



**November 2023 Newsletter**

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We're reporting with good news and bad news again but we have to give a balanced view so we won't be too critical of other organisations.

The good news...

### **CRIMPLE MEADOWS**

Work is due to start on this long-awaited drainage together with a new footpath on Crimple Meadows recreation ground in early December. We're grateful for the intervention of one of our residents (Mr Carl Hopkins) who has proposed an up-to-date solution for an age-old problem. We are pleased that NYC have taken this on board along with no-nonsense specification requirements from our Parish Council. Let's hope the solution will provide dry passage from Crimple Meadows roadway to the play area and beyond.

### **NOTICEBOARD**

You will have been aware that Parish Council notices have been posted only in the noticeboard at the village hall of late. The unit by St Robert's church has fallen into disrepair so we couldn't post anything there. However, we have ordered a new board which will allow both Parish Council and St Robert's church notices to be displayed side by side on the site of the old one.

### **FESTIVE LIGHTS ON PANNAL GREEN**

Thanks to a contribution from Cllr John Mann's community fund, together with Parish Council funding, new branch wrapping has been undertaken for our decorative lights. Free-hanging or draped strings of lights suffer immeasurable damage due to a combination of vandalism, passing high-sided vehicles and adverse weather conditions (branches swaying in high winds). Hence more branch wrapping has been undertaken, similar to those on the Stray. This will minimise ongoing costs yet still provide a suitably festive display with probably a higher density of lights.

### **CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

We're all geared up for the next carol singing on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 6-00 pm. The Tewit Youth band will again provide the musical accompaniment and we are appreciative that Iain Ward-Campbell will again act as choirmaster. After the carols we'll repair to Pannal School where headteacher Mrs Jane Turner has again offered school facilities and where we will dispense mulled wine, mince pies and some suitable non-alcoholic beverages for our younger participants. One important point... while pets are welcome on Pannal Green, county council and school rules forbid the presence of dogs or other pets at Pannal School.

The chosen recipient of donations this year is St Robert's Church. Many of you will recall that the church came to our aid when we couldn't get access to Crimple Meadows recreation ground for the Coronation event because of the flooded access route to the field.

We look forward to an ever-increasing number of singers at this wonderful community event.

### **PANNAL GREEN**

Our thanks go to both Cllr Andrew Farrar (ably assisted by Zenyu) who, in addition to undertaking some general tidying, helped to remove detritus from the gully at the side of the green. NYC has completed some clearance of overhanging branches where visibility onto main Street was impinged by those branches

that haven't been trimmed. The overgrown saplings still present a visibility problem but we can only hope for natural die-back to assist in this matter.

Now, not so good news...

## **YLCA HARROGATE BRANCH MEETING**

The (Yorkshire Local Councils Association) Branch Meeting was held at the Harrogate council chambers where a council officer gave a well-received presentation on S106 and CIL: that means Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy grants that are received from developers in order to support what is needed within the community as a result of building houses.

The officer was at great pains to explain that current S106 grants cannot be used to solve *existing* problems. Most parish councillors present took this to mean that the congestion - due to inadequate road infrastructure caused by a failure by NYCC and HBC to take into account cumulative effects over the past decade or so - cannot be addressed by the current S106 requirements. It was abundantly clear that the parishes represented at the meeting were distinctly unhappy at the way they have been treated by NYC in many ways, especially as the newly agreed Parish Charter seems to have been ridden over rough-shod by NYC. Cooperation and working together was the by-word for the Charter but it appears to have been ignored by NYC or perhaps - more significantly - possibly by a few former HBC officers now under the jurisdiction of NYC.

The Station Gateway project, the Services on the A1M, the whole of the Western Arc's lack of road infrastructure (and suggested "mitigations") and the Otley Road Cycle path fiasco were just some of the examples highlighted where NYC has ignored comments from parish councils – because NYC and its consultants always appear to know better than those councillors with local knowledge and with the back-up of residents' opinions, whose contributions are generally invaluable.

Your Parish Council has decided to wait for the promised proposal from NYC for an overarching policy statement on infrastructure and transport in the west of Harrogate (according to Cllr John Mann who attended the meeting in question at Northallerton where the commitment was made by Cllr Keane Duncan). It is very much hoped that NYC will make address and provide this long-overdue policy statement at their soonest convenience thus diluting further consideration of submitting a formal complaint with the allegation that NYC has failed to cooperate with councils (as is their committed policy with the Parish Charter) on Western Arc matters. The supposed stakeholder meetings were not recognised as a suitable environment in which constructive criticism could be offered.

## **NEW COUNCILLOR**

We'll need another new councillor to bring our numbers up to seven again when yours truly steps down after our next Parish Council meeting. After chairing the Parish Council since May 2016, family commitments dictate that the current chairman will be moving down south shortly before Christmas. We have an exceptionally capable vice chairman in Cathy Burrell but business activities preclude her from taking over the chairmanship full-time.

Although one cannot select where councillors may live, some representation from within the Thirkill Drive and surrounding areas (more than 10% of the houses in the parish) would be very welcome – although, of course, there is no expectation that a new councillor would take on the role of chairman right away!

Back to good news...

## **PRECEPT**

We have decided that as we have a healthy balance of funds, we shall not ask NYC for an increase in our precept per household for 2024/2025. We still want to have a park and stride, allotments and some access to Pannal Sports Junior Football Club from near St Roberts church. HBC and NYC have both refused such proposals stating they must form part of any new Local Plan for the whole of North Yorkshire. That may be three or four years away but we still have to maintain back-up funds to help secure our objectives. It is also essential that we keep sufficient funds to engage planning consultants again, should NYC repeat proposals such as PN17, PN19 and gypsy/traveller sites in our parish, all of which were deemed unsuitable by the

last Local Plan inspector. The PN18 allocation is still in abeyance – not yet abandoned as most parishioners hope.

## **CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Please ensure that any contact with the Parish Council is made through the Parish Clerk and preferably by email ([parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)) – or, if urgent, via the website telephone number. Personal approaches to councillors are not acceptable. All business is transacted and decisions made at Parish Council meetings where members of the public are made very welcome. There is, of course, a tremendous amount of work going on in the background but no decisions can be made without recourse to a council meeting.

To ask for a specific subject to be considered at a meeting, one should first contact the Parish Clerk. Not all requests can be met as often subjects are not within our remit but may perhaps be the responsibility of NYC. If an item is not on the agenda, it will not be considered and no decisions taken - that is local governance law. We do of course welcome and grant the public an opportunity to make comments at our meetings but there can be no resolution made on any topic without it being a specific agenda item.

## **GARDEN WASTE**

Remember that that your final garden waste collections will soon be here. In some areas of Pannal the final collection will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December but please check on the North Yorkshire Council website with your own postcode to find out your last date. It might well be earlier!

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, [howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk)  
and Cathy Burrell, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cliff Trotter, Steve Cobb, Andrew Farrar, Neil Permain and Elatia Sharkey

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/>