

We regret to say that once again we have to report failings with both our borough and county councils. We believe that since the new unitary authority has been announced, sloping shoulders are in evidence throughout those bodies until the new North Yorkshire Council comes into being. It is believed that many of the current officers will be automatically transferred to the new authority, so hopes of any improvement are minimal.

There is no issue with the staff who carry out the household waste and recycling collections, the people who actually repair the roads and clear fly-tipping and perform other essential duties but with some of those who attempt to manage the various functions. Without the Parish Council's intervention, we would still be waiting for a host of things to be done. However, it is not our function to prompt HBC and NYCC. If there is a problem, please make direct contact to those organisations.

PLANNING

Harrogate Borough Council appears to be maintaining its long-held reputation as the worst planning authority in the whole of Yorkshire - or maybe even further afield. There are many proficient officers but collectively it's not a good picture.

The first problem is allowing an even bigger monstrosity to be rebuilt on the Dunlopillo office building site. One wonders if there was a breach of due process by HBC as both excessive delays and then excessive speed were observed. It is obvious that when civil servants in Westminster wrote into planning law the allowance for office buildings to be transformed into residential accommodation without full planning control, they left too many loopholes for developers to exploit. Nonetheless, it seems strange that when the letter and drawings for the Prior Notification were sent to HBC back in mid-July, our Parish Council did not receive any details until late August. There is normally a time limit on such Prior Notifications that if no answer from the higher authority is received within 56 days, then it would go ahead unchallenged. We believe that of the 96 objections many may not have even been considered as they were outside the 56 days, despite the fact that HBC extended the consultation period and given that announcement of the HBC decision was made just hours after the final date for comments. We believe the decision was taken a long time before the end of the consultation period. Hence this part of the process was a sham. Our MP, Andrew Jones, has been involved at the eleventh hour and has castigated HBC's actions at the highest level.

At our recent council meeting we resolved to seek further legal advice regarding a possible judicial review as initial findings from the solicitors were that there are reasonable grounds for such a review. This would be a costly process and possibly outside the spending powers of the Parish Council.

Secondly, designs for employment use on PN18 (between Mercedes and Almsford Bank) were discussed at a webinar on 22nd September that Cllr Dave Oswin, Jane our

parish clerk and I attended. We were asked to keep these designs confidential. I stated that they should be discussed at our Parish Council meeting and was told grudgingly afterwards, that we could discuss them in broad terms. Why on earth anything that would have a critical and long-term effect on our parishioners should be confidential, just beggars' belief. We discussed those suggestions at our recent meeting, along with some of our parishioners' own ideas. We will feed back our considered responses to HBC (and also to NYCC as traffic is a serious consideration usually neglected by both councils).

Thirdly, we attended a remote "Stakeholder" meeting regarding the highways aspect of developments around Harrogate's Western Arc on 1st October. We believe this was only a tick-box exercise to state that we had been consulted. Despite site developers having weekly or even twice weekly meetings with HBC/NYCC we have not been told anything more at this meeting than at previous ones other than a figure of £15million would be spent. When I questioned how residents from the Western Arc could get to and from work in Leeds, the reply was that one could either take a bus or cycle into Harrogate and then a bus or train to Leeds. Why one would not get in one's electric car and drive whenever one wanted instead of getting drenched in inclement weather, seems beyond the comprehension of some officers. The following is a link to the statement sent to HBC from the Western Arc Cooperation Group [StakeholderEngage011021WA comments.pdf](#)

Why is it that HBC appears to have a downer on Pannal and Burn Bridge? They sought to foist PN17 (Spring Lane Farm) and PN19 (behind St Robert's Church) on us and succeeded in persuading the government inspector that the Crimple Valley be further desecrated by permitting PN18 for employment use. They allowed Dunlopillo to build that eyesore back in the 1960s and would appear to be encouraging its even ghastlier reincarnation now. Their planning committee permitted the overbearing, yet to be built, new development on Rossett Green Lane yet one officer complained about a perfectly reasonable planning application at Pannal House Farm when another officer had OK'd it, thereby causing frustration, extra cost and delay. HBC want to build houses on Pannal Green, robbing a resident of access to their rear garden but providing such access for the new properties.

The proposals for Park and Stride and associated projects for improvement to benefit the local and wider community have been dismissed by HBC as not being suitable until a local plan review is conducted. This probably means nothing will happen until the unitary authority is in being when HBC can pass the buck to them. They're happy to take all the agricultural land for PN18's employment site but state they cannot do the same for a tiny piece of the land behind the church, most of which isn't used for agricultural purpose anyway.

They permit huge swathes of development on Harrogate's Western Arc but do nothing about the thousands of extra vehicles coming through our and adjoining parishes on their way to Leeds and Bradford – apart from advice that some junctions will be modified but will not tell us exactly what is planned. We have been challenging the

figures used for traffic since the Local Plan examination but we discovered that they're still waiting on a proper traffic assessment for the area. What have they been doing for the last year and a half and why won't they tell us about any of their proposals yet? It's OK for HBC to work hand-in-hand with the developers and cycling organisations but apparently such matters are beyond discussion with parish councils and properly constituted residents' associations. Is it a coincidence, maybe, that the developer for the Dunlopillo office site (Johnson Mowatt) is one of those developers working hand-in-glove with HBC on site H49 for between 780 and 1000 houses regarding the Parameters Plan?

Is it perhaps (as a paraphrase of Borough Councillor Pat Marsh's comments recently), that the rights or wrongs of a planning application seem not so important compared to whether HBC might lose out in an appeal and have to pay the appellant's costs?

Numbers of houses from developers are increasing by the day over those specified in the Local Plan. The inspector took out 1000 homes from HBC's initial figure as the total number was considered far too high but they've crept back again as officers insist those figures are only indicative. No, they're not – the new ones are real and they come with real cars, real adults and children, needing roads, medical care and education.

COMMUNITY ASPECTS

One of the trees on HBC-owned Pannal Green shed a bough that destroyed another tree along with the power supply to our festive lights and brought down many of the lights too. It took some time before the debris was cleared and HBC has also denied responsibility for the damage. If it were your tree or mine, it would be our responsibility and one assumes HBC's insurance would pay anyway so we can't see what their problem is. The chief executive has been pressed to countermand this denial of responsibility but nothing positive has resulted as yet.

Restoration of the dozen or so benches throughout the parish was only partially completed by HBC last year and despite reminders, the remainder haven't been treated at all this year. One bench by the Dunlopillo car park was removed for works by contractors and has disappeared altogether.

Weed spraying has been carried out in parts of the parish earlier this month. This is not by NYCC as it should be but through the Parish Council's engagement of the contractor. Some remedial work has been done on potholes but because the time taken from initial survey to repair is so long, by the time repairs are made, new potholes have appeared and because they're not "white-lined" no action is taken by NYCC. "New" potholes must be reported otherwise nothing will happen. If they're on your road (or elsewhere) report them to NYCC's website. It's better to report them more than once than not at all.

WEST HARROGATE PARAMETERS PLAN (WHPP) HIGHWAYS MEETING

Several "stakeholders" took part in the Microsoft Teams meeting intent on hearing what progress has been made regarding highways infrastructure needed to cater for some 4000 houses on Harrogate's Western Arc (which obviously includes us in Pannal and

Burn Bridge). Stakeholders included the cycling fraternity and environmental lobbyists as well as HAPARA and Beckwithshaw and our parish councils.

Apart from announcing some £15million will be allocated from Section 106 payments from developers and other sources, we learned nothing new about what is planned. We have no idea what this £15M is for or how it will be split. This is a secret shared between developers and the borough and county councils. The focus seemed to be on stopping any form of non-active or private transport. One proposal from Zero Carbon Harrogate was to put a block on Hill Top Lane to stop anything other than mini-buses carrying passengers to and from the Western Arc. HBC seems to think that the private car (even electrically powered) is an evil that must be exorcised.

A request from the cycling lobby was for the Dutch model where almost everyone uses a bike. I pointed out that having lived in the Netherlands, I am aware that the reason why citizens can use their cycles in peace is because the Dutch usually install dual carriageways and major roads to accommodate vehicular traffic first to allow cars, buses and lorries to get to their destinations unhindered, which then enables cycleways to be a really pleasant experience rather than compete on the same road. This means investment.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We're making good progress after reviewing all the suggestions in the PID. There's now a 120 + page document which is being written in planning-speak by our consultant ready for the next stage which is likely early in the New Year. This includes many of your suggestions but of course, although well-meaning, some could not be included for practical reasons. Our consultant is a qualified planner so he was able to decide on what was allowable.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

We are delighted that we have recently received North Yorkshire Police approval for extending the parish geographical sites in exercising our CSW activities. These include 1) Hill Foot Lane, 2) Spring Lane, 3) Walton Park and 4) Yew Tree Lane. Please see photos with locations, below. Further descriptions available on request. (Clerk's advanced apologies if the site images with locations, below, "pervert" in transit. Successful transfer seems to very much depend on the hardware used to access the Newsletter.)



Hill Foot Lane (1)



H F L (2)



H F L (3)



H F L (4)



Spring Lane (1)



S L (2)



S L (3)



Walton Park (1)



W P (2)



Yew Tree Lane (1)



Y T L (2)



Y T L (3)



Y T L (4)



Y T L (5)



Y T L (6)

We have received a number of communications from you during the last eighteen months requesting coverage of sites within particular areas where you have a concern or interest. We would now like to ask for your active participation in volunteering to man these sites on an occasional rota basis. We will be very pleased if you would come forward and let me know at howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk or Jane, our clerk, at parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk. As you are aware, CSW has been actively carried out (excepting the Covid lockdown

periods) on Church Lane and Main Street predominantly, with the placement productively resulting in the (unfortunate!) confirmation of the speeding data produced by the parish Speed Indicator Devices.

We will be participating in a couple of special deployments soon where the police will also be present and able to issue penalties if required. Now is the time to extend the CSW activities but - in order for this to happen - we need your assistance, so please get in touch with us. What we really need is a coordinator to issue the rotas and keep a general check on matters. HELP PLEASE!!

CONTINUITY

Our term as a Parish Council finishes next May when elections will be held for the next session. Some councillors wish to continue while some others, having served for 6 years, feel it only right to give a chance to other parishioners to continue to do their bit for our community. With the new unitary authority due in 2023, it is believed more power may be devolved to parish councils. In principle, the new council with access to greater funding, will not be scared of challenging developers like HBC is now. We might be able to manage more of our own affairs and have greater responsibility. This should prove a good opportunity for new parish councillors to flourish. Please contact Jane or me and consider being a candidate for the elections in May. You don't need to do doorstep canvassing or answer lots of questions on policy; simply putting your name forward is all that is required. As mentioned previously, if we don't have enough candidates, the Parish Council could cease to exist and we would be back under the control of HBC. That would be a disaster for the parish.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Put this one in your diaries – Monday, December 13th, usual time – 6pm, usual place. It's a bit of a long newsletter this time but we believe in keeping everyone informed about what's going on. If you have new neighbours, please ask them if they would like to know what their Parish Council is doing for them. Then guide them to Jane to sign up for the newsletter.

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, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb and Ryan Dall

