



June Newsletter 2021

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

All households and business in our parish will receive a Policy Intentions Document (PID), early in July. This will outline some of the ideas put forward by the Focus Groups. The list of ideas is not exhaustive. Some have been deleted/modified after recommendations by our consultant. This document will give you, our residents, the opportunity to comment so that we may proceed to the next stage – maybe with additional suggestions. What has to be clear is that proposals must be workable and aligned with what is in the current HBC Local Plan. Therein may lie some difficulties as HBC doesn't necessarily see eye to eye with parishioners over park and stride, allotments, a footbridge over the Crimple, some form of nature area and its insistence on keeping B8 buildings (for distribution mainly) in its plans for PN18. Nonetheless, we're working it through the right channels.

We're looking for volunteers to deliver our PID to every letterbox (not every resident) in the parish so if you can help, please let Jane, our parish clerk know.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will be a vital document for the future of our parish, so please encourage everyone to respond to the PID.

DUNLOPILLO

Some of you may be wondering what is happening with this former brownfield site. Rumours and false information abound but the following is straight from the new owners of the land. Hornbeam Developments bought the land from Forward Investments and will be embarking on developing the site in the near future. There are three separate elements to this proposal.

The post office and the adjoining house will remain as they are for the foreseeable future. No notice to quit has been served on either property.

The area that has recently been cordoned off will be the subject of a revised planning application for commercial units.

The former office building will be gutted to determine whether refurbishment of the existing structure or demolishing and rebuilding is the optimum solution. No decision on that has been made yet, other than the plan is still for apartments as per the extant planning permission.

SPEEDING

The police have been astounded by the number of motorists speeding on Church Lane. They have access to our Speed Indicator Device data and were somewhat disbelieving of the statistics. When checking with their own data-logger, their findings agree with ours to within one mile per hour. Not so long ago, the police caught 41 speeders in one and a half hours. The majority of the culprits live within 5 miles of Church Lane, so there really is no excuse whatsoever. We'll be restarting Community Speedwatch soon and are still looking for more volunteers. If speeders become wise to the Church Lane location for police deployment, they won't be prepared for CSW deployments elsewhere within our parish. If you can help, please let Jane or me know and we'll pass on your details to Mr Chris Darkens who has stepped up to the plate to act as coordinator in place of Mr Mark Siddal who has moved away from the parish.

FORMER POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE SITE

You may not be aware but a revised application to build 200 houses on this site off Yew Tree Lane was turned down by the borough council's planning committee on 3rd June. Although not directly in our parish, the effects of increased traffic would be substantial. HBC officers did everything in their power to push this application through (involving a 23% increase in houses and destruction of green playing space). Initially, they didn't allow us to speak as they said the site was not within our parish. Then, when we pointed out that the application included a roundabout at the junction of Rossett Green Lane and Yew Tree Lane (just within our parish) they relented. However, as none of our parish councillors or clerk were available on 3rd June, we asked Mr Rene Dziabas from HAPARA to read our prepared statement. They even objected to that but Jane, our clerk, pushed back hard on that and they relented again. Surprisingly, during the meeting, the acting chairman allowed someone from Homes England to speak despite him not being on the approved list of speakers. We express our thanks to Rene and also to Mr David Siddans from HAPARA whose contributions helped sway the committee members.

The bottom line is that one part of HBC's forward planning department has stated for more than a year that no application would be heard for sites on the Western Arc of Harrogate unless it conforms to the Parameters Plan. The planning case officers think differently and that the site in question was but a minor modification. The Parameters Plan is not yet ready so the application should not have been allowed and indeed 23% is a huge increase. Everything was stacked against us but some planning committee members saw through the obfuscation and voted accordingly against it and for a deferral until the Parameters Plan has been signed off.

There is now a precedent set, so that should scupper any further increases from developers at least until the Parameter Plan is finalised. Whether that plan will be acceptable to all is yet another debate! The signs don't look good.

REMOTE MEETINGS

Civil servants in Westminster have insisted that Parish Councils meet in person from the beginning of May despite Covid 19 being on the increase again. We met at the village hall to sign off our Annual Governance Statement and to decide some planning applications plus some regular business – all socially distanced with doors and windows wide open. It is interesting that MPs will not have to attend the House of Commons fully until later this month or even July. We conducted our Parish Council meetings very satisfactorily via Zoom, including public presence, throughout the pandemic and have expressed our wish for this to be continued while there is still a danger of increased Covid-19 transmission - especially via the delta variant. Even double vaccination doesn't give 100% protection.

CYCLISTS BEWARE

We reported recently that one of our parishioners was seriously injured when their bicycle wheel became stuck in a rut on Main Street between the bridge over the Crimple and St Robert's church. I am pleased to report that the resident is well on the way to recovery. NYCC Highways repaired the road just where the accident happened but has failed to take any action just a few metres further along the road. Cyclists, please beware that a section of this road is still a danger, so please avoid the centre of the road at all costs. Elsewhere, potholes are plentiful. Some of our roads are worse than those seen in war zones.

RINGWAY FOOTPATH

The section between Mill Pond and the cricket field is still closed. NYCC Paths have not admitted responsibility for its failure to repair the slippage and have resorted to quasi-legal disclaimers in an attempt to defend its standpoint. We have heard no more from NYCC but will press the cabinet member and the head of Highways at a forthcoming YLCA branch meeting. Although not a Parish Council responsibility, we have to push NYCC and the landowner on behalf of the thousands of walkers deprived of the use of this facility.

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk

and Dave Oswin, Vice 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/>