



December 2019 Edition Newsletter

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What's new or recurring this month? Find out below.....

CONGESTION STUDY

The Parish Council's statement and question to the constituency committee meeting in November has solicited an offer of a meeting between County Councillor Don Mackenzie and representatives of our Parish Council. This will be to discuss the investigation into options for easing congestion to the west of Harrogate as agreed earlier by the head of North Yorkshire County Council Highways. There are of course, two avenues towards discussion with NYCC – via their officers and via the elected representatives. We have agreement from the latter and await some dates from the former. We do not want to be involved with minutiae after the main decisions are made; we want to be in at the beginning to discuss what's best for our residents.

LOCAL PLAN

We eagerly await the decisions by Richard Schofield, the government's inspector, on what will happen with HBC's proposals for the land adjacent to the Mercedes garage. Election purdah should have finished by now but our suspicions are that we won't hear anything until the New Year.

PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

We have registered a strong protest to HBC that they appear to take decisions on planning matters without attaching sufficient weight to our comments. The Parish Council is a formally constituted local authority and statutory body that must be consulted on planning matters. Our advice is given in the first instance but subsequent liaison has often fallen by the wayside. We have local knowledge that can be relevant to a decision but of which HBC is not, or may not be, aware. They have been known to act as they did prior to the formation of our Parish Council. That is unacceptable and has been challenged. We await a reply from HBC.

HARROGATE TO PANNAL CYCLE ROUTE

Does this come as a surprise to you? It did to us and to many residents who have been in the parish for decades. Slipped into the outline planning permission for the former Dunlopillo site back in 2013, was the provision for a route from near the former filling station / dry cleaners to a point beyond the top of Almsford Bank. The plan is for it to run alongside the A61. We received a request from the cycling fraternity to discuss its siting and a potential re-routing to behind St Robert's church towards Almsford Bank on the north side of the River Crimple. The request was for a shared cycle and footpath with street-lighting so it could be used, presumably, 24/7. Residents who have been canvassed on the matter, questioned how or why it was specified in the first place and were troubled by the thought of the sharing of the Ringway with cyclists with light pollution in the valley. Naturally, the Parish Council wants to encourage sustainable transport where appropriate and to this end will be represented by Cllrs Cathy Burrell and Dave Oswin in discussions with representatives of cycling groups. Please let us have your comments on the matter.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

In January, after representation from our Parish Council, HBC will install a couple of monitors to assess the levels of nitric oxides and other unpleasant toxins on two sites in Pannal. One may ask,

why only two but if the two areas most susceptible are monitored first, then appropriate action can be taken elsewhere if required. Usually, where roads / pavements are bordered by high walls or fences, the dispersion of gases into the atmosphere is restricted and such contaminants can be easily inhaled by pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers alike. With more open spaces, the gases can escape upwards more easily. Please keep an eye out for drivers sitting with their engines running just to keep them warm. Police presence has been requested and confirmed, to educate and halt this practice that is extremely damaging to our environment.

NATIONAL VILLAGE HALLS DAY

The Parish Council will be one of the participants at this Open Afternoon on 25th January from 2 to 5pm. We'll be kick-starting Neighbourhood Watch in our parish after a lapse of some years, so please pop along to offer your services and find out more. We'll be looking for more volunteers for Community SpeedWatch and, if the consignment arrives on time, we'll be handing out stickers for your wheelie bins as a reminder that the speed limit through Pannal village is 20MPH.

Loneliness can be a problem, even in an area as pleasant and relatively affluent as ours. Please come along with some suggestions as to how we can help those where a bit of company would work wonders.

Some of the present parish councillors may not put themselves up for election for the next session in a couple of years. So, find out what we do and how you could help with protecting and enhancing our parish. It's no use thinking about it two weeks before local council elections; plan for it now. You'll also be able to see how other groups and societies use our village hall. You'll see what the village hall can offer and how it's planning to improve its facilities. It looks as if the new meeting room might be ideal for our Parish Council.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Thanks to all of you who turned out for this year's singing under the Christmas lights. It's a great community get-together and raised £244.25 for Frank's Fund. We're very grateful, once again to Iain Ward-Campbell for organising the music, musicians and choir-mastering. Thanks too to the Co-op for their donation of mince pies and to Steve Willis at Crimple Fresh for the mulled wine. Thanks to Jane Turner, Headteacher at Pannal School for her time and allowing us to use the premises. Our gratitude is also due to fellow councillors and spouses for serving the nourishment. This event has become a firm favourite in the calendar – long may it continue.

Unfortunately, many of the festive lights, under which we sang this year, will need to be replaced next year due to wind damage and some through vandalism. We managed to "patch and mend" this year but for 2020 it will be different. Many of them will be taken down in January to allow the overhanging branches on trees between Main Street and Pannal School to be trimmed back in accordance with NYCC specifications as lorries sometimes hit them now. Regrettably, the new lights will have different incompatible connectors, hence the need for almost total replacement. This is an example of built-in obsolescence by the Chinese manufacturers.

POLICE POWERS

We have been asked to comment by the National Association of Local Councils on a Home Office document about the management of travellers who trespass on land and occupy it, often with resultant damage. It asks what police powers should be changed to prevent disruption and losses, similar to those incurred on the Crimple Hall site earlier this year. We support the NALC drive for extended and speedier police powers to move trespassers on and, if necessary, prosecute any criminal misdeeds. The Home Office document was very badly written, so we have asked our MP to take up the matter with those who wrote it.

CHRISTMAS

We hope to take something of a break over the festive season but this doesn't always happen. We are volunteers, so if there's anything that needs urgent action, please contact the borough council. On behalf of the whole team at P&BBPC, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for being so supportive of our efforts this year.

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, Harvey Alexander and Ryan Dall