



June 2023 Newsletter

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After King Charles's coronation, our own celebration of the event and embarking on a new Parish Council year, we're back to more mundane day-to-day business.

PLANNING

For the first time ever, we only had one planning application on the last meeting's agenda to deal with, instead of up to ten. We thought there was a problem with the new system with the new North Yorkshire Council authority but it turns out there is a national downturn in planning applications. We can't comment on the national situation but believe this might be just a blip in Pannal and Burn Bridge. We had expected the former Police Training College application to come before a planning committee but have been informed that that is unlikely before August (when many will be on holiday)!

ROADS

Many of you have asked when we will be getting some action in resurfacing Main Street/Station Road but it has been confirmed that there is nothing in the 2023/24 schedule for our parish. We eventually obtained the listings of what will be done and in our opinion some of those locations specified appear to be less critical than our rat-run through Pannal. Work on our roads should be included in the 2024/5 budget but that hasn't been confirmed yet. The last thing we need is more patching instead of a complete resurface. However, the delay should give all the other services – water, gas, electricity, drainage and broadband etc., time to complete all their activities prior to getting a new road surface which should last way beyond just patching.

When you see a problem on our roads, pavements or verges, please report them via the NYC portal: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel>

It is better that a problem is reported several times rather than not at all. Please remember that if your vehicle sustains damage due to potholes or missing/collapsed drain covers or similar and NYC have not been made aware of the problem before the misfortune occurs, then they will not be liable for any compensation. Even if they were made aware, one has to prove they have not acted in a timely and reasonable manner as there is no automatic right to compensation that involves public money. Hence, it is in your interest to report any issues immediately you notice them.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The inadequate system for crossing Station Road/Pannal Bank by the railway line was a subject for discussion at our latest Parish Council meeting. It is bad enough when traffic is light but at peak times, crossing that stretch of road is risky, bordering on dangerous. We have highlighted this to Area 6 Highways for their attention. They're probably not aware of the large numbers of children living on Thirkill Drive and its sideroads who need access to Pannal School.

MORE ON THIRKILL DRIVE AREA

Although too late to be included on the Parish Council meeting agenda, public comment was made about the appalling state of the football pitches with knee-high grass and the apparently derelict state of the

children's playground that still isn't ready for the children to play on. Presumably this is still Bellway's problem but Planning Enforcement at NYC hasn't, to our knowledge, enforced any action against them. One thing is certain, it is not within the Parish Council's remit but perhaps one that has slipped through the net with the changeover to North Yorkshire Council. Nonetheless, we are investigating on behalf of a number of disgruntled Thirkill/Smithy/Buttersyke residents. The most recent information we have from NYC, received the day after the date of our Parish Council meeting, is that there are legal requirements that should have been satisfied by Bellway and/or Forward Investments but appear not to have been completed as required.

These include:

Provision of an Open Spaces Management Plan. *This has not been submitted.*

Pitches should have been maintained and made available. *This has not been adhered to.*

A Community Use Scheme should be submitted before pitches are brought into use. *This has not been submitted.*

Details relating to the play area including specification of equipment should be provided. *The play equipment has not been installed according to the correct specification.*

We are not aware at the moment when HBC/NYC became aware of the failure to meet all conditions applied to the application.

Meanwhile, the pitches are reverting to meadow status without any regular mowing or treatment and residents on the estate are being denied what was promised to them when they bought their properties.

CRIMPLE MEADOWS PLAYING FIELD

You may recall that the coronation celebration event had to be moved elsewhere because the entrance to the playing field was waterlogged again. HBC (and now NYC) have still not taken any action with respect to the drainage to the vehicular entrance to the site despite reminders over the years with special emphasis made before the platinum jubilee. We have asked that construction of a suitable footpath across the field and the drainage take place during the summer vacation when access for heavy vehicles should not be a problem. We are organising a drawing of the optimum route for the path ourselves as it appears NYC's proposed design is unsuitable.

WESTERN ARC INFRASTRUCTURE

We advised you, after a meeting in February with the cabinet member responsible for highways, Cllr Keane Duncan, that we had hopes of a shake-up at NYC and some positive news for road infrastructure to accommodate all the traffic from the housing already built and planned for the west of Harrogate. We're afraid that we have no good news. The following is an update from Cllr Duncan which unfortunately differs very little from the previous statements coming from HBC and NYCC. A précis is that it's a difficult problem and there's still no news of what we may expect or when. Cllr Duncan is not to blame for the inactivity; nothing appears to have changed since when Cllr Don Mackenzie was in charge of the highways brief.

Cllr Duncan's email...

I now have an update for you, which you are able to share with the public as required.

The adopted Harrogate Local Plan, our adopted Supplemental planning documents and Site specific documents such as the Parameters Plan create a clear framework to achieve a co-ordinated strategic development at West Harrogate. These have wide ranging infrastructure delivery at their heart and strive to provide high quality place-making which supports sustainable growth. Planning applications will be

considered against this policy framework. Appropriate trigger mechanisms will be included in s106 agreements to ensure that infrastructure is delivered in a timely way over the life of the development.

The current infrastructure work will add detail to the important framework provided by the adopted Harrogate District Local Plan and West Harrogate Parameters Plan (WHPP). The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) is an appendix to the WHPP and will remain so, with an updates only where there were gaps in detail at the time of the WHIDS sign off in February 2022. The West Harrogate Infrastructure Document (WHIDS) takes the details of the WHPP and the IDS, setting out the mechanism of how the infrastructure across a number of adjacent sites will be co-ordinated. This WHIDS is a tool for the implementation stage of these schemes.

To support the Highways Authority in assessing the transport mitigation strategy for West Harrogate, HBC and NYCC (now NYC) jointly commissioned consultants to carry out a buildability review and costings exercise. This will provide clarification and certainty for future application determinations, accompanying s106 agreement and assist delivery of the transport works. Whilst the majority of this commission was carried out in Autumn 2022, the complex nature of it means that it is not yet complete. However, please be assured that officers are prioritising this work. The results of the buildability work have implications for the WHIDS document, so officers have been unable to complete it at the moment. Whilst these delays are frustrating for all involved, this is the nature of strategic projects.

I hope that this is useful.

Many thanks

Keane

Your Parish Council has responded to this update in the strongest of terms, asking for finite details rather than council-speak and inactivity. Meanwhile house-building continues apace and we still have no more than tarmac-covered cart tracks to cater for the increased traffic and no improved or extended bus services.

Mr Rene Dziabas from the Western Arc Co-operation Group (of which P&BBPC is a member) spoke at the latest Area Constituency Meeting and highlighted similar problems to those we have expressed. Hopefully, one day, officers and county councillors will listen to our pleas.

SPEEDING

We continue to monitor speeds throughout the parish via Speed Indicator Devices and report these finding to North Yorkshire Police. We're exceptionally grateful to Peter Talbot for his monthly downloading of data and the transcription thereof into meaningful statistics. There seems to be some degree of slowing but, as we all know, enforcement is the optimum deterrent when drivers' common sense fails to prevail.

Community SpeedWatch deployments have started again but we desperately need more volunteers to man the equipment. It only takes an hour at a time and complements NYP's action against speeders. Please send your contact details to Jane, our parish clerk (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk), so that we can cover more areas in the parish. NYP only operate in limited locations.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

We normally take a break in August for PC meetings (not for our continued activities, however!) so if there are any burning issues, please contact Jane with details so that we can decide if the subject matter is suitable for debate at our July meeting. If there are specific concerns, we need the information at least a week in advance of the meeting, which will be held on July 13th.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk
and Cathy Burrell, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb, Andrew Farrar and Neil Permain

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/>