



November 2019 Edition Newsletter

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It has been challenging of late; our efforts on the local plan may have finished for the time being but we're actively fighting against congestion and the increased traffic through our villages. HBC plan for a lot of houses but with no infrastructure in the package. This appears to be left to NYCC. There is no overarching plan, which is very worrying.

### **LOCAL PLAN**

A lot of people may not realise that we appear to have already been successful in getting three out of four "allocations" in our parish removed from the local plan. We say "appear to" as we have never dealt with a situation such as this before. Until everything is signed and sealed, we're in unknown territory. The parish council tackled HBC's proposal for a traveller site designated PN16 and managed, with the help of the National Gypsy Council, to get that removed from the plan for Pannal. Likewise, PN17 and PN19 have been removed upon instructions from the inspector following our representations. Those are the three that appear to have gone our way. The fourth, PN18, is still in debate, albeit somewhat reduced in scale. Because of the forthcoming general election, there will be no announcements from HBC on the matter as it could be deemed advantageous to any political party; it's called "election purdah". It looks as if we won't hear more on the plan until January.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Further work on this has been halted because of the interminable delays with the local plan. As soon as we know what will happen with that, we'll get back onto it as soon as we can.

### **CONGESTION STUDY**

Those of you who attended the exhibitions at Pannal Village Hall (NYCC's and ours) will have noted that virtually everything was concentrated on congestion in the town centres of Harrogate and Knaresborough and an attempt to construct a bypass through the Nidd gorge. There was little opportunity to express any views on our own traffic problems to the west of Harrogate. NYCC's executive has however, committed its officers to undertake an economic cost/benefit study on ways to improve the worsening congestion through our parish caused by more and more development on the western arc of Harrogate. In conjunction with HAPARA and a couple of other parish councils, we lobbied for a say in what is needed. This culminated with a statement we made to the Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency Committee Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November. The replies we received from Cllr Don Mackenzie and the officer response from NYCC, showed some signs of encouragement. However, NYCC still come up with the expressions "bypass or relief road", neither of which have been requested by the parish council. We have asked for strategic infrastructure improvements to alleviate congestion. Although a welcome part of improvements should involve sustainable measures such as cycle paths and improved public transport, those alone will not solve the problems. Please look on the parish council website to see minutes and correspondence on the issue. They're too long to repeat here. The upshot is that we want to be involved at the earliest possible stage in discussions that will affect us and not have a solution thrust upon us without consultation. That was the story of the Otley Road cycle way.

### **PANNAL VILLAGE HALL**

After doing our due diligence with the financial consultants at the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, it became evident that VAT rules, thought at first by the village hall's advisors to be beneficial, could not be applied with their current legal structure and set-up alongside our own. We have therefore resolved that the parish council will not take over the trusteeship as had been agreed subject to investigation.

## **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

The clerk and chairman attended a presentation to the YLCA Harrogate branch meeting in Boroughbridge on Monday night. It was given by Rachel Hunter from HBC and clarified lots of unknowns. Residents were given the opportunity to comment in the CIL consultation last year. In contrast to the thousands of comments received for the local plan, we understand that comments received for CIL were around 30 and a lot of them were from developers! It is a complex subject but the opportunity to implement CIL has been in existence since the Localism Act in 2010/2011. HBC chose not to get involved originally but will now use that system to generate income from housing development alongside Section 106 which is the current money generator.

## **CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

The parish council invites residents to join in with the carol singing on Pannal Green on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6pm. There will then be mulled wine and minced pies available in Pannal School from around 6.30pm. Soft drinks will also be available as well as some biscuits for those not keen on mince pies. Please note: no dogs are allowed on Pannal School premises. This event has increased in popularity and numbers since the involvement of the parish council. Please pop along this year where the charity collections will be for Frank's Fund – voted for by parish residents on Facebook. This local fund is for research into Ewing sarcoma which is a rare type of bone cancer.

## **PLANNING**

For those of you who read the agendas and minutes of our parish council meetings you will have noticed a large increase in planning applications over the last couple of years. The last two planning meetings have lasted longer than the full council meetings - such is the amount of detail that is discussed in getting our local input into the borough council for their final assessment. If you see one of those green planning notices and you have a comment to make, do it immediately. Leaving it until later could mean the parish council doesn't get to see your comments. Visits are made by at least one of our planning committee to each site for a planning application, so our input on these matters is taken very seriously.

## **LONELINESS**

With a relatively affluent parish, do we even realise there could be people who suffer from loneliness here? We're looking at ways in which we could identify such people without being intrusive. What can be done to help, as often such people would not look for help? This is a national initiative but our input is welcomed, indeed expected. If you have any ideas on the subject, please email our parish clerk.

## **AIR QUALITY MONITORING**

With the increase in traffic coming through our parish, especially from the developments to the west of Harrogate, we feel the air quality here is suffering, especially in the queues at peak hours. Next week, we will be arranging testing to see if the levels are within government specifications. This should be done over an extended period, so we won't have immediate results. Once we have the information, we'll let parishioners know.

## **"DO NOT DISTURB" STICKERS**

We have acquired a number of "no uninvited or unexpected callers" stickers through Able Community Care which may be useful for (some) residents to post on or near their front doors. These may be collected (without charge, of course) from either the village Post Office or at the Co-op.

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](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)

and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb, Harvey Alexander and Ryan Dall