



May Newsletter 2020

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## LATEST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

We adopted the latest Coronavirus Regulations regarding conduct of meetings. This means that we did not hold our annual or parish meetings this month (as allowed by the provisions). Changes to our Standing Orders were ratified regarding the holding of “remote” meetings by using electronic technology. It also means that each councillor retains his / her role as was the case in the last year. Details are in the minutes of the meeting which are published on our website.

## SPEEDING

It was agreed that we buy two Speed Indicator Devices (rather than the Vehicle Activated Signs as specified by NYCC) and mount them on a temporary basis on private land on through routes. We would appreciate a few more sites, so please contact our clerk if you are prepared to have a post in your garden to which a SID can be attached. Thanks are expressed to our Community SpeedWatch specialist, Mark Siddall, who is leading the effort on this subject. Not only will these devices show the speed of traffic but they will also record those speeds together with the volume of traffic - invaluable information in making our case for traffic planning.

Burn Bridge residents, especially those on Burn Bridge Road and users of Yew Tree Lane, made a survey of opinions and a report for submission to NYCC Highways requesting a reduced speed limit (20MPH) on those roads in addition to traffic slowing measures and pavement enhancements. SpeedWatch statistics show that the volume and nature of traffic is probably a greater problem than speed alone. While supporting the need for improved infrastructure to cater for the increased traffic, the Parish Council must consider the effects across the whole parish. The Parish Council has recommended that the Burn Bridge findings be submitted to NYCC Highways by its authors. The Parish Council has had constructive discussions with NYCC Highways regarding infrastructure and will make them aware of any additional comments from across the parish. It was noted that of all the wheelie bin SpeedWatch stickers handed out to residents on Burn Bridge Road, less than 50% were being deployed. Please use them to make motorists aware that SpeedWatch is in operation – albeit currently curtailed because of Covid-19.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thanks to Jane Chung for her input and to Cllr Cathy Burrell who is chairing the Steering Group in addition to liaising with consultants. We will be engaging with the current Focus Groups and asking for further help in getting the plan running again after activity was suspended pending agreement of the HBC Local Plan. If you feel you can help in any way, please contact our parish clerk. It will be *your* plan and will have legal weight so *please* make it count.

## PN20

We submitted a joint approach with Pannal Primary School for the use of PN20 land (an area of land behind the church and adjoining the school grounds) for green space and allotments for the school and residents as well as reactivating the request for controlled parking to alleviate the chaos at school drop-off and pick-up times. Now that no houses are permitted on PN19, there should be no physical reason why this should not go ahead. We would of course need funding, considerably in excess of what the Parish Council could afford. Please look at the submission on the website for details.

## **RAT-RUNNING and SIGNS**

HBC's enforcement officers appear to have had no success in compelling Bellway to either remove or reduce their oversized signs on Thirkhill Drive. The small reduction in road width is having no effect on reducing rat-running. The problem will only get worse as more people drive to work as a result of the reduction of "lockdown" rules.

## **THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS**

The prescription deliveries have dropped to a trickle and many vulnerable people are managing to survive without too much involvement from our fantastic volunteering force. Nonetheless, thanks are due to all the volunteers involved and despite their not having too much to do – we are aware that, unfortunately, this pandemic is far from over. It may be that the effects on mental health may be greater than is known at the moment. If someone you know could do with a call to help alleviate loneliness, please don't hesitate to call the helpline – 07502 984986 which is manned every day.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

We now have a substantial list of volunteers who have given their consent for their contact details to be made available so that we can all be aware of any suspicious activity throughout the parish. Elinor Paul, our Police Community Support Officer, will be in possession of these details so we can work together with the police to ensure our community is protected. Feedback to the police - and importantly to each other - is essential in this revamped initiative.

## **COMMUNITY EXPENDITURE**

You will no doubt recall that we asked for suggestions where the Parish Council could spend money on projects to enhance our parish. We had several submissions and have the following comments:

**Benches throughout the parish** – apart from three on Pannal Green, they are the responsibility of HBC who have been asked to repair / clean / repaint as necessary. Cllr Steve Cobb has kindly volunteered to attend to the three on the Green. An idea is to turn those benches through 180 degrees, so that users can view the trees and the green rather than parked cars! It has been agreed, subject to HBC permission, to install two more benches in Crimple Meadows recreation area. Siting of a circular bench around a tree on Pannal Green is also being investigated.

**Floral Planters** – two have been suggested – probably near the stocks and somewhere near the village hall. Custom made ones are currently being investigated by Cllr Dave Oswin.

**Footpath across the recreation ground** – as stated in the original request for ideas, we want to provide things that are within our remit. Footpaths, pavements and the like are the responsibility of NYCC Highways and their budget has been squeezed so much that such a project is, unfortunately, not viable particularly when its use would primarily only be for a couple of months each year.

**A mix of bird boxes** (suitable for members of the tit family etc in addition to ones to encourage their use by both Tawny and Barn Owls) will be installed at the end of the season in suitable locations in the parish. It is with appreciation that Mick Phipps has volunteered to source and install them.

Subject to permission from HBC, we will locate some pieces of **outdoor adult gym equipment** near the playground on Crimple Meadows recreation ground. No decision has yet been made on exactly what will be provided. Potential suppliers would need to make a site survey first, although the budget has been agreed.

Details of all the costings involved are in the minutes of the meeting.

## **FOOTPATH SLIPPAGE**

The good news is that work commenced on the path adjacent to the River Crimple on Wednesday, 13 May, with a couple of excavators in attendance. The bad news is that it's likely to take a while before the work is completed according to NYCC. The sooner the conflict between cyclists, joggers and pedestrians in the ginnel between Malthouse Lane and Crimple Meadows is alleviated, the better. NYCC and the police are aware of the problem.

Be Aware – our usual advice is to please respect social-distancing rules and advise your children / grandchildren to do the same.

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Hall Notice Board (currently not happening due to the Coronavirus situation) 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