



**October 2022 Newsletter**

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This month there is good news and bad news... most of it centres around what our borough and county councils are up to – or not, as the case might be.

### **DOG WASTE BINS**

On the positive side, but only after the Parish Council's intervention, we managed to get some good commitments and some action regarding the bins from an on-site meeting with an HBC officer. Apparently, the HBC cabinet was consulted on the bin issue but to our knowledge, not individual councillors, so much local knowledge wasn't utilised. Hence savings were good news for HBC but no account has been taken of the huge increase in our parish's population – both of people and dogs! However, it should not need the intervention of the Parish Council to point out these simple facts. That should have been obvious at the outset.

Good news: the bin at the entrance to Crimple Meadows recreation ground has been replaced with one similar to that by the stocks. We have a commitment from HBC to place a bin at the junction of the two footpaths leading away from Allen Wood just up from the play area towards the Westminsters and Spring Lane. The bin by the bench at the end of Mill Lane on Station Road will be replaced by a bigger one with a lid on it. All these bins will be emptied on a weekly basis rather than fortnightly.

Bad news: the bins on the footpath by the Crimple between the cricket club and Mill Lane will be removed but with no replacement offered, except possibly at the junction of the Ringway footpath and Burn Bridge Lane which is of no use at all. We appealed for one by the cricket pitch but were proffered the excuse that if it were icy, it would be too dangerous for operatives to walk 90 metres to empty it. It's not dangerous however, for householders to take their bins down to Malthouse Lane if it's freezing. We're still challenging that! What, as a last resort, if someone were to volunteer to take a bin down to Malthouse Lane if it could be sited near the cricket ground? Any offers please if HBC dig their heels in and refuse to place a bin by the cricket pitch and empty it?

### **PANNAL GREEN - NEW HOUSES**

At the recent HBC planning committee meeting it was decided to allow a change in the access plans for one of our residents who would have had the entrance to their rear garden blocked by the new semi-detached property once the garages have been demolished. So that's the better, albeit not good news; there will be a shared access, but tempered by the fact that the values of adjacent properties have been diminished by HBC's rush to replace council-owned garages by houses, whatever the consequences. The other side of the coin is: how could an architect have proposed a scheme that blocked access to an existing property? How could HBC's case officer have sanctioned it? Why did the HBC planning committee approve that planning application against the wishes of residents, the Parish Council and our local borough councillor? Why did we have to wait for months for this to be partially corrected, given the level of concern and anxiety expressed by the neighbour affected by such ludicrous plans? It just beggars belief.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

We're on course to deliver our plan to HBC by mid-November after approval by the Parish Council. The process is then dependent upon HBC to perform its due diligence and, along with the Parish Council, appoint an inspector to determine that everything is in order. HBC has been involved at every stage of the

process so far so in theory it shouldn't take too long before we get to our referendum. However, with HBC ceasing to exist next April we are concerned as to how long we'll have to wait.

## PANNAL HOUSE FARM DEVELOPMENT

Many of you have asked why it is taking so long for any action to be taken over the rapidly decaying old farmhouse. You may be aware that planning permission had eventually been granted for that building but we are advised that because of various obstacles being put in their way regarding additional development on the site, the decision has been taken to sell the buildings and close the riding stables business so that developers can manage the rebuild and barn conversions.

When HBC was adamant that the rebuilt farmhouse and the cottages by Sandy Bank had to be of Yorkshire stone because of it being in a Special Landscape Area and should blend in, then it is difficult to understand why totally different appearances are even being considered in the new plans – with very dark wood or cladding on some of the buildings. If you would like to see the proposals and make comments about them prior to an official planning application, please visit [www.johnsonmowatt.co.uk/consultations](http://www.johnsonmowatt.co.uk/consultations) and then click on Pannal House Farm. The Parish Council has not objected to the principle of the conversions or their location but is has objected to the use of materials which it believes to be inappropriate for this SLA. A full planning application will follow after the consultation, so please comment in advance if you feel strongly about how our treasured landscape is developed.

## FOOTPATH CLEARANCE

We're pleased to let you know that once again we arranged for some footpath clearance as NYCC don't seem to want any involvement. The unfortunate collision with the wall at the end of Rosedale has knocked over several stones into the footpath but the matter is in hand with the driver's insurance company and NYCC. We have no input or influence on this matter.

## COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

At the moment our parish does not have an emergency contingency plan. This means that in the event of a disaster (flood, air crash, train crash, explosion, etc., etc) no-one has planned how best to cope with such emergencies. That is about to change. We now know how to approach this subject but it needs to be implemented. Rather than put the details in the body of the newsletter, we will send out a separate missive via this Mailchimp vehicle. We will be contacting those who we consider should be able to take leading roles but if you want to volunteer, please contact Jane, our parish clerk.

## CRIMPLE MEADOWS RECREATION GROUND

We had an on-site meeting with a senior manager, Jon Clubb, together with his colleague, Steve, from HBC in an effort to address the annual quagmire which develops at the bottom end of the field and the lack of a footpath that is passable by anyone other than in wellies or hiking boots. Jon was, as he has proven before, very helpful and pleased to look for the optimum solution to our problem despite many budgetary constraints. He and Steve will investigate all possibilities and report back to us after consulting with other departments. We gave them photographs of the problem and some information relating to our own suggestions.

## TRAFFIC TO/FROM HARROGATE'S WESTERN ARC

At the recent NYCC Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency meeting, P&BBPC's chairman complained about the lack of any progress with respect to solutions to cater for the traffic associated with some 4,000 homes and employment sites which will use our lanes as rat-runs. We advised NYCC before 2019 what would happen but apart from some suggested minor junction improvements, more walking and cycling and a few more buses down Otley Road, nothing of any significance has been produced by NYCC, HBC and its myriad consultants. It would appear that NYCC have now accepted there is a problem but still there's no solution and probably nothing forthcoming until mid-2023.

There is a complete consultation about Maltkiln (the proposed development near the Hammertons and Cattal) which is for around 3,000 homes and many years away. There never was any consultation about the 4,000 homes being built on Harrogate's Western Arc with no new roads - which is a far bigger

infrastructure problem than at Maltkiln (which has the A65 running through it). The only positive outcome is that at least there will be a consultation there rather than having had none at all in our area.

However, during the meeting it was resolved that P&BBPC's statement criticising the lack of progress by NYCC, along with the explanation given by NYCC highways to our statement, would be forwarded to the NYCC Executive committee for further discussion. The thrust of our statement was that NYCC Highways should be given a kick up the backside and told to get on with problem-solving rather than prevaricating and proffering excuses. Our statement is available on our website (please go to <http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/default.aspx/> then News and Newsletters where the statement is located in conjunction with this October newsletter) or one can visit [www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings) to see the recording of the meeting (October 12th) where ours was the final statement under "public questions". This referred to item 7 on the agenda - HTIP. It was clear that the county councillors were distinctly unhappy with NYCC Highways as their vote to refer upwards (in effect to support our statement) was unanimous.

We will keep pressing for action in our area but fear much may be side-lined in the changeover to North Yorkshire Council (NYC). Already we have noticed that there is a slide in responses from HBC to many questions – understandable perhaps, in that some officers may take a pay-off rather than be transferred to NYC in April next year.

### CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Just a reminder that this year we'll be on the Green on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, and this time armed with plasticised carol sheets in case it should rain. Once again, there will be mulled wine, mince pies and a soft drink available in Pannal School after the carols. Horticap has been chosen as our charity this year, so please give generously as you have done in previous years. Horticap supplied the planters and plants and advice for the displays in the parish and they do wonderful work for those less fortunate than ourselves. Many thanks also to Jane, our parish clerk, who has sourced the plants to replenish those in the planters after such a harsh drought. She will start replanting shortly: this is Jane's personal, unpaid, voluntary contribution.

### BOOK EXCHANGE KIOSK

After a disappointing summer when the old telephone kiosk remained unpainted and uncared for despite assurances from the Guides leaders that it would be done, we're pleased to announce that the Parish Council has had most of the work completed – and thanks to Cllr Dave Oswin for organising the painting and to Zenyu for the actual painting.



before and . . . after



### SPEEDWATCH

Along with North Yorkshire Police, we too are busy with speeding issues, having a Community Speedwatch blitz over a two-week period. You have been warned. However, our deployments will continue beyond a

two-week period, as will NYP's; it's just the blitz in that fortnight! Please help us by volunteering; just contact Jane.

No wonder the police come to the Church Lane location... with the SID showing red numerals (indicating speed being too high), large yellow warning signs and 4 people in hi-vis jackets on the pavement with a laser detector, drivers still went past exceeding the limit. It's beyond comprehension. They have been reported to NYP.

#### NEW SID

We hope to have another SID ready for deployment on Spring Lane (initially) before Christmas - subject to delivery times for the equipment. If it is proven that speed is a severe problem there, then NYP could bring their safety (enforcement) cameras as they have done on Church Lane. We have informed parishioners for the last 6 years that - without a death, serious injury or concrete evidence - nothing will be done. We're responding to parishioners' wishes that speeding on Spring Lane be addressed, so we'll be gathering the evidence with SID, this time via the cloud rather than through the efforts of Peter Talbot who has done a sterling job in downloading from the other SIDs and then processing that data before we send it to NYP. We're still looking at statistical data and the effects of increased traffic flow since more people are travelling to work.

#### FEEDBACK

We're delighted to receive comments after our newsletters are sent out and would also welcome suggestions regarding what improvements could be made within the parish. Please remember that roads, pavements, railways, broadband and similar are not within the Parish Council's remit. For problems with those topics, please contact NYCC or HBC as appropriate. Lists of their responsibilities are on their websites and we have mentioned this subject in previous newsletters. If you have any suggestions for capital expenditure, please contact Jane.

It is also great to see members of the public at our Parish Council meetings – albeit at the last one, it was to protest against the prior notification of proposed permitted development (purportedly under section Q) for Spring Lane Farm. We were grateful to those present who confirmed our concerns and we are united in our approach to this matter. The Parish Council has also formally objected and alerted HBC management that this appears to be yet another attempt to circumvent a formal planning application – similar to that which happened with the Dunlopillo office block when matters didn't go according to regulations.

#### CHALLENGES TO BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCIL LPAs

Our Parish Council's proposal for changes to planning law (with regard to mistakes from those LPAs or lack of reasonable judgement) has been taken up by a councillor from West Yorkshire who is on the National Association of Local Councils board. Having recourse only to judicial review, as happens currently, is patently wrong when small councils like ours cannot afford the money needed to engage barristers to fight dubious decisions. This will be discussed/lobbied with ministers and civil servants but, as we know, this can be a long process when government employees are concerned.

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, Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb and Andrew Farrar