



September Newsletter 2020

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UNITARY AUTHORITY

In our last newsletter we asked parishioners for comments relating to NYCC's proposals for a single-tier authority rather than the current two-tier system. Unfortunately, the response was underwhelming to say the least but thanks to the three of you who replied with valid points. This very significant change to how councils operate in North Yorkshire will affect everyone, yet it appears to be left to your parish council to come up with questions to pose to both NYCC and HBC. We need input from our parishioners please.

At the NYCC-organised seminar on August 19th, it was very much a *fait accompli* as far as NYCC was concerned. They chose Cornwall Council as a template for what we could expect in a similar sized authority. The participants were mainly clerks and administrators. We asked the head of NYCC, Cllr Carl Les, for participation from councillors in Cornwall. He agreed to this but despite there being around 10 days' notice, no councillor from Cornwall was available. One wonders how much effort was put into this request, as I spoke to one Cornwall councillor who was not at all happy (as were several of his colleagues) with the result after they had changed from two tiers to one some ten years ago. Please let us have your comments on the proposals from NYCC and those from HBC and the other district/borough councils – the latter is available on www.get-change-right.com

From what we've seen so far, a mega NYCouncil without district and borough councils would be remote and dictatorial. HBC is certainly not without its faults but at least we can pop in to talk to them which would be virtually impossible in NYCC's proposal.

PARAMETERS PLAN

There appear to be delays in what is being called the "plattitudes plan" in some quarters. We're awaiting our opportunity to give an input as are HAPARA and the other members of the Western Arc Cooperation Group. We now have a date of 22nd September but HBC have invited developers too. This goes to show the very close relationship between HBC planners and big developers. Catering for traffic seems very low on the agenda but we're determined to present a consolidated approach before the plan gets to its final stages.

Our attempts to have a meeting with our MP, Andrew Jones and senior officers from NYCC Highways has proved difficult to fix. However, this has now been scheduled for 28th September. This is not only for the parameters planning but also for the whole congestion problem that will worsen when more houses are built and Covid-19 comes to an end. We have asked Mr Jones to put as much energy into helping obtain measures to overcome our ever-worsening congestion problem as he did when fighting the Nidd Gorge proposal.

For your interest, please find the link, below, for the HAPARA (Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association) September Newsletter which we believe you will find very informing:

https://www.hapara.org/index.php?option=com_jdownloads&task=download.send&id=85:newsletter-sept-2020&catid=2&m=0

BENCHES

It's slow progress with HBC. Some benches have received attention and some await treatment. We'll just have to be patient. Covid-19 appears to be the go-to excuse for any activity at borough or county level.

PLANTERS

These were delivered last Tuesday and should provide some attractive foliage in the darker months to come. Thanks to Pannal Village Hall for hosting one of them and to HBC/NYCC for their consent with placement of the others. Thanks to Jane for her plant selection and, indeed, for planting them up.

OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

We obviously had to ask HBC for permission to install the equipment on Crimple Meadows recreation ground but at the eleventh hour they have given their input on the choice of equipment – frankly not their job as it's the Parish Council who will be responsible for the installation and maintenance. They had a bad experience with equipment installed in 2010/11 and advised against using the company we chose, despite a change of manufacturer and long-term approval for use by prisons throughout the UK. If the kit can withstand use/misuse by people detained at Her Majesty's pleasure, then surely our parishioners will be less demanding. HBC's preferred supplier costs twice as much as its competitors, according to the quotes we received.

FOOTPATH TWIXT BURN BRIDGE AND PANNAL

Thanks to all of you who now dismount from your cycles and push them through the ginnel. It's now much safer for pedestrians, often with prams and pushchairs and those with mobility scooters. Maybe we spoke too soon as we had reports of a horse being ridden through recently. The bars at 2 metres high are clearly a barrier to horse riders and there are no bridleway signs. The rider, when questioned, stated there were no signs to prohibit horses. There aren't any signs in shop doorways either, yet horses don't enter those areas when there's a lintel at 2 metres height. To be confronted by a horse and rider in a confined space would be quite unnerving for an adult but for someone incapacitated or children, it could be terrifying; we trust the rider and any others will desist in future.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES - SIDs

They are proving very effective with noticeable vehicle slowing when the angry faces and red numerals are displayed. The green numerals and smiley faces are what we want to see and most drivers oblige. The SIDs are patently much more effective than the slow down signs (VAS) with the speed limit permanently displayed. We'll also be able to find out how many vehicles have passed in both directions AND their speeds.

For those of you in Burn Bridge asking when a sign will be fixed there, we're working on it. On the Oval side of Burn Bridge Road, there are few, if any sites that can accommodate the signs because they have to meet certain criteria. Signs have to be as close to the carriageway as possible but on private property. Hence, excessive angular deviation can lead to false readings with the detection equipment – (x cosine theta etc). Also, line of sight and detection distance on straight roads without speed bumps or bends is important. Cross-carriageway monitoring is possible but only when there is a bend in the right place – just as there is with the SID on Church Lane. That one can and will be reversed to show speeds of vehicles coming up from Pannal.

At our latest Parish Council meeting, local resident Simon Law agreed to help in SID data collection and analysis prior to presentation to NYCC Highways and we very much appreciate his offer. This is another example of parishioners assisting the councillors to help our parish to be a better place to live.



RUBBISH

The rubbish caused by fly-tipping in the corner of the field next to St Robert's Church was removed by HBC last Tuesday. There were two trailer-loads of various junk and garden waste disposed of. Signs have been placed advising against such fly-tipping, stating the offence is punishable in law. Residents have been encouraged to report any further illegal tipping activity. Now that it has been cleared, let's hope that will be the end of the matter.

MORE RUBBISH

Due to tightened regulations covering Covid-19 we have been advised to postpone our twice-yearly parish litter clean-up that was due to take place on September 19th. That doesn't, of course, preclude parishioners from lending a hand to pick up litter when out and about on our roads and paths. Please remember to wear appropriate protective gloves and thoroughly wash hands afterwards.

BIRD BOXES

Councillors made the decision to enrich the local habitat by purchasing a number of bird nest boxes which are tailored to, and suitable for, tawny owls, kestrels, finches, robins and members of the tit family. Our appreciation to both Mick Phipps and Bill Sturman for their assistance and support in enabling this to happen. It is envisaged they will be placed in the local woodland. We hope to have these "up and running" in the next few weeks to enable the local bird population to make their choices for a Spring dwelling!

PLANNING MATTERS

The land at Spring Lane Farm (designated by HBC as PN17) is the subject of an appeal on behalf of the developers. The Parish Council will vigorously fight this appeal as it contradicts the planning inspector's ruling during the Local Plan examination. Little has changed since PN17 was rejected, other than central government seeking greater freedom for developers to meet housing targets. In our area, we're way above the land-supply figure and have been so for some time, so there's no need for more housing in our area, especially in the Special Landscape Area.

We note also that developers are requesting more houses on land in the Western Arc which has already had planning permission granted. These modified applications will push the numbers way above what was approved in the Local Plan. No thought has been given to the increase in traffic from such sites. This topic is where we will concentrate our efforts.

Pannal House Farm (just opposite Vale End off Church Lane) has had fencing erected to protect passing persons from potential falling masonry. This is as a direct result of HBC turning down what the Parish Council and locals believe to be a perfectly reasonable planning application for a traditional stone-built house which would have enhanced the neighbourhood. One can only conclude that HBC prefers the property being in a dangerous run-down condition rather than become an attractive asset in keeping with the surroundings.

RESIGNATION

At our latest parish council meeting, Harvey Alexander resigned for personal reasons. With around 18 months of this session remaining, we will seek to co-opt another parish councillor. If you have any aspirations to that role, helping to improve our environment, look after and enhance current assets, and protect our parish from indiscriminate development, please inform our clerk.

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Notice Board (at the Village Hall) 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