



September Newsletter 2021

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The Parish Council held its first face-to-face meeting since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic at Pannal Village Hall this month. Some meetings continue to be held via Zoom or MS Teams as - apart from a legal requirement for the Parish Council to meet in person (since permission for remote meetings was withdrawn by bureaucrats in London) - we have managed exceedingly well remotely and have done so for a year and a half.

RESPONSES

If we have been a little tardy in any of our responses to our parishioners, it will inevitably have been that we cannot get answers from either HBC or NYCC on a variety of matters. Covid was a ready-made excuse for a year, then it was isolation because one person may have had a positive reaction and now it's "holiday time".

PLANNING

HBC have approved the Crystal Court extensions despite our protestations. However, they're still procrastinating regarding the additional house on Pannal Green. We have not objected to the plans for commercial units on the fenced-off part of the former Pannal Business Park.

Regarding the old Dunlopillo office building, the new developer has claimed a "permitted development" right as a result of changed government legislation. The developer wants an even higher monstrosity than the old office building to house 48 flats. The Parish Council objected to a lower building proposal last December and saw no reason to change its mind regarding this latest application. Parishioners are upset about the way in which the developer is trying to demolish the old office block yet build even higher. Inputs from the PID survey wanted low-level building – not higher. The change in legislation was essentially for inner city and town office blocks that can be changed into accommodation with little reference to planning controls. This was not intended to be a loophole for developers to make the current eyesore bigger.

The Parish Council's Planning Committee objected to this recent application. Many parishioners feel the same way but to make voices heard, one should object via HBC's planning portal or via an email/letter to HBC's planners asking them to "call in" the application, which means it should be heard by HBC's planning committee rather than be left to any officer's decision. One may quote material considerations such as the proposal being overbearing, excessive in height and density of occupation as well as having insufficient car parking for the number of occupants and visitors as there is already a dearth of parking spaces nearby. Given that the application is for the building to be demolished, then it is quite illogical to re-erect a bigger block that won't fit with the surroundings. Don't use the same words as here. Change them to your own otherwise they will be rejected as plagiarism. Should you wish to express your feelings, please do so via:

- 1) Email: planningconsultation@harrogate.gov.uk quoting the application number 21/03132/PNH "Site of Pannal Business Park: Station Road, Pannal", or
- 2) Use the online HBC portal, link: <https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/planning-applications/find-planning-application>

Any comments must be received by no later than 29th September 2021

Cllr Dave Oswin and I will be taking part in a meeting involving development of commercial units on the PN18 site. For those of you who are new to the parish, that's the land adjacent to the Mercedes garage.

There's yet another "stakeholder" meeting coming up where HBC might tell us what's happening with traffic but the participants do not include any spokesperson using more than two wheels! That's their sop to transport and traffic – only cycling and "active" travel matter. Even a prominent member of the cycling fraternity has stated, "I think including thousands of homes in the Local Plan for the western arc area, into edge of town countryside, has pretty much guaranteed a massive traffic headache in the next decade or two. Those responsible may not be around to have to deal with it but their successors will." Why won't HBC and NYCC listen?

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A big thank you to those of you who replied to the PID by Survey Monkey. Our consultant and the Steering Group have ploughed through the responses and highlighted those that require serious attention and sorted them from those that have no chance of being considered because of planning rules and regulations. We have looked at the first input on design codes for any future developments – albeit small infill numbers. Further Focus Group meetings will take place as a result of the assessed responses.

We still have no news from HBC/NYCC on the West Harrogate Parameters Plan on what awaits us for traffic management. The proposals therein may influence our actions with respect to transport and traffic. We are also doing our bit on matters affecting Public Rights of Way and cycle paths.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

The first part of this newsletter has been fairly depressing but the good news is that I managed to persuade North Yorkshire Police to grant us some more CSW deployment locations. Details won't be available until confirmed in writing but it looks like we'll have a couple of sites on Hill Foot Lane, a couple on Yew Tree Lane, one up and one down on Spring Lane and two-way operation on Walton Park. Those of you who have complained about the lack of such presence in those areas will be made very welcome by the existing volunteers. Please let Jane or myself know that you're available.

Since we first started CSW in late 2016, we have checked the speed of 19348 vehicles and despite our high-vis jackets and large signs, 849 vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limits by at least 10% plus 2 miles an hour. NYP sent out 588 letters and the results show that the numbers of vehicles speeding have reduced dramatically over the years of operation. Complementing this fight on speeding has been our SID deployment and the use of our data by NYP enabling them to deploy laser/photographic units for enforcement purposes. They remain dismayed at the number of people who disobey the 30MPH limit on Church Lane but admit their job there is as easy as "shooting fish in a barrel".

FESTIVE LIGHTS

You may have noticed that one of the trees on Pannal Green has shed a bough which has smashed another tree and destroyed quite a lot of our festive lights which we display at Christmas. We have asked HBC to make everything safe and to restore the lights to their former state. HBC look at the trees (once a year perhaps) to see if they need attention. Invariably their answer is no, so branches/boughs are at the mercy of the wind. They're also too low to allow efficient mowing of the grass but nothing seems to be done. We await their response with interest.

NEW PCSO

Pannal and Burn Bridge's latest Police Community Support Officer, Nichola Shearing, was welcomed to the Parish Council meeting. She reported on what has transpired since she became involved and was asked to monitor construction traffic flaunting weight and prohibition restrictions both through the former Dunlopillo estate and the two principal routes in the parish – Burn Bridge Lane/Road, Hill Foot/Top Lane, Yew Tree Lane and Church Lane, Main Street/Station Road. NY Police have advised us that to prosecute, there must be PCSO or police officer evidence. However, unless we provide them with our own evidence, it is unlikely they will even try to apprehend anyone.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

This joyous occasion will, subject to no adverse Covid numbers, take place again this December. In conjunction with Mrs Jane Turner, Headteacher at the school, who kindly provides the venue for our refreshments, the preferred (and provisional) date is Monday 13th December.

NEW COUNCIL IN MAY 2022

Are you aware that we will have elections for a new Parish Council next May? Since our inception, we have been very effective in protecting our parish and helping to secure its future. Please consider putting yourself forward as a candidate to become a parish councillor now. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Jane (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk) or myself (howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk).

It is critical that we continue to serve our community via our own residents. Having people from outside the parish as councillors doesn't work. Neither do we want party political influences in our parish affairs; they're our local issues and political bias just doesn't help. The most important thing is that if we don't get enough candidates to form a council, we would be subsumed back into Harrogate Borough Council or the new unitary authority. That would be a terrible fate, so please ensure we have enough candidates. Not all of us will continue into the next term, so do consider becoming a councillor. It really is rewarding.

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

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/>