



April Newsletter 2021

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This newsletter is a few days later than normal because we wanted to include any information emanating from the meeting Cllr Dave Oswin and I had with the higher echelons of NYCC Highways and HBC this past week.

OUTSIDE GYM EQUIPMENT

The various pieces will be installed during the first week in May, weather permitting. Naturally, Fresh Air Fitness (the suppliers) will need space on Crimple Meadows for their equipment and as work will be very close to the play area, please ensure children are kept at a safe distance and within the fenced area. There should be an area coned-off for their vehicles just outside the entrance to the playing fields so please ensure you park elsewhere during the two days 6th and 7th May. Remember that once installed, the equipment is for adult use and not at all for children under a specified height.

DOG WASTE

During the pandemic, many more dogs have been purchased/acquired, yet provisions for their extra waste has been ignored by the Borough Council. This is not just a Pannal / Burn Bridge problem but applies across the borough and beyond. Answers from HBC are that there are insufficient funds and the situation might be discussed later in the year. In terms of public health, “burying one’s head in the sand” attitude is just unacceptable. Although it is not our responsibility, the Parish Council resolved to procure dog waste bins in certain areas but only on the condition that HBC organises their emptying. We await an answer from HBC in the very short term.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We’re now all systems go for the next steps in preparing information for the plan. The four focus groups have been set up and their members advised of the tasks ahead. Individual Focus Group meetings are being set up via zoom. It’s never too late to volunteer to help; remember, it’s your parish and the wishes of our electorate that count.

PLANNING MATTERS

Despite reminders, we’re still waiting on HBC for a reply regarding our several proposals relating to Park and Stride for Pannal School, Allotments, a footbridge across the Crimple from the P&S car park to join up with Pannal Junior Sports and the possible creation of an area set aside as a nature area. We have asked our ward councillor, John Mann, to press again on this matter.

Unsurprisingly, we’re still waiting on the planning department for decisions on the application to build houses on the site of garages on Pannal Green.

We would like to advise parishioners - yet again - that if you have any objections to any particular planning applications, you should post your comments on the HBC planning portal immediately you see the green notices. Waiting until near the final date for replies on those green notices is futile, as the Parish Council won't necessarily see them when we deliberate at our planning meetings – usually the second Thursday of each month. For a belt and braces approach, please advise Jane, our parish clerk too, well in advance of our meetings.

FOOTPATH ON THE RINGWAY

Once again, we have had to press NYCC on their reaction to the slippage on the footpath just downstream from the cricket pitch. It is certainly not a Parish Council responsibility but it seems obvious to most people that the repair they effected last summer was inadequate. We have had meetings with The Ramblers, The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the input from a highly qualified chartered civil engineer who is an expert on water projects. NYCC state that they're waiting on agreement for funding to repair the footpath again but inside sources state that isn't the real delaying factor. Our standpoint is that the initial repair was defective and that either the contractor or NYCC should put it right forthwith. N.B. as people have removed the barriers on the route despite the notices, they use the footpath at their own risk.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The government has stated that after 6th May 2021, council meetings for local authorities must take place face-to-face. We feel that until all Covid-related restrictions are removed and all our councillors have received their second jabs, it is not feasible to stop remote Zoom meetings. Hertfordshire County Council is challenging the government in the High Court on this ruling. Should the government not shift on their standpoint, we have taken the logical step of delegating powers to our clerk, Jane, with the approval of the chairman and vice-chairman for continuity of service.

While councillors might just about manage a socially distanced face-to-face meeting at the village hall, we could not guarantee our safety when the public or press can be included at our meetings. We don't have the facility to screen members of the public for vaccine proof, lateral flow or more sophisticated tests prior to admission to a meeting and have advised our Yorkshire Association of Local Councils accordingly.

BELLWAY

The football playing areas that were supposed to have been completed and ready for use by now are not yet up to the standard required by the Football Association. Bellway asked for an extension to the proposed readiness date to that of more than 100 houses being occupied – a delay of around a year, we estimate. The Parish Council objected to the planning request for the delay but it's another one where we haven't yet heard from HBC. What we have done is to send a letter of support for our local Pannal Junior Sports football club that they get the priority for the pitches rather than for anyone from outside the parish.

UNITARY AUTHORITY

Your councillors have given due consideration to the two competitive bids - from NYCC on the one hand and HBC and other borough/district councils on the other. We have listened to the arguments from both sides and feel that we are forced to choose between the lesser of two evils. At our recent Parish Council meeting we resolved to support the East/West split as advocated by the borough councils rather than the NYCC proposal. We have all contributed our individual inputs but will submit the view of the Parish Council too.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

North Yorkshire Police (NYP) have now given their accord to restarting CSW after it was stopped due to Covid-19 rules. As has been mentioned before, our coordinator has moved from the parish so we're looking not only for new volunteers but also for someone to prepare the schedules. Being coordinator isn't an arduous role; it's a matter of sending out a simple spreadsheet (a one-page Excel document) and then when volunteers indicate their preferred dates, this is then circulated to all volunteers and to a contact at NYP. I can help get someone started with the first one but cannot take on anything extra myself. Please let Jane or me know how you can help please.

ELECTIONS

Next month there will be elections for a new Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner and elsewhere, elections for some parishes. Our Parish Council election will not be until next year but parishioners should start thinking now whether they could help in the continuation of our successes to date. If one thinks back to our first election in 2016, there were 10 candidates for the 7 available seats. Those included some opportunistic candidates put forward by a political party – none of whom resided in the parish. Irrespective of the political party, our councillors and most parishioners believe that a parish council should be non-political. It is vital that our parish is represented by those who live here and who have a firm vision for what is right for us. It is probable that not all the current councillors will seek re-election, so would you be prepared to give a little of your time and a lot of your skills to ensuring our future? We need a healthy election campaign to ensure good democracy, so please get your thinking caps on now and consider being a candidate for parish councillor in May 2022.

NEWSLETTER RECEIPT

We will shortly be circulating a leaflet to known recent residents into the parish inviting their (GDPR) permission to receive the monthly Newsletters. This is duplicated on the Parish Council website at <http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/> under the tab: News / Newsletter (at the bottom of the page). Please would you be good enough to pass the information on if you are aware of anyone who is not currently / but might be interested in being on the circulation?

INFRASTRUCTURE MEETING

This is Stop Press information: Cllr Dave Oswin and I met senior officers from NYCC and HBC on the morning of Wednesday, 14th April. We listened to various statements about the HTIP (Harrogate Transport Improvement Plan) but most of this is centred on Harrogate town and cycling and buses. We also heard about the IDP (Infrastructure Delivery Plan). This meeting gave us the opportunity to question why there was no solution to the traffic and congestion problems arising from Western Arc developments. The stock answer is that they don't have all the information to enable them to detail such proposals at this stage – which is surprising, given they have been aware of the existing and potential problems for at least 5 years. Some possible solutions will be revealed in stakeholder briefings, hopefully in early July. P&BBPC is one of the stakeholders and will be able to comment directly on all aspects of the Parameters Plan which is the overarching document covering West of Harrogate developments. The NYCC corporate director, Karl Battersby, has offered a separate meeting for P&BBPC to discuss specific traffic elements within the Parameters Plan after the stakeholder meetings. This will allow us to make suggestions relating to their proposals before anything is finalised.

We have been asking that the Western Arc be treated as a consolidation of development sites since before the Local Plan discussions. Finally, HBC agrees that this is essential and wants to get everything in order before releasing details. Our various inputs have been considered and are subject to modelling. We were asked that we resubmit our suggestions plus any modifications. To date, it has fallen on P&BBPC, along

with inputs from HAPARA, North Rigton and Beckwithshaw parish councils to come up with ideas. We ask that if parishioners have any suggestions as to how the additional traffic to and from the Western Arc can be handled, please email these ideas to our parish clerk. We will add these to our own comments and send onto NYCC/HBC. One of our primary concerns is that with Lady Lane being widened, traffic to/from all those houses and to/from all the industrial sites and schools, will be forced into a bottleneck on Hill Top Lane and thence all the way to the A61. If they have a solution to that problem, they will not share it with us until July at the earliest. Pinch points at Pannal Station bridge, Burn Bridge road bridge and Burn Bridge Lane railway bridge are big obstacles to free-flowing traffic. We're desperate to see how they intend overcoming these strictures.

Nonetheless, we feel we are making progress, especially as all concerned now realise that the cumulative effects of housing and industrial sites must be considered together rather than simply per single site. Developers are now having to work together and pool resources to help provide solutions. As soon as we hear more, we'll keep you posted.

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/>