



July Newsletter 2020

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We had yet another “remote” Parish Council meeting last week. We hope to be back at the village hall from September for our meetings but safety is our number one priority, so we’ll assess the situation nearer the time.

### **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)**

Two of these have been ordered and will be deployed as necessary in the parish based on proven need and expected requirements. We’ve opted for solar-powered devices so that they can be left in situ without need to change batteries, until moved as part of the temporary nature of their placement. Some will have lockable sockets in the ground where we can insert the whole assembly – pole, sign and solar panel. Some may have permanent poles to which the units can be attached as required. Sites for deployment in Pannal have been relatively easy to agree. It’s more difficult in Burn Bridge as signs must be placed on private land with a clear view of the road ahead for an optimum distance of 150 metres. We’re checking on all possibilities.

### **PARAMETERS PLAN**

This Harrogate Borough Council initiative is supposed to address the issues of building what is in effect a settlement on Harrogate’s Western Arc. HBC is in discussion with the developers and we understand to a lesser extent with North Yorkshire County Council. Cycle routes, public transport and pedestrianisation appear to be key issues (which they should be) but catering for vehicular traffic coming to and going from the Western Arc seems to be neglected. Councillors Dave Oswin and Howard West met with HBC representatives (remotely) and expressed the displeasure of our parishioners over their fears about an explosion in traffic numbers and more congestion on our winding and narrow roads with nothing in the planning to mitigate this. We have been promised a follow-up meeting and requested that the traffic issue be put at the forefront of discussions. Similarly, HAPARA has had discussions with the same HBC staff and raised similar concerns. HBC seems to fail to grasp the concept of discussion with parish councils and HAPARA at an early stage; they only seem to want to talk to developers. The need to engage with stakeholders was part of the edict from the government inspector for the Local Plan.

Applications are being tabled to increase the number of houses on a site near Lady Lane by 100 and other local sites to unacceptable increases of up to 20%. We consider this to be totally contrary to what was resolved in the Local Plan. We pleaded with our borough and county councillors to get HBC to change its modus operandi and have engagement with parish councils and HAPARA before proposals are finalised. Thanks are expressed to David Parry from HAPARA who attended our recent Parish Council meeting giving an eloquent, detailed and convincing account of the problems that will have a direct effect on traffic through our parish. We will continue to lobby both borough and county councils but meanwhile, houses are being built and traffic will increase on our roads that are already unsafe.

### **BENCHES**

After Councillors Oswin and West accompanied an officer from HBC (at a safe distance) to survey all the parish's benches, HBC has committed to effect repairs to those needing attention.

## **PLANNING**

The Parish Council supported the objections raised by residents on and around Rossett Green Lane regarding the "Reserved Matters" application for an additional 13 houses adjacent to the 4 new ones on that road. The plans include several 6-bedroom properties - totally out of keeping with the area and ruinous to the privacy and light for the existing properties. The original application was passed on appeal due apparently to an oversight between HBC and NYCC, so to see these revised plans only adds insult to injury.

## **NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S AJ1 PROJECT**

We're still looking for ideas on applying for a grant for road safety improvements from a fund that resulted in selling the personalised number-plate AJ1 which belonged to a former chief constable. Something involving the safety of our children would be ideal. Please get your thinking caps on and let us know. A proposal at the Parish Council meeting was to change the pedestrian (Zebra) crossing into a light-controlled (Pelican) device or to move it to the apex of the bend on Main Street to improve visibility - or both.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Despite an appeal in last month's newsletter for help on our neighbourhood plan, we're still looking for volunteers to build on what we've done so far. It's your neighbourhood, your plan, so please contribute towards it. Please contact Councillor Cathy Burrell, our clerk Jane Marlow or me for more details. Without input from residents, the plan cannot go ahead which we mean we could lose out on thousands of pounds for the benefit of our parish.

## **COMMUNITY EXPENDITURE**

Orders have been placed for 3 planters and a couple of benches. Expect them soon. Regarding exterior gym equipment, we decided on which company to use at our recent meeting after visits to sites having such equipment installed. We decided to site them near the children's playground so that parents/carers may supervise their charges while taking advantage of the exercise equipment. We have applied for a grant from HBC so a lot of the cost will be borne by them. Once installed, you'll have the chance to exercise to lose those few kilos gained while on CV-19 lockdown.

## **CYCLE ROUTE**

The Parish Council has been approached by a representative of the cycling fraternity asking how we can help speed up provision of cycle paths. That of course is not within our remit, despite our being totally in favour of keeping cyclists safe in our parish. Apparently, some decision is about to be made by NYCC/HBC regarding cycle paths after a consultation has taken place. To our knowledge, no-one in the parish and certainly no-one on the Parish Council has been approached for their views. Cllr Cliff Trotter will investigate further, demanding we be consulted on anything that could happen in our parish before any decisions are made.

Recent experience, following a huge increase in cycling during the CV-19 pandemic, has shown that shared cycle and pedestrian paths has led to pedestrians being in fear of being hit by uncompromising cyclists. Many residents have stated that cycle paths are great but only when physically segregated from both cars and pedestrians (as they are in the Netherlands). We cannot comment further on other wishes expressed in the communication to the Parish Council, until we have further news about PN20 and a possible "park and stride facility".

## **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

As usual, we have decided to skip our meeting in August but if there are planning applications requiring decisions, there will be the usual remote gathering for that, albeit on a different date to the usual one due to personnel absences. Depending on progress with the building work at the village hall and ensuring safety for all concerned, we hope to be back at the hall on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Needless to say, we'll be operating as usual without an August meeting but if there are any special issues needing council decisions, we can easily convene another remote meeting.

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Hall Notice Board 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