



Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council Newsletter No
11 - Christmas Edition December 2017

[View this email in your
browser](#)

Christmas Newsletter December 2017

As we come to the end of another calendar year, it's worthwhile confirming the state of play on a number of issues.

Your parish council has been beavering away with protests against Harrogate Borough Council's Local Plan. To do this in isolation against the ordered ranks of the hierarchy of HBC isn't an easy or efficient manner in which to proceed. To this end we have been co-operating with HAPARA (Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents' Association, Beckwithshaw, Hampsthwaite and North Rigton Parish Councils as well as other interested bodies to the west of Harrogate. As a group, we have opposed the very substance of HBC's calculations which were based on either flawed or suspect reports. The so-called economic uplifts postulated by HBC have also been disputed as being beyond reasonable expectations. So although you may not have seen or heard any drum-beating directly by the parish council, our voice and views have certainly been expressed in the optimum manner. We will however, come out with all guns blazing when it comes to the preparation for our attack on the Local Plan before and during the time when the government inspector gets involved. That will of course cost money and it's only fitting that as our residents have already voiced their opposition against the Local Plan, we commit funds to engage experts to combat HBC's absurd proposals. This won't come cheaply but if we don't act, we would never be forgiven for not trying our best.

What we as a parish council, which as a statutory body cannot do, is to banner-wave in front of council offices. However, if Pannal and Burn Bridge residents don't organise some form of protest involving not only local but the wider media, then we stand a high chance of excessive development, an industrial estate and a park and ride being built on the MOST Special Landscape Area - the Crimple Valley. The parish council is doing its part within the constraints of public office but only a handful of residents are getting involved with any direct opposition. Apathy is not an option. If you want our parish to be overrun, do nothing. Otherwise, get cracking and take action like the people of Hampsthwaite and the Nidd Gorge supporters. If you're not careful, the Zero Carbon Harrogate people will insist on building a huge car park in our beautiful valley.

We will be putting our own objection to the planning application for development of Spring Lane Farm for housing and would request that residents do likewise before the December 22 deadline. At Thursday's parish council planning meeting we unanimously objected to the application but ours is only one voice. This is an application with no right of appeal, so we must muster all the support we can get. Petitions or lists of objectors are no good; one must object as an individual. Please use the HBC Planning Portal and quote 17/05136/OUTMAJ. We trust that common sense will prevail and HBC will refuse the application. However, if you don't want desecration of our fields alongside Spring Lane and the traffic chaos that would go with it, then use the planning portal, email or write to HBC planners now before it's too late.

The precept for the next financial year is another task with which we have been busy. Last

year we kept our total demand as the same as in our first year. This meant that as several new houses had been built in the parish (Spacey Houses among them), the sum paid per household dropped, yet HBC picked up the additional money collected rather than the parish. We are addressing this issue, especially as we expect a number of properties to be built on the former Dunlopillo site as well as those on Rosset Green Lane being occupied.

Our battles with NYCC Highways continue. Despite requests for answers to our demand for flashing speed signs to be mounted on street furniture (NYCC Highways' responsibility) they still haven't come back with an answer. The potential blackspot at the junction of Westminster Drive and Spring Lane was discussed on site with representatives of NYCC Highways from Boroughbridge with Cliff Trotter, John Mann and yours truly in attendance. We haven't had a response yet but apart from tinkering, we're not optimistic. The mirror that served motorists so well for many years was deemed illegal and as there haven't been any reported accidents there, they presume it's not a priority. Proactive is not a word in Highways' vocabulary. Similarly, as no-one has died as a result of ambulances being unable to get access to Crimple Meadows at school, church or football times, they don't propose any action other than perhaps a white line across the entrance to the park and the adjacent entry to a garden. Moreover, the disaster area that is the chaos at the railway bridge is not deemed to be a problem; no-one has been knocked over yet. The new-style speed ramps are totally ineffective against most vehicles but because that is the standard adopted county-wide, they don't plan on changing anything. However, we're not giving up our fight.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has already kicked off with the formation of a Steering Group plus Focus Groups for a range of topics. For the majority of these, we're at the strength required but could do with a couple extra minds on the Transport, Traffic and Sustainability group. If you're up for some assistance for our community, then please let the Chair of the Steering Group, Cathy Burrell, know your details and how you think you could help.

Please bear in mind that in May next year we will have to form a new parish council. We need seven councillors to share the work, so if you can contribute some of your time to help safeguard your parish, then please be prepared to put your name forward. We want parishioners representing us, hopefully in a non-political manner so that it is the interests of residents that are upheld rather than any political dogma of whatever hue that may be. Some of us will be standing again but some new blood will be needed to fill the vacancies.

Regrettably, I have to inform you that due to the pressures of being both a county and borough councillor, the third public office of parish councillor as well has proven to be a step too far. Therefore, John Mann has decided to tender his resignation from the parish council. He will of course continue to assist us wherever possible by fighting our corner and will attend as many parish council meetings as time permits. We thank him for his considerable efforts in our first two years (almost) of operation.

Carols on the Green – now a parish council sponsored community event - was probably the best ever. Thanks are due to those who donated mulled wine and mince pies and to those who helped tirelessly to make the event so successful - and of course to Iain Ward-Campbell and the musicians! We worked hard to get the lights organised and installed and they provided an excellent backdrop for what was a superb display of community spirit with more than 150 people present. We may even go one better next year with a dedicated lit Christmas tree if funds are approved. However, that will depend on agreement within the new parish council from May 2018.

Finally, I would like to commend all our councillors for the dedication they have shown and the work they have put in. Other halves too have been a great help with their tolerance of our being at meetings, consultations, impromptu get-togethers, endless phone calls and being glued to our emails. Our parish clerk, Andrew, has kept us under

control and has proven to be a most valuable asset in the running of the council. Proactive certainly is in his vocabulary!

We will still be working over the festive season to ensure we keep up the pressure on any and all problem areas which need our attention. On behalf of the whole team, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

We welcome feedback for our newsletter so please feel free to comment and make suggestions for improvement. If you know of anyone who is not receiving this newsletter but wishes to, please ask them to contact the parish clerk.

Contact us via the parish clerk Andrew Macdonald (parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk or 07802 460789) if you have comments or suggestions on how to improve our parish. Also, don't forget that you can join our Facebook group where you'll get any breaking news more quickly than through the periodic newsletters:

<https://www.facebook.com/Pannal-and-Burn-Bridge-Parish-Council-1655335551445518/>

Best wishes,

Howard West, Chairman

howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk

and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall and Steve Cobb.