



February Newsletter 2020

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There was a very full agenda at the latest Parish Council meeting so the optimum way to know in detail what transpired, is to read the draft minutes which will be on the website. Rather than repeat all those points here, we'll concentrate only on the major issues.

LOCAL PLAN

Many of you might wonder what the next steps are after the government inspector released his final report recently. In principle, nothing much has changed since his previous statement to HBC and the resulting Major Modifications, upon which many of us commented. The findings in his report should be incorporated into the plan to be formally adopted in March. The plan was deemed to be legally sound, so we can't see any reason why it should not be adopted – whether we agree with it or not. Look at the report which is on HBC's website to see for yourselves.

We managed to get PN16 (traveller site), PN17 (Spring Lane Farm) and PN19 (land behind St. Robert's church) removed from the plan which was a great result for all the work put in by the Parish Council and residents. HBC reduced the size of PN18 by about a third but the inspector decided that on balance, having an employment site there and ensuing traffic chaos would be more beneficial than protecting the environment.

We disagree with his main decision on PN18 and will do all in our power to ensure every obstacle possible is put in the way of such a development. He was however, very clear that heights of buildings and their position on the site should not block views of the viaduct down the valley. In our own objections to PN18, we highlighted this self-imposed condition by HBC and the inspector reiterated it. We believe PN18 may not be particularly attractive to developers, given the restrictions on what can be constructed. There would be a very long process with opportunities to object at various stages, before anything is built there. Adjudication by another government inspector on finite plans is almost a certainty.

PN18, after all, was one of the additional sites added to the original plan and as there is a huge over-allocation of employment use sites in HBC's plan, developers may well choose to go elsewhere where conditions are more favourable – Flaxby or Melmerby maybe.

We, residents of our parish, should continue to fight against any employment use on PN18, using the arguments already made, which will help to dissuade developers from even buying or leasing the site. The battle is by no means over. So please get your thinking caps on, use social media and work together to thwart desecration of the Crimple Valley. It worked with the Nidd Gorge!

The parish council wrote to the inspector about PN20 (just behind Pannal school) still being retained, despite it being predicated upon some 300 houses being built on PN19. His reply was as follows: "The report on the Local Plan is complete and this is now a matter for the Borough Council what, if anything, it wishes to see happen with PN20." We will now write to HBC, using the same reasoning as stated, asking that PN20 should be removed. Watch this space.

REPRESENTATION AT NYCC MEETINGS

When your Parish Council wished to make statements and ask questions about congestion in our parish at a recent NYCC constituency meeting, we were informed that submissions are treated on a first come, first served basis and limited to 10 comments of 3 minutes each. This means that if, for example, a protest group were to fill the first and only 10 slots, then not even a formally elected statutory body like a parish council could express a view. We consider this to be fundamentally wrong and raised the point at a recent parish consultation meeting. We made a proposal that a number of slots must always be made available for parishes. This went down extremely well with Yorkshire Local Councils Association, parishes and HBC cabinet members, the latter who suggested we make an official proposal to NYCC to get this changed, so that democracy is seen to work. We will do this.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In our parish, this scheme is to say the least, patchy. One or two are excellent, some just tread water and others are non-existent. We'll soon get a new PCSO once Elinor's training is complete and she is enthusiastic about helping us in this matter, especially as we're on the main route for county lines drug trafficking between Harrogate and West Yorkshire. Dissemination of information from North Yorkshire Police by email is only one tiny part of the story; does a break-in in Whitby have any effect on Pannal and Burn Bridge? The clue is in the title – WATCH. It is this action which is the most critical and if we're aware of unknown people, individuals potentially "casing" properties door to door, dodgy vehicles, attempts at cons / fraud, fly-tipping, etc., our passing this information to all Neighbourhood Watch coordinators in our parish as well as the police is invaluable. We want to be a zero-tolerance area concerning crime. To get this moving again, we'll be holding a meeting on Tuesday, 3rd March in the function room at Pannal Village Hall at 7pm. If you're an existing coordinator or would like to help protect our parish from criminals, then please come to that meeting. Apathy is not an option.

ENHANCEMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY

Your parish council has been prudent with respect to expenditure and hopefully there will be no (or at least not much) more funding required to object to the Local Plan in the forthcoming financial year. In consequence, we should have somewhere in the region of £5000 available to spend on projects which would benefit the community. This may be one single project or a few little ones. Please let Jane, our parish clerk, have your suggestions and we'll pick the optimum proposal(s). N.B. this does not include potholes, road resurfacing or anything that should be handled as a matter of course. A couple of suggestions to date have included floral decorations and open-air fitness equipment. See below for an example.



GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

This will be on Saturday, 28th March, where we'll be looking for as many volunteers as possible to help in clearing all the litter and detritus left mainly by uncaring people who drive through our parish. We'll announce times and meeting points next month but please keep the morning free in your diaries. In the event of inclement weather, there will be a fall-back date of Saturday, 18th April.

THIRKHILL DRIVE RAT-RUN (Road through the former Dunlopillo site)

Bellway appear to have opened up the road through their new housing development without putting in place the requisite traffic calming measures as specified in the reserved matters of the planning permission.

To date, HBC's enforcement officers have not taken any restrictive action. This is now a danger zone for any pedestrian anywhere near the post office. It seems that the conditions agreed by the developer, council officers and the Parish Council were not written into the final documents by HBC despite being agreed. NYCC Highways say that the road isn't adopted yet and as such is not under their jurisdiction. Our concern, echoed by residents, is that should an accident occur, who would be liable – Bellway, Forward Investments, NYCC or HBC? Even more important is to make sure there are no accidents. What we want is for the road to be closed to vehicular traffic again until all the housing is completed (as was agreed by all parties), the 20MPH speed limit is in effect, traffic calming is ready and the road markings and give way/halt signs are in place.

STOP PRESS. . .Due to excessive rainfall, part of the recently repaired footpath alongside the Crimple (at the cricket club end) has fallen away. The matter has been reported to NYCC Highways but until a repair is affected, please take utmost care, especially in bad light.

We believe these are the key issues at the moment but please feel free to contact us via Jane if you have comments to make.

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