



April 2020 Newsletter

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Helpline: 07502 984986

Please pass on this number and share it with any friends or neighbours who may need local help during this crisis

Posters similar to the above are posted round the village. Many thanks are due to volunteers in all capacities from those manning telephone lines to those delivering goods or having a chat with those who may feel even more lonely now they're self-isolated.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

We held our first ever remote planning and council meetings on Thursday. We adhered to the latest government pronouncements on remote meetings as far as we could, as they were only issued a couple of days ago. There was a trial run with the technology a day or so before the meeting so it went very well for our first try. We ratified emergency actions, taken during the lock-down period when we couldn't meet in person, which makes them legal. All actions are noted in the draft minutes, which will be on the website – not the noticeboards, as pinning them there isn't allowed due to government guidelines.

CORONAVIRUS HELP

Cllr Dave Oswin outlined the actions that had been taken to help our parishioners since we've been largely confined to our homes. We printed an appeal for volunteers and have had an astonishing response of more than 140 people offering to undertake various tasks. Katie Burke has set up a website and spent an enormous amount of time organising volunteers. We extend grateful thanks for her continuing work to help those in need. GDPR compliance was soon achieved with volunteers pleased to be contacted via email and phone to help in this current crisis. We set up a phone helpline, 07502 984986, manned by volunteers. If you need help with any number of different tasks, please use this number. If your neighbours don't get this electronic newsletter, please make them aware of what's available for help. We're now registered with Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council as a recognised volunteer help group. Please see the following:

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/549458929255958/>

Website: <https://www.pannalandburnbridgecovidsupport.co.uk/>

The post office was snowed under with a backlog of prescriptions, issued by the Leeds Road Practice, normally for pick-up at that practice but whose pharmacy has been closed for such collections. Again, volunteers have been lined up to collect those prescriptions and deliver them locally. Thanks to Dave Oswin and his son Ben for their help in this effort; the backlog is now cleared and there's only a trickle of new prescriptions.

N.B. this does not apply to those prescriptions issued by the Leeds Road Practice for collection at Boots or Day Lewis or other chemists. However, if you're self-isolated, vulnerable or in an at-risk category, please phone the helpline 07502 984986 and a volunteer will be able to collect your medicines for you from these outlets.

Although the pace has slowed, our volunteer base continues to grow and we have been hugely impressed and appreciative of the immense well of support, kindness and thought offered by you all in enabling yourself to be called up to assist anyone in need. To the present time, it has only been necessary to allocate a relatively small proportion of volunteers to cover the tasks that have been identified eg telephone Helpline / prescription distribution and support for individuals who are self-isolating / elderly / in need for shopping, etc. None of us know how things will progress in the short to medium term and it is wonderfully reassuring to know that there are many of you on whom we can call so. . . please don't think you are not appreciated or your offer is being neglected. . . in many ways it would be a relief to have an "untouched" bank of volunteers which would mean

that the Coronavirus was under control. But we don't know and the future is unclear, and in the meantime please bear with us and our sincere thanks to you all.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the same time as the request for volunteers went out, we delivered a note asking for more Neighbourhood Watch coordinators. Fortunately, several people have responded positively and we will be getting those names to not only North Yorkshire Police but also to other coordinators who have given their consent for their contact details to be released in accordance with GDPR. This will enable coordinators to warn others in the parish of any suspicious behaviour as well as the police. The previous system was primarily one of relaying information from the police. Now we'll be proactive, warning each other too if we spot any suspicious activity. Remember, we're right on the county lines route for drug trafficking. We're putting the Watch back into Neighbourhood Watch.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)

Now that Community Speedwatch has been side-lined because of Covid-19 rules, we notice that people are speeding again through our parish. NYCC's intransigence has forced us to adopt our own policy on helping to prevent accidents and loss of life. Leeds City Council and many counties throughout the country are happy with SIDs as they're a proven aid to saving lives. We're now deciding on which device(s) to purchase; the expenditure was already agreed last year. We will be mounting signs on posts on private property to advise speeders. Their placement must be of a temporary nature, so as not to be affected by planning rules. We'll shift them from one location to another to improve efficacy. If you're on a through route and would be pleased to have a post on the edge of your property to which a SID could be affixed, please let our parish clerk know.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This will be kick-started again but needs a consensus for which face-to-face meetings are preferable. However, if we can run a parish council meeting remotely, then we should be able to manage a meeting of our steering group. We have received a quotation from our consultant for their further involvement and will decide on how much of this to adopt once we've aligned it with the timeline in our overall action plan.

THIRKILL DRIVE

We're thoroughly displeased with both NYCC and HBC over their omission of the agreed restrictions in the reserved matters of the planning permission for the old Dunlopillo site. We have written in the strongest terms requesting they do something to prevent death or injury via rat-running through the site without the requisite traffic calming or signage. After our complaints, Bellway has been ordered to remove or reduce the illegal advertising signs by HBC Enforcement but Bellway have done nothing as yet.

COMMUNITY EXPENDITURE

We're still collecting responses about what could be spent in the village to improve facilities. The decision will be made at the next parish council meeting, so there's still time to respond to our clerk or on Facebook. At the moment, the proposal to install some open-air gym equipment alongside the children's play area has a lot of support. What's your view?

OBSERVE THE RULES

"Stay at home unless you're shopping for essentials like food, collecting medicines, having your once daily exercise or have to go to work if you can't work from home. Keep at least 2 metres apart when you have to go out and continue washing your hands thoroughly."

For reference, the most recent newsletter is (usually, but temporarily suspended from being) 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