



Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council Newsletter No 12 -  
January 2018

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## Newsletter January 2018

As a new calendar year starts, we are already thinking about the next financial/operational year for our parish council. There are many things to consider - finance, the local plan, the neighbourhood plan and continuity of the council among them.

As far as finance is concerned, we have been prudent with our expenditure since our inception as we had no history as a long-standing council to guide us. It is the duty of a parish council to have sufficient reserves, so we have had to build them. Now we know more of what is expected of us, we have dedicated a budget to cover costs of experts in defending our parish against unwarranted and ill-conceived building plans. Along with numerous other considerations we have demanded a precept from Harrogate Borough Council in line with current expectations.

Activities with our Neighbourhood Plan have already started with the Steering Group and Focus Groups having been formed. The Steering Group must have two parish councillors, hence Cllr Cathy Burrell chairs it and the other members are Jackie Wootton (vice chair), Gillian Dodd and me. This set-up includes core members of those who helped formulate the existing Community-led Plan at its heart. We've had one formal and some informal meetings so far. The next formal meeting will be on February 27 when the spokesperson from each focus group will give an update on their progress to date.

The focus groups have also been set up and they're beavering away with their tasks on the main topics – housing, environment, landscape, economy, transport and traffic, etc. Although there are representatives from the parish on all of these groups, we still would like more volunteers to share the workload. So if you're able to contribute in any way, please contact Jackie Wootton on [jackie@amfoundation.org](mailto:jackie@amfoundation.org).

Our parish council was founded in 2016 for a two-year session. This was an exception because the normal duration of a council is four years. Hence, to bring us in line with the normal schedule, we must form a new council after the local elections on May 3 this year. It remains to be seen how many of the existing councillors may want to put themselves forward again. However, my best guess is that most, if not all present members will want to continue with the work upon which they've so enthusiastically participated. If that is the case, then we need another two councillors to bring us up to the preferred number of seven. From inputs we've had regarding the Spring Lane and PN17 to PN20 proposals, we know there are some talented people in our neighbourhood whose capabilities could be harnessed to promote and protect our parish. Some councillors can and do give more of their time than others but that is quite normal in any field. The continuity of a parish council representing the wishes of the parishioners is essential, as is representation from within the parish. Please give this your consideration now rather than wait until the application deadline which won't be long in coming.

With the recent closure of Burn Bridge Road, we're getting just a tiny foretaste of what life

would be like in Pannal if HBC have their way and build 3000+ houses to the west of Harrogate. It would of course be much worse than the current situation as they plan to increase the size of Pannal school with a commensurate increase in traffic but with no road or parking schemes to accommodate it.

However, onto one of the success stories - Community Speed Watch. This bit has been written by Mark who heads up the programme in our parish. "CSW is a speed reduction scheme involving a partnership between local residents and North Yorkshire Police. It is, however, the police who undertake the enforcement action against speeding drivers. The range of enforcement action undertaken by the police includes:

- \* Sending out warning letters

- \* Deploying uniformed police officers to the home of a speeding driver

- \* Using Community Speedwatch data in any court proceedings relating to a speeding driver

This is a scheme that has teeth. To make it even more effective, we need more volunteers, so that we can be out on the streets on Pannal (and Burn Bridge in the near future). Volunteers record the details of speeding vehicles, so that the police can take action. They deploy for just an hour at a time, and can do as many or as few deployments as they wish. To help keep our villages safer by becoming a volunteer, please contact Mark Siddall on [marksiddall3@hotmail.com](mailto:marksiddall3@hotmail.com)."

Pannal's Speedwatch programme is seen as a shining light across North Yorkshire, undoubtedly due to the close co-operation Mark has with the police and the enthusiasm of the volunteers. (Mark didn't write this last sentence)

We haven't forgotten our cooperation with HAPARA and other local parish councils and organisations and will continue liaising with them in fighting some of HBC's Local Plan proposals. We're active in getting those experts (mentioned previously) on board for the public consultation regarding the draft Local Plan. This will take place from January 26 until March 9 and the plan will be scrutinised by the Government Inspector at the end of 2018.

There are avenues that we can and should pursue and a detailed explanation of our endeavours will be given at a later date. At our last parish council meeting, Cllr Dave Oswin and I were selected to form a sub-committee to oversee the actions. To date, we launched a tender process in line with our standing orders and from the replies received, selected Arrowsmith Associates to project manage the parish council's consultation process. This consultation has different parameters from the so-called public consultations last year and has two separate actions that we are already undertaking - the first of which is as a matter of urgency. Regular updates will be given to parishioners on this critical subject and there is a section on the "Planning" page of our website dedicated to responding to the Consultation Stage of the Local Plan - here: [http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/Planning\\_18373.aspx](http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/Planning_18373.aspx).

So you'll see that there has been no let-up in the workload and there's more in the pipeline. 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 us via the parish clerk Andrew Macdonald ([parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk) or 07802 460789), and if you have comments or suggestions on how to improve our parish let us know that too. Also, 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

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