responsibility for NYCC and HBC and within the outlines are things like parking, broadband, hedges, paths, fly-tipping, potholes, street lights, trains and buses et al. Please check on NYCC and HBC websites instead of referring to the Parish Council. Of course, this will all be lumped together when the unitary authority comes into being. If some parishioners don't know what we do, then we suggest you ask them to subscribe to this monthly newsletter by contacting Jane, our parish clerk.

SPEEDING

With the continued presence of NYP with their camera vans/motor bikes on Church Lane, the incidences of speeding are reducing, but only slightly. We will be publishing excerpts from our SIDs on a monthly basis highlighting the dangers. A new Community Speedwatch rota will soon be out so if you would like to volunteer, please let Jane, our parish clerk, know.

HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Above three photos by kind permission of Alistair How

Many locals turned out for the two events – the beacon lighting and the family fun day. It was great to see so many people gathered together despite having not the best of weather conditions on the Sunday.



It was through a great deal of effort that the events were so successful. Although it was supposed to be a community-driven programme, it boiled down to involvement from those associated with St Robert's Church, Mrs Anne Smith with her much-appreciated history of the parish through our sovereign's reign, Mr and Mrs Bartup and Mr and Mrs Kaye together with families/partners with the organisation and financial arrangements conducted by the Parish Council. Our grateful thanks extend to all those who additionally provided commitment and support (Mrs Jane Turner (School Headteacher), Mrs Ann Howard, Cllr Cliff Trotter, Mr and Mrs Ward-Campbell, Mrs Anita Hawker, Mr Ryan Dall, Rev John Smith and Rev Nick Murray) with special mentions for Cllr Dave Oswin for chairing the preparatory meetings and for his involvement in both events and Cllr Cathy Burrell for her customary enthusiasm, work ethos and organisational skills and our parish clerk, Jane, for dealing with bureaucracy and ensuring the various elements were in place at the right time.

People have asked if something similar could be organised next year. We don't know what name is given to a 71st jubilee but whatever it is, there won't be the same finance available and the Parish Council won't be at the centre of organising it again. If an event is wanted, then it will be up to a committee of volunteers to get together to plan something well in advance. One would not believe the hoops one has to jump through and the risk assessments involved. Our particular thanks go to Mr Tim Dabell, HBC's Event Manager, for his timely interventions. The safety of our residents is of paramount importance so we're delighted that all went well and the community came together to celebrate our monarch's platinum jubilee. As a lasting reminder of the occasion, you may have noticed that by the small wildflower area on the recreation field there will be a commemorative bench installed, provided by the Parish Council. We expect this shortly.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you to all who sent in their consultation comments about the pre-submission plan via Survey Monkey. These will be analysed by the NP Steering Group and our consultant before the next step in the process. We hope to have completed the whole process before NYC takes over from HBC but some actions are beyond our control.

ADVANCE WARNING

We all need a break sometimes, so we will not be holding our customary Parish Council meeting in August. If there is some subject you wish to bring to our attention for our July meeting, please email Jane.

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