



Autumn Newsletter - September 2018

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A BUSY SUMMER FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

Despite the summer holidays, a lot of work has been continuing at the parish council. We're fighting some aspects of HBC's Local Plan along with our principal partners, HAPARA (the Harlow and Pannal Ash Residents Association), North Rigton Parish Council, Beckwithshaw Parish Council and Hampsthwaite Action Group. We have commissioned a consultant's survey highlighting the cumulative effects that all the house-building proposals in the western arc around Harrogate would have on traffic. Experts tell us HBC's analysis has serious flaws and omissions. HBC has stated that organisations and individuals who indicated a willingness to speak at the forthcoming enquiry by the government's inspector should have a chance to do so, **if the inspector deems it necessary**. If your parish council isn't one of those, then democracy and common sense isn't working.

CRIME IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD – PLEASE BE VIGILANT

It appears that after a number of attempted break-ins recently, especially on Crimple Meadows, we've been advised that the police would be keen to receive details of any suspicious activity around properties on 999 rather than 101. This would enable deployment of officers to catch criminals in the act.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Members of the parish council and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group were present at Pannal gala to explain the whys and wherefores of our plan. Once all reports with their suggestions are received from the focus groups by the end of the month, we'll run them past our planning consultant before launching a questionnaire to test the opinion of the whole parish. Many other activities run concurrently but the questionnaire will be the key opportunity to have your say on all the ideas put forward. The composition of the steering group has changed. Jackie Wootton has resigned and we welcome Ethne Bartup and Geoff Catley on board. We express our grateful thanks to Jackie for her hard work, numerous contributions to the group and continued support of the focus groups.

A NEW ERA FOR PANNAL VILLAGE HALL

At Thursday's parish council meeting, it was resolved unanimously, subject to a legal check and agreement from HMRC that the parish council take over the sole managing trusteeship of Pannal Village Hall. This arrangement is commonplace throughout England. The current trustees are all "of a certain age" and could not envisage continuing in their role of passive landlord for much longer. This change will bring enormous benefit to our community. The parish council will have a permanent home, free of charges for hire for meetings. Because our parish council is exempt from VAT, the next stage (phase 3) of improvement works at PVH would be VAT-free meaning substantial sums available for reinvestment into more facilities for the hall. Therefore it will be a win-win for everyone, with the community being the main beneficiary.

The village hall will continue to be run by the existing management committee with the parish council acting as a "sleeping landlord". There will be no financial burden on the parish council or council tax payers - just cost savings.

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Councillor Ryan Dall presented an investigation into the effectiveness of our communications with parishioners. The findings were very revealing. There was an enormous peak of activity on our website around March when local plan consultations were ongoing. Other than that, the usage is steady but not at a high level. Some people complain they don't know what is going on in the parish yet don't consult the website where everything is detailed. Facebook plays an important role in that what originates from the parish council is certified legitimate – no fake news from us. What opinions may be expressed by others thereafter is another matter as that is beyond our control.

We will be revamping our PC website and launching a new one dedicated to the neighbourhood plan.

LIGHTING UP PANNAL GREEN

The parish council resolved to implement a contract for additional decorative lights and maintenance of existing lights on Pannal Green, thanks in part to a grant organised via our local county councillor, Cliff Trotter. Vandalism of the lights has continued to be a problem with mindless youngsters (we have proof of their age range) failing to recognise that such destruction has to be paid for. We are sure the setting will be even better than last year, not only for Carols on the Green but also for the ambience in the village during the festive season.

LET'S CLEAN UP THE VILLAGE

Some irresponsible dog walkers still don't pick up dog faeces despite numerous attempts to advise them that their actions are illegal. Hence, we're having another dog and detritus day on Saturday, September 22 starting at 8am at the entrance to Crimble Meadows recreation ground. We need help with litter and dog poo collections throughout the parish, so please turn up to lend a hand. Bin bags and dog bags will be provided.

Finally, we have had numerous enquiries as to what the council is doing about the appalling state of the duck pond at the end of Mill Lane. Both HBC and NYCC's stock answers to most problems are usually similar to - nobody had been killed, nobody has become ill, there is no apparent danger, so no action is required. However, in this case, the pond is privately owned by the Mill Dam Association (a group of about 5 residents), so the responsibility rests with them, not with any public body. However, we are trying to find ways of ameliorating the situation through various avenues.

If there's one message we want to get through, it's: use the website, read the noticeboards, see what we're saying on social media, tell friends and neighbours to read newsletters and sign up to receive them electronically. Communicate back to us so we can react to situations. Please also make sure you give us the authority to maintain your email addresses in line with GDPR requirements. To find out how, look at the website contact page or **"Update your preferences" then please check the information and then tick the email box in the "Marketing Permissions" section below. Click "Update Profile" and that's it!**

At any time, you can easily unsubscribe using the unsubscribe link at the end of this mail. And you can sign up again at any time by using the "Contact Us" page of the website - here: <http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/ContactUs.aspx>

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on both of our 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, you can join our Facebook group where you'll get any breaking news more quickly than through the 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.