



May 2019 Edition Newsletter

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## **ANNUAL MEETING**

We are into a new year (in parish council terms) and all posts were under review. I'm afraid you'll have to put up with Dave Oswin and me as vice chairman and chairman respectively, again. Committees remain the same with Dave chairing planning too and Cathy Burrell in charge of the Neighbourhood Plan. We're delighted that more members of the public are coming forward, either to help or to express views at council meetings. It's of no use complaining at the state of matters from the side-lines without having some proposals of one's own.

A spate of recent break-ins has provoked a request to rejuvenate Neighbourhood Watch. Ms Bev Ashby took the opportunity to speak on this matter, as did Mr Mark Siddall and Mr Simon Law on speeding and traffic signage issues.

The abysmal condition of our road system is always at the forefront of residents' grouses. That, of course is the responsibility of North Yorkshire County Council Highways department. That they have a reducing budget and a need for economies in England's largest county isn't under dispute. However, what is infuriating is they appear to spend more time and money defending archaic principles than getting down to doing what is right for communities.

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

This was the quickest ever this year, with no parishioners turning up for this anachronism. HBC have stated it would take an act of parliament to dispense with such meetings but neither they nor we have the time to get involved in that.

## **CRIMPLE MEADOWS PARKING**

A classic example of the "defending archaic principles" is a reply from NYCC detailing why they can't, or more likely don't intend to, do anything to stop indiscriminately parked vehicles preventing emergency vehicles from entering this road at peak times. We will elevate this to the top at NYCC Highways.

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

NYCC's edict on this matter just beggars belief. So many other counties in our country and many countries throughout Europe (and maybe beyond) accept that signs showing the speed a vehicle is travelling is useful, yet our county council is living in the dark ages and disagrees. Parish councils across Yorkshire have demanded the right to purchase speed signs and place them where they know they will be effective. It works well with our neighbours West Yorkshire but our county refuses to budge, spending a fortune on insisting they their retain control over minutiae concerning thousands of miles of roads. If they only let parishes get on with what suits them and concentrated on the major issues, their money worries would lessen dramatically. They think they know better than the people who live in dangers spots. Quite simply, they don't and again we'll raise this to the highest level at NYCC.

## **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)**

Mr Mark Siddall runs this scheme very effectively and efficiently. One of the drawbacks of the equipment we now use is that it is difficult to discriminate between vehicles going in opposite directions. The parish council has therefore approved purchase of an upgraded laser device, so that there will be no escape for culprits. A new device would be capable of fixing on any one vehicle, wherever it is in the deployment zone. The number of speeders through our parish has indeed diminished since Pannal was the first to deploy CSW in North Yorkshire. Since sites have been added in Burn Bridge, we need more volunteers to cover the parish – especially on weekends. Please email our parish clerk if can spend an hour now and then to help make our parish safer.

## **PIP**

What is this, you may ask? It's Permission in Principle for small housing developments up to 9 houses that is a relatively new type of planning application that is decided upon by the planning officers in 5 weeks or less. In what most people think has been a deliberate attempt to thwart the order made by Her Majesty's Local Plan Inspector not to allow building on PN17, the developer has used this PIP process. The documentation provided by the developer in the PIP application contains some highly questionable statements and some are just plain wrong. As this is a quick process and the green notices only went up on Monday, residents must object very quickly to convince the planners that the application should be refused. Deadline for objections is May 28<sup>th</sup> but do it now! We have already written to the planner concerned about the way in which we believe the developer may be trying to dodge the greater planning process. Because the PIP was submitted at a date which gave us no time to include it at our last planning meeting, we have had to convene a special meeting on Monday evening at 6.30pm.

It is clearly an attempt to get a foothold on PN17 and then expand further with new PIPs to achieve even more building. They claim it is a windfall development to make life easy for them but it appears to be just a cynical attempt to achieve their aims of building all over Spring Lane Farm. We're still awaiting confirmation from Pannal Methodist Church but from initial enquiries, it appears that they were as unaware as we were, that a car park had been proposed. In any event, it appears such a car park is unwanted anyway.

As you can imagine, Spring Lane people (and the parish council) are incandescent that such an apparently devious attempt has been made. Spring Laners have already sent out emails to advise on how to object. The PIP reference on the planning portal is 19/01889/PIP, so when logging in, please state your reasons for objection (in your own words):

e.g. Destruction of a Special Landscape Area; Contrary to the order from HM Government's Local Plan Inspector to remove PN17 from allocations; Thin end of the wedge leading to more coalescence with Harrogate; Destruction of habitats for wildlife, etc. etc. Please see further details on the parish council facebook page and the Spring Lane SLA Defence email.

## **CONGESTION EXHIBITION**

This was NYCC's way of showing us on Thursday, their various options for alleviating congestion – that is if we believe congestion exists! From those who attended, it was abundantly clear that we, on the western side of Harrogate, have our own issues which manifestly are not being addressed by NYCC Highways. Thanks to all the residents (and people from afar) who came, challenged NYCC and the consultants PWB and answered our own questionnaire. Although it's too early to assess those results, it's certainly a resounding, "Yes, we have a severe congestion problem and NYCC has done NOTHING to alleviate it on the western side of Harrogate – now or has any plans for the future". Please ensure that now you have seen what NYCC are not doing for us, that you reply to their official questionnaire.

We believe that having David Bowe (the top man at NYCC Highways) and Andrew Bainbridge (team leader for transport planning) present has made them aware of our needs and we are nurturing this channel of communication where we trust we will be heard rather than ignored as we were previously. Rest assured, once we sift through your inputs, your parish council will be following up on

this. Thanks too to fellow parish councillors, Cathy, Dave, Ian and Steve and Jane our clerk, for their help on the night as well as Mark Siddall and Mel Raine.

You will see from the issues above that we have a lot to do – much of which isn't really our responsibility – but if we don't push borough and county councils, nothing happens.

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.