



March Newsletter 2021

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SPRING LANE FARM PLANNING APPEAL

The excellent news is that the government inspector Mr Andrew McGlone, dismissed the appeal from the developers for the 49 houses planned for the site. Thanks to all of you who added your voice to those of the Spring Lane SLA Defence group and the Parish Council in opposing this development. Your opinion does count in such appeals. We hope this will be the end of the matter but we should be prepared to fight again if necessary. Mr McGlone's decision went in favour of dismissal on balance but highlighted HBC's lack of a functional policy for self-build and custom-build accommodation which was the developer's claim.

SPEEDING

Now that North Yorkshire Police officers are into their trial period with safety camera deployment in our parish, the results are exactly as we predicted from our SID data. In the first couple of hours of one deployment recently, 45 vehicles were caught exceeding the 30MPH speed limit on Church Lane. Had we adopted NYCC's proposal for Vehicle Activated Signs when they made it, we would not have known the speeds detected and would not have been able to send the information to the police. Our purchase of the SIDs in the face of opposition from NYCC is entirely vindicated.

PARK AND RIDE IN PANNAL

We pressed NYCC Highways again about the notion of their locating a park and ride car park in the field next to the Mercedes dealership – known as PN18 by HBC. The following is the reply we received from NYCC:

“It came to light after testing that the site J4: East of Leeds Road / Pannal would not be suitable as it had been allocated in the local plan. It's highly unlikely that site would be taken forward in this location and other alternatives are being considered.”

However, they did offer this comment: “After sifting, assessment showed that the area to the south of Harrogate, in the vicinity of the A61, has the greatest potential for success, and two sites in that area were added to a final shortlist. Following further discussion at the HTIP Steering Group meeting officers are also considering whether any other sites close to the A61 may also offer potential.”

It really is beyond belief, as we pointed out to NYCC, that the site next to Mercedes was ever considered. Had they only asked us or HBC, their ludicrous proposal would have been consigned to the bin from the outset as it had already been allocated for an employment site in the local plan. The full details of our communication, can be supplied on request.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following a meeting with our consultant and the Steering Group, the schedule of required activities will be kickstarted again. Members of the Focus groups and new volunteers will be contacted in the coming weeks to ask for the required information to be prepared for the consultant. The intention is to put flesh onto the bones of the Policy Intentions Document and have that ready for initial public consultation by May 2021. Target date for submission to the borough council is August 2022. For further details please refer to the meeting minutes (10th March 2021) which will be posted on our website in due course.

REMOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The temporary legislation allowing parish councils to meet remotely on Zoom (or similar platforms) expires on 7th May this year. As many of our councillors will not have had second anti-Covid jabs by then (and some not even their first ones) we have decided to bring forward our Annual Meeting and associated Parish Meeting from 13th to 6th May to give us an extra month without having to meet in person. Our national association (NALC) is still negotiating with government to extend this deadline but even if they were successful, we'll be sticking to May 6th.

PN18

We will continue to monitor HBC plans regarding their investigations into creating an employment site on that allocated ground. We will insist that any proposals fall within the conditions laid down in the Local Plan – one of which is that the Grade II*listed viaduct should be able to be seen both from within and through the site. This should preclude anything other than low-rise buildings but we know HBC will want to maximise their income from this scenic approach to Harrogate. If you should notice any evidence of plans/proposals concerning this proposal, please let us know.

DONATIONS

You may be surprised but we get many requests for donations and advertising from various bodies. We make one donation each Christmas for a local charity – match-funding a collection at Carols on the Green for a charity chosen by our residents. While many, if not all the requests, are from deserving charities, if we opened a door to any one of those, we could be flooded with more requests. We decided therefore to decline any future requests, especially as we are limited in funding by a condition known as S137 which is essentially to cater for our own parish requirements.

LEBANESE CEDAR

The well-known large cedar tree on Rosedale Close had shed several branches this winter, causing severe damage to property and narrowly missing some pedestrians. While we all wish to see specimen trees protected, there comes a point where human life must take priority. After pressure from the Parish Council, HBC's arborist finally decided that further surgery was pointless and the tree can be felled to protect life and property. However, a small replacement tree of the same variety has been specified for the same location.

BIRD BOXES

The same snow and winds that blew down the cedar branches has caused damaged to many trees in the area. In consequence, the tree surgeon who has the safety equipment to enable him to fix the owl and kestrel boxes, has had to prioritise dealing with dangerous trees. It is hoped that he will be able to fix those boxes in the next week or two. The good news is that members of the tit family have been spotted in and around the boxes on trees in Allen Wood. Whether they have actually taken up residence or have just been on a flying visit isn't known yet.

WESTERN ARC DEVELOPMENTS

You will know that we have campaigned, along with our partners in the Western Arc Cooperation Group for highways infrastructure to handle our pre-Covid congestion and also the enormous amount of traffic expected from those residential and employment sites and schools. You may have seen the article in the local press which reflects the views of many. We're constantly challenging both NYCC and HBC because we know they have been delinquent in providing infrastructure. We have asked, via our ward borough councillor for information on S106 commitments* since June 2020. Despite several reminders, we still don't have the information. Once we know what has been allocated from developers for highways projects, we will be able to make reasoned comments about what has been planned. We believe HBC has neglected these Western Arc sites for highways funding but need the proof. Once again, we have written to senior management in both NYCC and HBC for the figures and expressed our continuing concerns about the lack of cooperative consultation – we have to wait until the developers have had their say.

* the money developers have to pay to local authorities for education, roads, facilities, etc.

STATION PARADE GATEWAY

You may well think - what has this got to do with our parish? It could have a very great effect, especially if the proposed Killinghall bypass were to go ahead. If, as expected, the planned new Gateway by Harrogate rail and bus stations will restrict the passage of vehicles to a single lane to allow for a pedestrian precinct, then it will become a place to be avoided by motorists. Where would southbound traffic from Ripon to Leeds traverse Harrogate? Simple – via a Killinghall bypass towards Beckwithshaw, Harlow or Pannal/Burn Bridge and thence to the A61 via Buttersyke Bar. Our parish roads cannot cope now, let alone with traffic to/from the Western Arc or even more from Ripon. Please look at the ideas in the “consultation” and have your say before it's too late.

VOLUNTEERS

We're still looking for people to help with downloading SID data and also with helping to make an occasional schedule for Community SpeedWatch and be part of a team using a laser speed gun. Your councillors give their time for nothing and some help really would be appreciated. Likewise, we're looking for someone to help move SIDs when required and do some odd jobs around the parish. This can be paid or voluntary depending on what is required. YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU. Please contact Jane, our parish clerk.

DOG FOULING

During our latest PC meeting the problem of dog excrement was raised yet again. It is a universal problem in all local parishes where the disgraceful behaviour of some uncaring dog owners/walkers gives a bad name to all dog owners. Your dog's excrement is your problem and is for no-one else to clean up or remove. In particular, some use the cricket field as a dog-emptying space and some who bother to scoop up the mess in plastic bags leave them there. WHY? There is no provision to put them in a bin there and if there were, there is no collection facility, so take the bags home. Elsewhere, if there isn't a bin or even if a poo bin is full, don't leave a bag by the bin or anywhere else, take it home. The borough council can't/won't help, citing cost and lack of personnel but we have pressed our local councillors yet again on the issue. There is no poo fairy to collect poo bags. It couldn't be simpler; it's your dog, your responsibility.

A reminder for dog owners: it's lambing time on farms so when anywhere near sheep, keep your dogs on a leash. Dogs are naturally inquisitive but to sheep they're simply threats to the lives of their lambs. Remember, as far as we're aware, farmers still have a right to shoot dogs worrying livestock, so to avoid any risks, keep your dogs under close control.

BULBS

CLlr Steve Cobb and the clerk planted a number of daffodil bulbs last autumn, not only in the parish planters but also in the grass close to 1) the Crimple Meadows street sign and 2) the Pannal Green sign near Main Street. The latter appear to be struggling to make their presence felt so have been temporarily cordoned off with garden string and canes to protect them against footfall.

HARROGATE DISTRICT CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY

In partnership with Harrogate Borough Council (HBC), the Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition (HDCCC) have recently developed two climate change surveys - one for residents, one for businesses/employees. The results of each survey will inform the HDCCC strategy and will be used by HBC to develop their Carbon Reduction Plan. We would like to encourage our parishioners to take part. Please access the surveys via the links below:

- Residents <https://bit.ly/3ttoDbj> (Residents Survey is open until 28th March 2021.)
- Businesses/employees: <https://bit.ly/3q66fmZ> (Business / employee survey is open until 4th April 2021.)
- Both surveys are also available from the HBC Have Your Say page <https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/consultations-engagement/say>

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/>