



June Newsletter 2020

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Covid-19 forced us again to hold our latest meetings by electronic medium. In the course of the last week, some of our councillors have used four different platforms for such activities dealing with various organisations. However, we invited “remote” participation from the public on specific agenda items at our recent planning and parish council meetings. These were very beneficial for all concerned. Minutes are the formal method of recording business transacted during meetings but if parishioners want a less formal update on what is happening parish-wide, then this newsletter is the optimum format. Our Facebook page also gives even more up to date snippets.

Burn Bridge Traffic Survey

Locals had taken part in a survey regarding the concerns about through traffic on Burn Bridge Road and Yew Tree Lane. The report was forwarded onto NYCC Highways. The Parish Council has made its own representations for both improvements to the current situation and towards NYCC’s investigation into future works between Otley Road and the A61 through our parish. We were pleased to welcome David Crosby and Mike Walsh to our meeting to elaborate on the survey and report.

There is a perception that vehicle speeds are disproportionate to the roads and conditions. We all know that the pavements in certain areas are too narrow, cars have become much wider over the last 20 years and there is a huge increase in the number of vehicles and large 4X4s in particular. Hence there’s less room for cyclists or pedestrians. Tyres are now wider and create much more road noise, giving the impression of higher speed. Too many HGVs cheat the system using the “except for access” disclaimer on weight limits and the police are just not interested in enforcing such limits. It’s a matter for Weights and Measures and their efforts are likewise ineffectual.

What must be highlighted is that NYCC Highways only react to finite figures and statistics but not to anecdotal “evidence”. Generally, if current speed limits are not being compromised and there have been no accidents involving serious injury or death, then NYCC will do nothing. Community Speedwatch has recorded no speeding during its deployments on Burn Bridge Road. North Yorkshire Police found that the average speed on Yew Tree Lane was 27/28 MPH and during their test the maximum was 32/33 MPH.

The Parish Council has consistently emphasised that concrete evidence is the only way to convince NYCC to part with any money to improve our roads. There are many misconceptions about signs, signage and what is enforceable but clear evidence that proactivity is not in NYCC Highways Area 6’s vocabulary. It was useful during our meeting that some misconceptions were cleared up and opportunities exist for residents to assist your Parish Council. NYCC takes more notice of an elected statutory body like the Parish Council than any individual or residents’ group.

Speed Indicator Devices (SID)

Following on from the last subject, we took the decision some time ago to allocate funds for the purchase of some flashing speed signs. NYCC has consistently favoured their own specified Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and prohibited anything else. On top of the limited capability of those signs, they wanted to charge an exorbitant fee to allow them to place signs where **they** wanted them. Highways is not a Parish Council responsibility but we could not sit back and wait for a death that might goad NYCC into action.

The VAS which NYCC promote don't have data recording of volumes of traffic or speeds, whereas the SIDs we will order within the next week or so, do have that capability. Therefore, in addition to showing drivers their actual speeds, we will have 24/7 **evidence** of the amount of traffic and speed when we install those signs. This should be invaluable to NYCC and its consultants.

We can only mount the SIDs on private property (verges belong to NYCC) and we can't mount them on road signs or telephone poles. The signs must be temporary, otherwise they need planning permission. We have asked property owners (on through routes) permission to put a pole in their property to which a sign can be affixed for say a month or two at a time. Responses have been varied – some really enthusiastic, while others appear reticent to help keep speeds and potential accidents down. We repeat the request: please allow us to erect a pole on your property that has line of sight to traffic – in one direction only is fine. Just email our parish clerk please if you can help. A special vote of thanks goes to those of you who have already given their permission.

Ginnel/snicket (footpath!) twixt Malthouse Lane and Crimble Meadows

Since the onset of Covid 19, many more cyclists have taken to the roads but unfortunately also to some footpaths where cycling is prohibited. Coupled with more joggers and walkers, there have been many near misses when cyclists have refused to dismount when using the ginnel. Residents complained but, as is usual, because there have been no deaths or serious accidents (yet) in this ginnel, NYCC stated that the signage is adequate and refused to undertake barrier work that would force cyclists to slow down and dismount. The police have been involved and some cyclists have been warned but to date no-one has been issued with a penalty ticket. That could change! The Parish Council will place some additional more obvious signs at each end of the ginnel. Unless one has taken a driving test, how would one know that a black bicycle on a white background inside a red circle means NO CYCLING?

Neighbourhood Plan

Further discussions will take place with Cllr Cathy Burrell (who chairs the Steering Group) and our consultants regarding the cost of additional work to restart our neighbourhood plan. As hopefully you are all aware, we began the process of writing a Neighbourhood Plan for our parish. This has to be a community-led document and although we had to put it on hold until HBC finalised the Local Plan we are now in a position to get going again.

During this lockdown period we're sure many of you have been out on foot exploring the local area and this may have prompted ideas for the future. With this in mind, we need more volunteers to become part of our focus groups so we can develop the village amenities and housing in a way that benefits our residents. Without community involvement there will be no plan, so please help us plan the optimum for our parish. If you would like to help, please contact cathyburrell@btinternet.com

PN20 / Allotments / Park and Stride

Our joint approach with Pannal School to HBC on this subject was passed to a case officer who suggested we submit a "pre-app" for the project. We did that when we first presented the case a couple of years ago. HBC took the money and advised us that because PN19 was required for housing and PN20 for educational purposes, our request was turned down. The pre-app and fee were taken in the full knowledge that it

would be rejected. We have responded that we have no intention of paying the same fee again but that we want our pre-app reinstated. We await a positive reply.

Community Expenditure

Like-for-like quotes have been received for outdoor gym equipment and a shortlist drawn up. We will undertake site visits to some installations by those suppliers prior to making a final decision on which one to select. A grant offered by HBC will contribute towards the purchase price. If the uptake by residents is positive, further similar installations may take place next year. Bird boxes will be installed at the appropriate time of year. Additional benches will be sited in Crimple Meadows recreation field as well as a circular bench on Pannal Green. Planters for flowers will also be purchased.

Thirkhill Drive

Bellway has added a couple of “rumble strips” within the old Dunlopillo site to reduce vehicle speeds but these will do little to protect pedestrians near the post office. Borough Cllr John Mann will liaise again with the site manager to request an additional or repositioned strip near the post office as well as a real chicane rather than the current minor obstruction outside the old office building.

Finance

The Annual Return has been signed off by the internal auditor and approved and duly signed by the chairman at Thursday’s meeting. The Exercise of Public Rights will be displayed on the main noticeboard by the village hall for a 6-week period as required by statute.

Scam

Some residents may have received a note through their letterbox advertising a “new” free neighbourhood app. It may appear to come from a local resident but the last time this happened, the resident knew nothing about it. It’s really only an avenue for advertising. Please don’t waste your time logging onto this Nextdoor site; we already have our Neighbourhood Watch and Covid-19 help groups and Parish Council Facebook, all of whom are doing a sterling job.

Ringway Footpath

Slow progress continues on repairs to the footpath by the side of Crimple Beck. Piling has finished and backfilling has been completed. One would expect it to be reopened shortly.

Newsletter

We encourage all parishioners to send their email details to our parish clerk so they receive this newsletter. Everyone was given the opportunity to receive it some time ago. We hear reports of, “I didn’t know this or that had happened or that we plan to do x or y”. If one doesn’t subscribe to the newsletter then one will continue to live in ignorance. Please encourage everyone to sign up for news of your community.

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Hall Notice Board (currently not happening due to the Coronavirus situation) 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

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