



March 2023 Newsletter

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The good news is that we're now back to full strength at the Parish Council having co-opted Neil Permain to our ranks. Neil was very much involved with research and suggestions for our Neighbourhood Plan and has the welfare of the parish and its residents at heart. We welcome him on board and we're sure he'll make a positive contribution.

It was noted that some parishes with much smaller populations than ours have more councillors. We have grown by more than 10% since our inception in 2016 but to have more councillors added, we would have to undergo another governance review by NYC and probably an expensive by-election that would have to come from our own funds. With all the upheaval in the transition from our current situation into the new unitary authority, now is not the time to enter into such a process.

MEETING WITH CLLR KEANE DUNCAN – NYCC Cabinet member for highways

There have been complaints from several quarters about the lack of progress with NYCC Highways regarding provisions for traffic relating to the building of 4000 homes, a school and commercial premises on Harrogate's Western Arc. We had a very useful meeting with Cllr Duncan who showed a very positive attitude that had previously been sadly lacking in our communications with HBC / NYCC officers. We put our concerns to Cllr Duncan and in return he asked us, as did his predecessor Cllr Don Mackenzie, what we wanted. We have delivered those suggestions to Cllr Duncan. Our previous requests, along with those of other members of the Western Arc Co-operation Group (WACG), appear to have been ignored to-date, as the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule/Plan part of the West Harrogate Parameters Plan still hasn't been completed. For those people new to our parish, the WACG consists of Beckwithshaw, North Rigton and Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Councils, Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association, Hampsthwaite Action Group and Duchy Residents Association.

The standard reply when addressing highways concerns is always the lack of money. However, with the new unitary authority NYC and the probability of a new Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, then we may get extra "devolution" funding which could allow for financing more infrastructure. Hence, we have staked our claim for road infrastructure provision commensurate with current (or pre-pandemic level) traffic plus extra from 4000 homes rather than the tarmacked cart tracks we have now which traverse our parish. You will remember that our SIDs not only record vehicle speeds but the passage of every vehicle. Hence, our figures on vehicle movements are superior to those held by NYCC but, as yet, NYCC Highways have not taken up our offer to use the data.

It was interesting to note that a scoping document provided to NYCC's consultants only mentions 2000 homes which is totally misleading. We have provided the proof from HBC's own figures that the figure will exceed 4000.

HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL

There's less than 3 weeks left for HBC before NYC starts, so we'll all have to get used to contacting NYC after 1st April. As stated before, please do not contact the Parish Council for what were previously HBC and

NYCC's responsibilities. We have not, as yet, been made aware of any details beyond that given to the general populace.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSOs)

From what we're led to believe, there doesn't now seem to be a dedicated PCSO for our parish. There is a list of names available but with no specific village/parish allocations. We are taking up the matter with NYP as a constant contact point is invaluable rather than trying to liaise with a group where no-one appears to have responsibility.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE. . .

The parish Volunteer Group, together with support from the Parish Council, is delighted to confirm that arrangements are progressing very well for the **King Charles' Coronation and Village Fun Day Event on Sunday 7th May 12 noon to 5pm** on Crimple Meadows in Pannal. Some super and enthusiastic ideas have been put forward with provision on the afternoon of a bouncy castle, a number of stalls including children's sporting and games activities such as "beat the goalie", a dog show and with refreshments provided from a coffee car and bar and food stall. Please save the date – it is hoped to be a very enjoyable event with wide support from our villages.

DUNLOPILLO

You will have noticed that the contractors are busy with the groundwork for the new apartments on the former office block site. To date, their management has been very co-operative when it comes to resolving inconsiderate parking, heavy lorry access and cleaning up the roadways and this is very much appreciated. Should you have any complaints on the matter, please let us know.

DOG WASTE/LITTER BINS

For those of you used to the Ringway footpath, where the dog waste bins were removed, there is a new one (albeit apparently second-hand) on Malthouse Lane just opposite the bridge that leads over Crimple Beck towards the cricket ground. Please do not leave your dog-poo bags anywhere on the Ringway in our parish - or elsewhere for that matter; they won't be collected. Either take them home or use the dual-purpose bins provided.

We're still trying to get the green bin at the end of Mill Lane changed. It's the wrong type in the wrong position in our opinion but HBC have been obdurate in their placement of bins with complaints coming from throughout the borough.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

We have to announce a change of date for our spring clean-up of litter. It will now be on Saturday April 8th at 10am.

Please turn up at St Robert's church car park where long handle pickers, rubbish sacks and hi-viz jackets should be provided. We suggest you bring some gloves, not only for protection but also because it might not be too warm.

BENCHES

After an absence of around 2 years (nobody will say why) the bench just down from the village hall has finally been returned. Now one can sit and watch the new apartments and commercial units being constructed or wait for a train in relative comfort.



We're still waiting for approval from NYCC to place a bench at the top of Drury Lane. Area 6 Highways didn't like the site with the best view that was proposed, so they'll now have to look at an alternative. Repairs to other benches in the parish have been on a waiting list for a couple of years despite frequent reminders.

CRIMPLE MEADOWS FOOTPATH

We have received one quote for a crushed stone footpath through the recreation ground from HBC but it was too late to be included in discussions at our last PC meeting. We requested that before the wild flower seeds were sown weeks before the Queen's platinum jubilee and have chased for answers since. Of course, we'll have to deal with NYC for this project in the future but it will probably be with the same personnel who will be transferred to the new authority. No work can be undertaken before summer when the land has dried out but we will probably need planning permission before groundwork can start. Finance will need to be confirmed as well.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

Once the clocks go forward at the end of the month, we'll start again with CSW. If you would like to volunteer to help and show motorists that excess speed isn't tolerated in our parish, then please contact Jane, our parish clerk (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk). With more houses being built to the West of Harrogate with no improvement to roads being made or adequate public transport available, more rat-running is taking place. The police safety cameras can only be in one place at a time, so CSW provides another deterrent by recording speed, make, model, colour and registration number of vehicles which is fed to North Yorkshire Police.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk
and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, 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/>