



November Newsletter 2020

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## Neighbourhood Plan

After a lapse due mainly to our efforts to conform to social distancing, we will be kick-starting our Neighbourhood Plan again but this time with the help of remote meetings via Zoom. We still need more help from local residents and really want to hear from you if you can give some time to assist in preparation of this document that will be a legal document to protect our parish in the future. The bottom line is that it has to be in conformance with HBC's local plan and passes a referendum of our parish's electorate. Look out for Facebook posts as well as the leaflet that will be delivered shortly to all residents.

- We have asked a consultant to help in the actual writing of the document BUT the formation and success of the project lies solely with our parishioners.
- Harrogate Borough Council, amongst other bodies, will not consider submission of a Neighbourhood Plan without a demonstration of parishioner wish and involvement.
- The whole point of the Plan is to focus on the development in all areas of our community. This is not just about residential development but amenities and recreational facilities too.
- PLEASE, WE NEED YOU to help.
- We need volunteers to come forward and be part of Focus Groups so that we can pull ideas together in development of the plan.
- The more people that come forward, the less work is involved from everyone! If we don't have interest and participation from within then the plan will FAIL and we will be left with less clout to try and shape the villages in the way that parishioners would wish.
- Please confirm your interest and willingness to help in driving this initiative forward to Cathy Burrell, email [cathy.burrell@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.burrell@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk), or Jane Marlow, Parish Clerk, email [parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk).

## Western Arc Cooperation Group

P&BBPC has been co-operating with Beckwithshaw and North Rigton Parish Councils plus HAPARA (Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association), Hampsthwaite Action Group and the Duchy Residents (members of the original Western Arc group) to provide a lobbying document with additional inputs from Zero Carbon Harrogate and Harrogate District Cycle Action. It's called the "Campaign for Sustainability of Development".

It details our misgivings over:

HBC's blatant attempt to allow housing numbers to creep up to far exceed those as specified by the Local Plan Inspector – 13377. HBC seem to be working to 16077!

The lack of a specific plan from NYCC to tackle the known congestion between the A61 and Otley Road which is being exacerbated by all the developments on the Western Arc

Allowing the same old building techniques that do nothing to reduce carbon or enhance cycling routes

The document has been sent to the MPs in our area, the leaders and chief executives of HBC and NYCC plus our local councillors and the press. There's a link to the Campaign's contents on our website (please see under the *Documents* tab), as 8 pages of A4 is a bit too much for our newsletter. We feel that NYCC in particular, while admitting there is a congestion problem in our and adjoining parishes, has done nothing of any real import to solve the current and future congestion. The traffic engineers with whom Dave Oswin and I have had discussions are working with their hands tied behind their backs because they are denied access to budgets because NYCC decided it couldn't afford a western bypass (N.B. meeting notes are on our website). We have never asked for a bypass but for some serious money to improve infrastructure to help shift some **extra** 3000 vehicles per day through our parish (or elsewhere) during peak hours.

### **NYCC Constituency Meeting**

David Siddans from HAPARA and I entered statements/questions at the meeting on Thursday last, which cast doubt on NYCC's lack of effort in solving our normal (when people are not working from home) traffic congestion problems, let alone the massive increase in traffic which we will get from Western Arc developments. The above-mentioned campaign was highlighted but councillors hadn't had time to comment on its findings.

One comment from Councillor Don Mackenzie was that we're asking for two conflicting things – sustainable public transport with cycle lanes and also improved/new roadways. Apparently, he had only just received the campaign document and had he read it in detail, would have realised that we consider cycle lanes, footpaths and electric buses are essential for traffic in and out of Harrogate from the Western Arc. However, for traffic to and from the A61 in our parish, cycle routes would be impractical, and the current narrow lanes are unsuitable for buses to pass each other, so some form of highway infrastructure is needed. These are not conflicting but complementary.

We have taken up Councillor Mackenzie's offer of a further meeting which David Siddans from HAPARA and I will attend, hopefully along with Emily Mallalieu from NYCC and/or the new head of NYCC Highways Karl Battersby. NYCC cannot continue to hide behind being "merely a consultee" for the Parameters Plan; highway construction and maintenance is their responsibility and theirs alone.

### **SIDs**

Most of you will have noticed the additional SID on Burn Bridge Road. Obviously, no statistics have been downloaded from it yet as it hasn't been there long enough. Please wait until next month's newsletter for more details. The news on the other SIDs shows a steady improvement in speed reduction. However, there have been two instances of vehicles travelling at more than double the 20MPH limit and the top speeds on Church Lane are still ridiculously high. More than twice the speed limit (75MPH on October 12<sup>th</sup>) here is totally unacceptable – something we have been telling NYCC for years but as no-one had been killed or seriously injured YET, they won't react. We will feed this information to our MP and thence to the Police and Crime Commissioner but also to our local police in the hope that they will continue their laser speed detection deployment with a uniformed officer. The second presentation, as given by Simon Law at our latest meeting, is now on our website. We await the results of the new Burn Bridge Road SID in December. We will then know the total volume of traffic rat-running through our parish.

### **Community Expenditure**

You may remember we decided to spend money on items which you, our electorate suggested. We still have delays on the outdoor gym equipment because of misunderstandings/misinformation by HBC but they have finally agreed to our wishes which are backed by an official accredited outdoor gym equipment inspector. Installation of these and further benches will not be until Spring due to the waterlogged entrance to Crimple Meadows recreation ground.

The planters have now all been underplanted with daffodil bulbs for spring. Thanks to Bill Sturman for his help in sourcing RSPB approved bird boxes and to Mick Phipps for his expertise and help in siting and fixing them. Some examples are shown. The large one is for owls and the smaller ones for a range of birds.



These are all in Allen Wood or what was formerly known as Allen Close which backed onto Crimple Meadows before all the houses were built there. Why not take the children out to have a look and see if you can spot them, or perhaps more importantly, the birds that we hope will use them. More boxes have been fixed in other areas in the parish and there's only a couple more left to install which will eventually total 36.

The wooden circular seat has now been temporarily installed on Pannal Green around the tree under which we normally sing carols. Permanent fixing will need a bit of levelling up, which will be effected soon. One of the three existing benches has been turned to face the green rather than parked cars; the other two will be turned in due course.



Two of the socially distanced users (and installers)

Unlike our County and Borough Councils, a lot of the work undertaken by your Parish Council in terms of installation, deliveries and so forth, is by volunteers and/or parish councillors where possible. Naturally, all safety precautions are taken but our aim is to keep costs to a minimum.

### **Festive Lights**

Last week, the final sets of lights were strung in the conifers so on 1<sup>st</sup> December we should have a display to bring some light to these dark days.

### **Green Hammerton / Cattal Development**

If you would like to have your say about this proposal, initiated in the Local Plan, please do so on the planning portal. Many believe Flaxby to be a much better idea using a brownfield site (the defunct golf course) with existing access infrastructure than to wreck farmland for housing which would be more York-related than for Knaresborough or Harrogate. It's interesting to note there will be a public consultation for that 3000-home settlement but there was nothing at all for the Western Arc development of nearly 4000 homes. The deadline has now been shifted out to January 2021 but don't forget!

## **Carols on the Green**

Regrettably, we have had to cancel the event this year because of Covid restrictions and the impracticability of any alternatives. It is however, the intention of the Parish Council to match-fund (up to £250) donations to a local charity which will be decided by the Parish Council's Facebook poll as it was last year.

## **Community Projects**

Several suggestions are floating around on social media which is a good indicator of public enthusiasm. Many of these have already been mooted within the Parish Council but we do not have the unlimited finances which some of these would require. We have already looked at Park and Stride alongside allotments, overspill parking for Pannal Sports Junior Football Club with a footbridge across the Crimple for access and nature walks and improved footpaths and possible cycle lanes but these would cost money well beyond our means. We would like these to be part of our Neighbourhood Plan but we need to get HBC to agree and to finance most of it. Therein lies the snag but with your help, we want to do it. So please sign up to Cathy's request as above.

## **95 Alive**

Are you aware of this project from the York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership? To get any action from North Yorkshire Police on speeding concerns, one really has to report via 95 Alive. One can download a Speed Concern Form at <https://northyorkshire.police.uk/do-it-online/road-policing/community-speed-watch/>. This is the start point in getting NYP either to act or to request data-logger installation to test speeds. Our SIDs only have limited coverage so if there is a perceived problem elsewhere, please report via the 95 Alive route.

## **HBC flyer "You are not alone: financial and wellbeing support"**

A number of these leaflets providing useful information are available for collection from both the Post Office and the Co-op – should you, or someone you know, find the contained information useful please pick up and / or pass on.

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](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)

and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb and Ryan Dall