



April 2019 Edition Newsletter

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There is good and bad news this time on several topics. We'll endeavour to address them one by one.

### **BRILLIANT "RUBBISH CLEAN-UP"**

This initiative, started and organised by resident Liz Brown and backed by the parish council, was a resounding success. On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April a large group of volunteers collected some 32 bags of rubbish, bits of car, signs and a drainpipe from around the parish. There was so much detritus that had been jettisoned from vehicles that there is still more left to collect. Even since the clear-up, more litterbugs have deposited even more rubbish in our hedgerows. The second bit of good news on this front is that we will be having another clean-up on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Even better news is that you don't have to wait for an organised day to help maintain our parish; when out for a walk, just pick up a few tins or bottles and put them in your household recycling.



Top: the volunteers having cleaned-up across the A61

Bottom left: Pannaloniens and Burn Bridgers

Bottom right: Liz Brown



### **VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS)**

That's flashing speed signs to you and me. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Highways has decided that parish councils may buy their own VAS, after years of campaigning by parish councils.

The bad news is that NYCC have issued such a prescriptive list of do's and don'ts, that there is virtually no freedom for parish councils to buy what they believe is required. We only found out about the decision last week and will debate what action to take, after having studied the fine print in the whole document, at our next parish council meeting on May 9th.

## **LOCAL PLAN**

Here is an extract from an email from the programme Officer, Liz Sheard:

"The Inspector has run out of reporting time for Harrogate and is now conducting other examinations. Consequently, I am unable to give a definite timescale as this is entirely dependent on how much time the Inspector is able to free up for Harrogate. As soon as I know anything, I will let you know".

It's out of our hands I'm afraid but now you know as much as we do.

However, some of the "political" leaders in Harrogate appear reluctant to accept decisions they don't like. The leader of one party stated that Pannal should have homes built on PN19 - especially affordable ones. The government inspector made his reasoning perfectly clear why that allocation must be removed from the plan and developers stated during the public examination that they wouldn't touch that site anyway because of prohibitive mitigation costs. One party leader at HBC still wants gypsy and traveller sites in Pannal despite the president of the national gypsy council stating their location in Pannal would be ridiculous and the quantities recommended were not needed anyway. This was accepted by HBC a couple of years ago. Not only that, the suggestion was also made that Harrogate Football club should relocate to PN19. It just beggars' belief; where on earth would spectators park?

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

As many of you are aware, what we put in our Neighbourhood Plan is dependent upon what is finally agreed in the Harrogate Local Plan. Hence, with stalling on the local plan, the Steering Group will delay our proposed public consultation that is planned for June 8th. We're still working on the background details that are essential to our plan but the big-ticket issues like housing, will have to wait a bit. We will be publishing updates on our website and facebook very soon.

## **CONGESTION CONSULTATION**

NYCC Highways announced their consultation which will involve answering a series of questions on-line. Please make sure you respond to that. It's likely to be a numbers game – those who protest most are likely to be heard. It worked with the local plan; now it's time for a hit on congestion. Would you believe this line in an email from Cllr Don Mackenzie (NYCC councillor with responsibility for highways) to P&BBPC? ..... "We will seek the public's views on whether it believes that congestion is a problem which needs to be addressed." If there isn't a problem, then why have a consultation?

There will also be a series of "congestion exhibitions". These were due to be held in Knaresborough, Harrogate and Killinghall, until your parish council exerted pressure on NYCC not to ignore those of us on the western arc of Harrogate. We have questioned the scope of the consultation which seems to concentrate on the north and east of Harrogate while ignoring our rat-runs and the Pannal traffic lights and tailbacks on the A61. In consequence, NYCC have added Pannal Village Hall as a venue for an exhibition on Thursday, 16th May from 1700 to 1900. Please come to the Function Room at the hall that evening to find out what NYCC has planned. If we don't kick up a stink (like the Nidd Gorge protesters do all the time) then our congestion through Pannal, Burn Bridge, Beckwithshaw and North Rigton will be ignored. If I were cynical, I would suggest coming by car so that NYCC would realise how bad our congestion problems are. However, I care too much for our air quality and our traffic chaos is too bad already to propose that.

## **AIR QUALITY**

Dave Oswin, Jane Marlow and I had a meeting with Zero Carbon Harrogate (ZCH) recently and found we do have similar concerns, even if not all the solutions are in complete harmony. ZCH has offered to give us a "No Idling" workshop in an effort to reduce the effects of internal combustion engines running when vehicles are stationary. We'll work out a date at Pannal Village Hall as soon as

is convenient and let you know when. Did you know that there is a higher concentration of pollutants inside your car than outside when you're in a queue with your engine idling!

## **LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

We're not involved this time but please give thought now to how you might be able to contribute as a parish councillor in 3 years' time when our current council will be up for re-election. It's no use deciding at the last minute; start planning now how you, as a Pannal and Burn Bridge resident, could stand up for the parish. We've had success already; make sure it continues.

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on both of the Village Notice Boards (at the Village Hall and at St Robert's Church) 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/>

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, [howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)

and Dave Oswin (Deputy Chairman), and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb, Harvey Alexander and Ryan Dall.