



**October 2023 Newsletter**

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Great news – we're back to a full complement of seven councillors having followed the formal process for co-option following Dave Oswin's retirement due to ill health. More good news – Dave is back from hospital and on the road to recovery and is progressing well.

A warm welcome was extended to Mrs Elatia Sharkey who was co-opted during our recent Parish Council meeting and has been roped in already to help on the resilience project – what to do in a disaster/emergency and what contingency plans we should have within the parish.

### **PANNAL GREEN**

Cllr Andrew Farrar had an on-site meeting with a representative of NYC. NYC is adamant that their grass-cutting policy should not change despite overwhelming opposition from residents we have canvassed who prefer a tidy village green in Pannal rather than an overgrown habitat for vermin. There is plenty of room for wilding in Allen Wood and the quarry area. We're also concerned about safety as the drooping trees and overgrown saplings and long grass cause difficulties for traffic egress from the school and local housing.

We will however, take action on some maintenance as NYC's budget won't stretch to regular and timely grass-cutting.

***To this end, we would like to pull together a group of volunteers – who would work as the “Friends of Pannal Green” – and who would be willing and able to commit to three or four sessions a year to undertake certain maintenance tasks – but obviously within the strictures set by NYC. Should you be able to give some time in enabling this green to look at its best and thereby serving our community to its greatest advantage, please contact Jane on [parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk). Thank you.***

### **CRIMPLE MEADOWS PATH/DRAINS**

A new twist to the saga – NYC has been approached by a resident who has devised a base layer system for paths and heavy use pedestrian traffic. This uses a permeable block system several centimetres thick upon which a plastic waffle-like mesh layer is placed and then filled with soil and grass seed. This is not what is wanted as wet grass has been the criticism from all concerned who want a proper path. An alternative is to fill the mesh with aggregate that should resemble a conventional path. Our concern is that grass would grow through the cracks between the blocks. The same blocks that are used as a base layer can be placed on their edges to provide a border, albeit at ground level rather than elevated too much. We'll await a reply on the total cost for the different solutions and ensure that it is our residents' wishes that count rather than something that may be solely cost-driven.

The Parish Council's offer of financial contribution to the path still holds on the condition the project is completed in 2023.

The drains still remain a problem as rainwater run-off can only be dispersed rather than fed into the existing rainwater drains. As long as the route for vehicles and pedestrians isn't compromised by the existing quagmire, parishioners will be happy. It's up to NYC to solve the problem, however.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The inspector has made her initial round of enquiries and asked for clarification where appropriate. The steering group and our consultant got together by Zoom last week and agreed the various actions required.

We have supplied more details on maps as requested and commented on her requests as required. We now await the next stages of the process.

### **LITTER CLEAR-UP**

Our appreciation to Mrs Liz Brown for her organisation of our autumn (bi-annual) litter pick and her great team of volunteers who gathered on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October – fortunately in fine weather – to clear our parish of accumulated debris and litter. More than 20 bags were collected, another significant pick-up.

Thank you to one and all.

### **WESTERN ARC DROP-IN SESSION**

You may recall that many of our questions posed at our meeting at Northallerton were deferred to the drop-in session at Harrogate Civic Centre. Both officers and developers were in attendance but unfortunately there is still no overall transport assessment available. The developers did their best to answer our questions but potential solutions have to be ratified by NYC. Our concerns over the Burn Bridge road bridge and the bridge over the railway line on Burn Bridge Lane remain.

The consultant's representative stated that as there were no serious accidents or deaths statistics between the A61 and the Black Swan, there is no road safety issue. It was reiterated that anecdotal evidence of accidents is not admissible in their decision-making. Unfortunately, a couple of the residents who are most affected and concerned about the proposed changes in Burn Bridge were barred from the meeting by NYC as they were deemed not to be stakeholders.

We challenged the consultant about the introduction of traffic lights on the Burn Bridge Lane railway overbridge and were told that despite there being no accident statistics, there was anecdotal evidence of vehicles scraping the bridge. We couldn't understand why anecdotal evidence was permitted at that location but not elsewhere.

There is little to report other than NYC appear to rely on proposals from consultants but not experience from those with local knowledge. We were disappointed that after all this time there still isn't a cohesive policy and road safety doesn't seem to figure unless there have been serious injuries or death. The most important part of the West Harrogate Parameters Plan (traffic and transport) still isn't in place and the Park and Ride idea wasn't even mentioned.

The NYC Parish Charter is in existence and approved by parish council representatives and NYC councillors alike. It is our contention that NYC have failed to work co-operatively with our and neighbouring parish councils. They have stated they are under no obligation to consult which appears to fly in the face of the charter. A motion to submit a formal complaint to NYC was resolved at our most recent Parish Council meeting subject to further discussion at the next YLCA branch meeting at the Civic Centre this week. A similar criticism has been levied against NYC regarding the service station on the A1M where local views appear to have been ignored.

### **D-DAY CELEBRATIONS 2024**

It is likely that an event (similar to the beacon lighting for HM Queen Elizabeth's jubilee) will be held to celebrate the anniversary in June next year. We already have the beacon so the only modification required is to change EIIR to CIIR.

### **PRECEPT 2024**

It looks as though we will not need to increase our precept next year as our projects to have a park and stride, footbridge over the Crimple and allotments have again been blocked by NYC (although it was HBC that blocked it last time). In consequence, money set aside for investigations into this will not be required until NYC's new Local Plan comes into force. This is a real disappointment so traffic congestion will only get worse in Pannal as there are no plans to alleviate the daily school-run hiatus which will be exacerbated by the traffic from even more housing on the Western Arc.

### **NOTICEBOARD BY ST ROBERT'S CHURCH**

We were going to share costs of a new noticeboard with the church but due to priorities affecting the fabric of the building we will finance the new one and share the space with the church. The church rescued our jubilee celebrations because NYC hadn't taken any action regarding the quagmire at the entrance to Crimble Meadows recreation ground, so one good turn deserves another.

### **THIRKHILL DRIVE AND ENVIRONS**

You may recall that we had a leaflet drop for new residents some while ago. Now the estate is virtually fully occupied, we will deliver copies of this newsletter and a GDPR permission form for all residents there to receive this and further newsletters so they can be abreast of what's happening in our parish. The number of residents there is around 10% of our parish, so their voice should be heard.

### **REMINDER – CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

Put it in your diary now! Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, usual time 6p.m., usual venue by the circular seat around the tree on Pannal Green and, again, by kind permission of Pannal School's headteacher, we'll have some mulled wine and mince pies after the exertions of singing. See you there.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, [howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)  
and Cathy Burrell, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb, Andrew Farrar, Neil Permain and Elatia Sharkey

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/>