



November 2021 Newsletter

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Dunlopillo

You may have seen articles in the press or on Facebook about this saga but we thought it prudent to relate the facts to our parishioners - rather than the mitigation claims by HBC - and that they'll learn lessons from the way they mishandled this application.

Permitted Development Rights have to be requested as any planning application would be; it's the criteria for judgement that vary from standard procedure. Such rights should not be granted automatically, unless the local authority concerned (HBC in our case) fails to make its decision within 56 days of receipt.

The former Dunlopillo office block request was received on 15th July 2021 but HBC did not advise the Parish Council or even its own Planning Committee Chairman (borough councillor John Mann) of its receipt until 27th August. That's 43 days out of the 56 allowable lost to anyone wishing to object. The final date for a decision without having the application granted automatically was 9th September.

One may ask why HBC ran a consultation period that didn't end until 29th September. This means that any objections received after 9th September would have either been rejected or ignored. HBC announced their decision in favour of the request early on the morning of 30th September but, in reality, that decision was made on 9th September by default.

Our legal advisers also found some errors in HBC's procedure that they believed would have been ruled in our favour had we decided to proceed to a Judicial Review. However, the lawyers also advised us that the cost of such a review would exceed £30,000. By law, (Section 137 of the Local Government Act) your Parish Council is currently not allowed to spend more than £16,500 (2021 electorate = 1,965 x £8.41 per elector) on such matters, so we could not afford to take any risk with public money. Had a review gone against us, we would have been liable for HBC's and probably Johnson Mowat's costs too – possibly

in excess of £100,000.

This is why planning law (The Town and Country Planning Act) is so unfair and anachronistic. It has hardly changed since its inception half way through the last century. Developers will always win eventually because they have deep pockets, whether their case is just or unjust. We have written to Andrew Jones MP, Michael Gove MP (Housing Minister) and the Prime Minister asking that planning law be reviewed with respect to Permitted Development Rights and the unfairness of our being unable to challenge a bad decision by HBC because of local government law. It's undemocratic and too biased in favour of developers. Unfortunately it's too late for us though; the eyesore will still go ahead, despite the best efforts of a hundred or so residents who objected in vain.

We hope you feel your Parish Council has done its utmost in this process but our hands were tied by legislation. Now we're trying to ensure all safety, noise, dust and traffic regulations are met when the office block is finally demolished and also that the car park can be used safely when construction starts.

Carols On the Green

As you'll be aware, we'll be holding this event on Monday 13th December firstly on Pannal Green at 6pm and then retiring to Pannal School where we will have mince pies and mulled wine plus something more suitable for youngsters. We're pleased to advise that the festive lights, brought down by the broken bough of the ash tree, have been repaired and will be switched on again on 1st December. Please be advised that dogs are welcome on Pannal Green for the carol singing but they are not allowed on Pannal School premises.

Community Speedwatch (CSW)

We were pleased to have been part of a pilot scheme where a uniformed police officer joined us during two deployments in the first week of November. He has the ability to stop offending drivers (which he did) and could prosecute if appropriate. Next year, North Yorkshire Police may run out this policy throughout all its CSW groups. The presence of a real police officer certainly had an effect on school run traffic. Those returning from school were noticeably slower than when the officer wasn't there.



Thank you to those new volunteers who have now been issued guidance from NYP Traffic Bureau and are keen to do their bit for our community. All the newcomers are anxious about speeding in their particular area, which happens to be Hill Foot Lane, Yew Tree Lane and Burn Bridge Road in their case.

Despite various pleas, there hasn't been a single offer to participate in CSW from anyone from Walton Park or the Drury Lane area. One must presume, therefore, that there isn't a speeding problem in those locations.

On one deployment, those of us who took part were shown the workings of the NYP safety camera systems by the police officer. It confirmed that there is no escape; with a detection range of a kilometre and high-resolution cameras recording every move, the answer is simple – stay within the limits or you'll be prosecuted. Recent NYP deployments have caught many more speeders and our SID on Church Lane shows that only 54% of drivers stayed within the 30MPH limit in October. It begs the question as to why some drivers - roughly 1 in 2 - choose to ignore the limit even when the police have their detection equipment in place on a regular basis.

For those interested in statistics, the top speed in October was 82MPH. That's nearly 3 times the limit! Some of those travelling at over 70 MPH did so around school pick-up times. Please be aware that all our statistics are relayed to NYP.

Crimple

The new food hall opened this weekend and we wish the venture well. However, a smaller version of the Christmas Market that was previously sited in the Montpellier area in Harrogate will now be hosted on the new Crimble site during the last weekend of this month. Worries that traffic/parking for such an event will again be a problem have been highlighted to North Yorkshire

Highways and NYP. Should there be a full programme of Pannal Sports Junior Football Club at the same time, then parking and congestion will be bedlam. If you want to attend the market (and are able to) please do consider walking there and leave the car at home.

We're convinced that with traffic from Costa, Crimple, the garden centre, the filling station and the employment site on PN18 (when it's completed) that the A61 could grind to a halt or become so congested that even more drivers will divert through Pannal and Burn Bridge. After months of waiting, there's still no sight of HBC's Parameters Plan which is supposed to address all traffic issues. Don't hold your breath!

New Unitary Authority

Parish Councils are invited to two online discussions on 1st and 3rd December by NYCC and Craven district officers on how the new authority – North Yorkshire Council – will be set up. Do you have any questions which you would like us to put forward in these briefings? If so, please forward them to Jane, our parish clerk – in plenty of time please so we can forward them to the relevant officers.

Continuity

As mentioned last month, we're conscious that our session as a Parish Council is coming to an end in May next year. In a democracy, we need people to stand for election to become parish councillors. Your current councillors have done a sterling job in promoting and protecting our community and some feel it will be an ideal opportunity next May, "having done their bit", to give others a chance. We will be giving advice on how to become a councillor over the coming months and will participate in Pannal Village Hall's Grand Opening Afternoon on Saturday, 29th January 2022. Please come and ask us questions then about what is involved; we'll do our best to respond. We are proud of our non-political Parish Council and feel party politics has no place at parish level. You may recall, those standing under a party-political banner in our first election in May 2016 were soundly defeated. What we do want are local residents who know the parish and will be willing to work together for the good of all.

There should be opportunities with the new authority for parish councils to take on more responsibility, with a commensurate budget increase and to be masters of their own destiny as far as possible. These could well prove to be exciting times and offer a great opportunity to be part of a new era.

What we cannot afford is that not enough candidates put themselves forward. That would mean our parish being subsumed into the new unitary authority and there would then be no voice for the parish electors. That would be unthinkable.

So have a chat to us and please do consider standing as a candidate.

Garden Bins

It's your last chance to fill those bins before HBC's winter break in collections. The final one will be in week commencing 15th or 22nd November depending on your collection rota.

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 and Ryan Dall