



November 2022 Newsletter

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Locally, there are not a lot of finite or positive decisions to report in our parish but that is not of our making. That is not to say we have been inactive; we have been involved in one way or another with a host of issues and the set-up of the new North Yorkshire Council. However, things nearer to home first...

MILL POND

Many of you will have noticed social media traffic and local press activity regarding this problem. As previously stated, it is not something in which the Parish Council can get involved. We do not have the powers to intervene in what is the subject of private ownership. The Environment Agency is now involved as pollution of the river Crimble may have occurred when the sluice gate was opened.

SPRING LANE FARM REQUEST FOR BARN CONVERSION

This is not dissimilar to the Dunlopillo office building saga where the applicant has attempted to use "prior notice of permitted development" instead of a normal planning application. We have advised HBC planners that the PNPD should be turned down because the request is to turn agricultural buildings into accommodation when, in fact, at least one of the buildings has been used for equestrian purposes which does not qualify as agriculture. There is again the 56-day limit within which HBC must decide or permission will be automatically granted. We have reminded HBC of this after their "lessons to be learnt" comment on the Dunlopillo debacle. We have also asked our local councillor John Mann to put pressure onto the planning department to reject the PNPD out of hand and that if any development were to occur on the site, it should be subject to a full planning application and not by the back door.

ROSSETT GREEN LANE DEVELOPMENT

There has been yet another request to increase the sizes and locations for proposed properties that are already obtrusive and overbearing. The developer quotes minor material changes – certainly an oxymoron and patently not minor. Its drawing with associated photographs is also misleading. Had it not been for one of our councillors being alert and reading a green notice, we would never have known, as HBC planners failed to notify us as they should as a matter of course. The Parish Council has advised HBC accordingly that such a request should be refused.

WASTE BINS

HBC has still not finalised provision of bins but they state they are willing to discuss further on the matter. One has now been placed at the junction of Mill Lane and Station Road – albeit, not where we asked for it.

The issue regarding one near the cricket club is that as both that and the lane are private property, HBC refuses to place a bin in that area. There is a fine line between a PROW (public right of way) and a permissive path. To most people, the Ringway is a continuous footpath as its name implies. Not so, according to HBC so they say they cannot place a bin near the cricket pitch despite having removed two bins from the same path a couple of hundred metres downstream. The suggestion now from HBC is to have a bin on Malthouse Lane near its junction with the footpath through Allen Wood but that's too far from the Ringway. However, we now have a volunteer to take a bin (if it were sited close to the cricket pitch) down to Malthouse Lane for collection. Surely, they can't refuse that!

CRIMPLE MEADOWS RECREATION GROUND PATH/ACCESS/PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Since our meeting with officers, nothing had been forthcoming from HBC until the day of our Parish Council meeting on Thursday last. Further investigation on their part is needed although they have agreed, in principle, to consider siting a couple of pre-5 year old pieces of appropriate equipment within the children's playground.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

A new one should be operational on Spring Lane before the end of November. If this shows excessive speeds we will use evidence from the unit to ask NYP to deploy speed cameras. We're still waiting on a decision on land ownership regarding an alternative site for this SID on the A61 when it's not operating on Spring Lane. There have been complaints from residents near Longacre about excessive "boy-racing" out of the village so a SID there should help matters and again provide evidence for NYP.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There will be a final meeting of the steering group later this month (21st) to confirm our submission to HBC. The decision on the appointed inspector will be in shared consultation with HBC. The further steps including referendum will then follow on but we cannot dictate the pace at which HBC should respond. However, as HBC has been kept informed at every stage of the process, it should be very easy to rubber stamp it.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Please put this event in your diary for Monday 12th December starting at 6pm on Pannal Green with mince pies and mulled wine afterwards in Pannal school. Our thanks are extended to Mrs Jane Turner, at the school, for allowing use of the premises (please note: no dogs permitted in school or on the grounds) and to St Robert's church for their support. Let's make this one bigger than ever.

BUSES ON BRACKENTHWAITE LANE

Our friends from North Rigton inform us that they still have no further news from HBC's planning enforcement team and the buses continue to be a hazard on our very narrow lanes. When we learn anything new, we'll keep you informed.

KING CHARLES III CORONATION

You may recall that for HM Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee it was primarily the Parish Council (notably Cllrs Cathy Burrell and Dave Oswin) that ran the event, albeit with the assistance of a few residents. Unfortunately, neither Cathy nor Dave nor other parish councillors can commit any extra time, beyond what we give now, for organising any celebration for the coronation. That's not to say we're not prepared to give a few pointers but should residents wish to have a similar event to the jubilee, then we suggest you get together and form a committee soon so that everything can be planned in plenty of time. Cathy would be prepared to chair such a committee to provide some form of continuity and experience but not to spend an inordinate amount of hands-on time on such a project as she did for the jubilee. For information, the coronation will be on Saturday 6th May 2023 and there will be a bank holiday on Monday 8th May.

PN18 (PROPOSED COMMERCIAL SITE OFF THE A61)

Is HBC finally coming to its senses by recommending that the proposed employment site between Mercedes and the Crimple alongside the A61 be removed from the Local Plan when next reviewed? The cabinet member for planning, Cllr Tim Myatt said, "There seems little hope to producing something to the quality that I believe the site needs. I will therefore propose that we do not progress with options for the site." Might this also have something to do with the total lack of infrastructure planned to support a huge increase in traffic to the west of Harrogate and the comment from County Cllr Keane Duncan regarding a park and ride? Watch this space.

NYCC CONSTITUENCY AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

You may remember that at the recent Constituency meeting we highlighted the lack of progress in getting any tangible solutions to congestion and access that will be inevitable when the 4000 houses in the

Western Arc are finally built. We asked that pressure be brought to bear on NYCC Highways as nothing more than tinkering with junctions, an odd traffic light, a change to a bend or two and a few signs had been suggested to date. Councillors agreed with our statement and question and referred the matter to the Executive meeting. Cllr John Mann presented our case but the reaction from NYCC still remains the same – they say they're doing a lot of work (and spending money on consultants) but nothing of substance has been forthcoming. The only ray of hope is that the sum of money involved has risen from £15M to £15 - £25M for highways measures.

The new NYC cabinet member for highways, Cllr Duncan, refused to rule out a site for a park and ride near Pannal Golf Club despite this being deemed unsuitable by his predecessor Cllr Don Mackenzie. This just beggars belief - that anyone would want to bring more traffic into the parish to increase congestion here so that drivers could then get on buses to travel to Harrogate. As long as Harrogate town is free from cars, "never mind anywhere else" seems to be the message. The full reply from Cllr Duncan is on our website but there is no point in reprinting it here as really it's more of the same from NYCC. This is not a good portent for NYC.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL (NYC)

As stated in the introduction, we have been involved in various discussions with NYCC officers over what role parishes could take to improve service levels. This is being tightly controlled by officers and eventually parish councils and the public will be told what is happening. NYC is proposing that parish councils pay for their own elections rather than now where HBC and presumably other districts/boroughs pay. We have challenged that in no uncertain terms.

There will be a charter that states what is and is not permitted between parish/town councils and the new unitary authority. It is being drafted by a NYCC officer but along with the other regions in North Yorkshire, Harrogate area's parishes are represented by yours truly on the Charter Committee. We have already made several changes to the original draft but more are needed, along with more input from NYCC officers. NYCC or NYC councillors do not have any input to our committee at this stage but a request has been made that county councillors should have input now rather than just through officers.

Devolution of powers is being considered but unfortunately that will not include planning. Devolution may not involve us as we have no land in parish council possession but you should understand more if you look at NYCC's comments on the subject. There is also a consultation running that asks where NYC should spend its money. If you wish, please respond to the surveys.

To get access to these surveys, either google Let's Talk North Yorkshire or get onto North Yorkshire County Council's website and once on the appropriate page choose Let's Talk Devolution which has a closing date of 16th December or Let's Talk Money where the closing date is 23rd December.

MORE ON BINS

Remember that the final garden waste collection of the year is imminent. If you can't compost those leaves, be warned!

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, Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb and Andrew Farrar