



£1 Off — Film Voucher inside.

LoPRA's OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER Issue 7 January 2007

Welcome to our end of year bumper issue to all villagers. Our year has once more been extremely busy and, as you will see from the plethora of information in this issue, committee and LoPRA members have undertaken a tremendous amount of hard work and research over the last few months.

Most of you will have already read our Chairman's report given at the AGM in the November issue of the Parish Magazine. However, I would like to reiterate how valuable LoPRA is to the community in keeping Long Preston on

the Politician's map, making sure it stays there and in doing what we can to help maintain a vibrant and healthy community within a beautiful part of the Dales' countryside. Most importantly LoPRA are here to serve the residents of Long Preston by working with the Parish Council and other elected bodies to protect and enhance our community's needs and that of the surrounding environment.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Prosperous New Year. The Editor

The NEXT LoPRA Public Meeting will be held on

Thursday 1st February at 7.30 pm, in Long Preston Village Hall

Topics for discussion will include: The A65—What now? Affordable Housing and the Pennine Bridleway.

The A65 Predicament

You may well have heard the result of February's Public Inquiry, that the Highways Agency (HA) are being allowed to revoke the current bypass line not only for the Hellifield and Long Preston Bypass but also for Gargrave. The main reason for this was that the Government does not intend to build the bypasses and therefore states that there is no need to retain the lines.

What next? It is highly likely that the HA will want to detrunk the A65. This would be on the grounds that the road is not (no longer) a core trunk road. The significance of this step will be that, if successful, the HA will then pass the road over to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) to administer.

If a statutory objector, eg Long Preston Parish Council, or enough other objectors object to the detrunking, it is likely there would be a second Public Inquiry to determine if the A65 should be detrunked or not. Is a second Public Inquiry a good thing or a waste of public money and our time?

The basic argument at any second Public Inquiry

would be that, whatever the designation that the Government might want to put on the A65, realistically the A65 does carry a lot of regional and some national traffic. This would qualify it as a core trunk road and therefore correctly within the HA's remit and responsibility. All this would have to be proved to the Inspector at the second Public Inquiry.

It is also certainly the case that the road is not of strategic (economic) interest to NYCC in that it links Lancashire to West Yorkshire and beyond. For the NYCC the A65 has only local usage.

That said, bearing in mind the finances of NYCC and other very justifiable calls upon them for bypasses and road improvement schemes within their area, I feel it unlikely that NYCC would consider building a bypass here. That is not to say they won't do it, just, I feel, unlikely.

If the HA have to retain control of the A65 following any second Public Inquiry, ie if it is not detrunked, we will be in a limbo position. The HA will still not, on Government criteria, regard the A65 as a core trunk road.

Cont. on Page 2

As such I consider it unlikely that they would consider spending on a bypass to be justifiable. However they would be 'stuck' with a road they don't want and that is when deals may be done.

So where do we go from here? The village needs a debate as to whether we want another Public Inquiry. If we do, then many more villagers need to take an active part than has happened so far. Otherwise I suspect it will be another lost cause.

If we don't want another Public Inquiry, very little will be done to the road, beyond the (albeit

very slow) improvement currently taking place. NYCC cannot do anything until they get / are given control. We would have to wait until then to approach NYCC to see where they stand and what can be done.

I suggest LoPRA members canvass friends and neighbours to see what people actually want to do and what they are prepared to do (eg long term monitoring of HGVs to try and see where they come from). We can then take stock and discuss it all with Long Preston Parish Council.

Ian Evans

Is the Long Preston bypass really dead and buried???

As already mentioned in the article 'The A65 Predicament' a letter was sent to those who attended and gave evidence at the A65 Public Enquiry by the Secretary of State for the Environment announcing that it is not his intention to build the 'Gargrave' and 'Hellifield and Long Preston' bypasses and, consequently, to revoke the orders made to enable them to be built.



As the highway authority the Highways Agency has responsibility for the A65 trunk road and it is the Secretary of State for Transport's statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980, to keep under review the trunk road network and to extend, improve and reorganise it as he considers necessary.

He has announced his intention to introduce a core network of nationally important routes. It was decided that all remaining trunk roads that fell outside this core, which mainly served local and regional traffic, should be "detrunked". The Secretary of State for Transport confirms that it remains Government policy to establish and maintain a core network of nationally important routes, and that there are no plans to review or change this policy in the foreseeable future.

The A65 is one of these routes. Whitehall considered it more appropriate for these routes to be managed by the local highway authority to enable decisions to be taken locally and to be better integrated with local transport and land use planning.

Now that the issue of the revocation orders is decided and the final orders will soon be published the Secretary of State will be able to proceed with the detrunking process and back heel the A65 to North Yorkshire County Council as the highway authority responsible for all A65 matters, including extending, improving and reorganising it as it considers necessary.

The Secretary of State says that the decision has been made to revoke the orders since there is no

realistic prospect that the bypasses will now, or in the foreseeable future be built under current policies. The reasons given for concluding that the bypasses will not be built in the foreseeable future are:

- The Secretaries of State consider it would be misleading to make any judgement on the benefits the schemes would bring to these villages today as the detailed work which assessed the schemes were made in the early 1990s and would have used standards and methodologies of the time, which are now out of date.
- The Government's strategic trunk road involved assessing schemes using the New Approach to Appraisal (NATA) in which accessibility, safety, economy, the environment and integration were all considered in a more rigorous manner than previously. As a result, the benefits of the two A65 bypass schemes were no longer considered to outweigh their financial and environmental costs.
- North Yorkshire County Council commissioned consultants to carry out a review of the possible options for improving the A65. This concluded that it appeared that the original A65 schemes were no longer appropriate for the route, and recommended a further study to investigate the feasibility of shorter bypass options together with a package of complementary measures. A further study concluded that it remained unclear in overall terms as to which were the most appropriate and deliverable options for the A65.
- A new Compulsory Purchase Order would be needed as the original ones have lapsed. This could be open to challenge as it would be predicated on a scheme based on out-dated appraisals and a lack of environmental assessments to today's standards. It would therefore not be prudent to implement the bypass schemes featured in the made Orders without first undertaking a comprehensive reassessment of both schemes to today's ap-

praisal standards and methodology, which could possibly result in different solutions requiring new Orders. And finally, the Secretaries of State take the view that the made Orders could only be used by the Secretary of State for Transport and would be of no use to the local highway authority should they seek to promote the bypasses themselves; the current Orders are not transferable and new Orders would be needed.

The Whitehall letter goes on to say that a solution to providing relief from the impacts of traffic on the communities in the A65 corridor lies with the local highway authority, North Yorkshire County Council, as part of their local transport plan.

We need to remember that the Highways Agency, under the direction of the Minister of State for Transport, will be passing responsibility for keeping the A65 and the need to improve and reorganise it under review as considered necessary.

We also need to consider the life of the current government and a possible change of government. North Yorkshire County Council is presently made up of 42 Conservative members, 3 Independents, and 27 others. Policies can change very quickly and "the foreseeable future" is never far away in politics.

The Long Preston bypass may also not be too far away and still worth fighting for. Do you know your local County Councillor?

St Mary's Churchyard

Whether spring, summer, autumn or winter this churchyard is a wonderful corner of tranquillity to walk into and look around. It has been so for many hundreds of years and, with some hard work, it is a place that we can still be proud of. Nobody wants to end up there but, when we do, at least we can think how pleasant it is for those who come by to visit.

However, as time goes by some of the grave-stones get wobbly and we need to ensure that people are not hurt by one of the stones falling down. Looking around recently it has been noted that five graves need to have their standing stones laid flat so that we can safely enjoy the beauty of the place, with all its peace and calm.

If anyone knows relatives of those whose graves have loose headstones it would be very helpful if

they could get in touch with Rachel at The Vicarage [tel: 01729 840513] to let her know that they are willing to allow for the headstone to be laid down. The names on the headstones are: Samuel Thompson Clough 1866; Joseph Frankland 1906; William Dawson 1909; Thomas Kayley 1871; Alice Read 1909; John Parsons 1958. If we can keep all the graves safe so there is no danger of them falling down and hurting little children then we will have helped to improve this lovely place.

And it is not only people that like our churchyard. Field mice have been seen running around and a pheasant has been spotted in at the back of the churchyard. Add to that all the other birds, insects and animals and one can see that it is also a wonderful haven for wildlife.

CPRE News

Sadly the CPRE committee (Craven Branch) recently lost one of their main players, Gwynne Walters. Gwynne came to Skipton as a result of a day trip to the town with her husband, Ken. They sat in the café above Whitaker's chocolate shop, looked out of the window and said 'What a lovely town, let's see if we can get jobs and come to live here'.

Those in Skipton and Craven are fortunate that the Walters' idea bore fruit and we are privileged to have had such a committed and dedicated person working in our area to preserve and enhance the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales. Gwynne was involved in CPRE for more than 20 years, but that was only part of her work. She was both a Craven District and Town Councillor and her true passion was for planning issues.

Everyone who takes the Craven Herald will have seen her letter in the paper on the day after she died in regard to the very sensitive issue of the

proposed development by CDC on the outskirts of Skipton. It is good to see that her legacy is that interest has now focussed on this and there is no doubt that the matter has been brought into more prominence because people are now feeling 'we must do this for Gwynne'. She will be sadly missed, but the work she did and the contribution she made to Craven will be everlasting.

CPRE's present campaigns to save rural England from ever encroaching developments and to protect, enhance and reclaim tranquillity seem ever more important and were all issues close to Gwynne's heart.

To find out more about CPRE and their recently published tranquillity map for England please check out their website at www.cpre.org.uk and for those who would like to become involved in supporting the Craven Branch of the CPRE please contact Heather Thomas-Smith for more details.

TRAMPS at Long Preston

As a bit of light relief from our normal activities LoPRA arranged with TRAMPS - The Ribblesdale Area Moving Picture Show – for a showing of the film "Poseidon" on Saturday 18th November.

This drama packed action thriller followed the adventures of a group of passengers climbing up to the bottom of a luxury cruise ship capsized by a freak tsunami - surviving lakes of fire, thunderous inrushes of water, crossing bottomless lift shafts and finally emerging through propeller shafts just as the liner finally sank.

The film certainly packed in a lot of action, with spectacular special effects, which had the audience of 46 rooted to their seats. The special effects were particularly enhanced by the excellent equipment provided by TRAMPS – the screen virtually filled the entire front wall of the hall, and really "put you in the action".

We did have bit of a "cliff-hanger" ourselves – part way through the afternoon we discovered

that part of the village, which contains the village hall, had a power cut!!! Power was restored just in the nick of time for the equipment and hall to be readied for the arrival of the audience. Many thanks to all the LoPRA members and committee who helped setup the equipment and pack it all away again at the end – and of course to our projectionist from TRAMPS.

Despite the cost of putting on such a venture - £90 for a public showing licence fee, and the very reasonable equipment hire fee of £45 to TRAMPS, and the even more reasonable Village Hall fee of £12 – we did manage to make a small profit of £27, which has been donated to the Village Hall Fund.

We hope that more people will be able to attend our next planned showing in January – this time the much acclaimed wildlife film

"The March of the Penguins.

Please note the earlier start time for this film.

THE MARCH OF THE PENGUINS Cert U

Director: Luc Jacuet 2005

**on Saturday the 20th January
at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

**Admission Prices: Adult £4
Children £2**

***Children and teenagers resident in the
Parish of Long Preston are eligible for a discount -
see voucher below.***

This is a documentary of the truly remarkable journey, which takes place each year as Emperor penguins cross the ice deserts of Antarctica, to reach their breeding grounds.

The females remain long enough only to lay a single egg. Once this is accomplished, exhausted by weeks without nourishment, they begin their return journey across the ice field to the fish-filled seas. The journey is hazardous, and rapacious leopard seals a predatory threat.

The male emperors are left behind to guard and hatch the precious eggs, which they cradle at all times on top of their feet. Subjected to subzero temperatures and the terrible trials of the polar winter, they too face great dangers.

Again the large screen and excellent sound will "put you in the action" – though I think we will omit the indoor snow and wind machine! Again there will be a short interval with tea, coffee and biscuits to sustain you for the second half.

£1 OFF Young Person's Voucher

for the film "The March of the Penguins"

Thanks to the generosity of several residents of the village, who arranged a fund raising event last year, we are able to offer reduced price tickets to young people from the village. If your family would like to take up this offer then please fill in the details below and bring this voucher with you to the film.

Head of Household:

Address:

I wish to claim discount for:

Name:

Age:

Name:

Age:

Name:

Age:

Name:

Age:

Please note :

This may only be used for children and teenagers resident in the Parish of Long Preston.

Affordable Housing

I. Affordable Housing: Supplementary Planning Document

Background

Craven District Council (CDC) has recently published a consultation document on how to achieve more affordable housing within general housing developments. All comments on this document had to be received by CDC by 22 December 2006.

The proposals relate to sites for housing development within Craven outside the National Park (YDNP) and cover the period 2005 – 2010. The proposals are relevant to Long Preston, because, although most of Long Preston village lies within the YDNP, there is Ribblesdale Estate, the surrounding fields and we are also in the ward of Hellifield and Long Preston. The Housing Needs Survey (HNS) that was undertaken in 2005 indicated a need for 8 affordable homes to be built in the ward each year for 5 years.

At present the requirement for developers to provide affordable homes on new developments relates only to sites of more than 25 units and in specific service centres. The new proposals, if approved, will require affordable homes to be provided on all sites of more than 15 houses throughout the whole of Craven outside the YDNP. Smaller developments will also need to provide affordable houses if there are no larger developments in the area.

There will be a need for developers to ensure that at least 40% of dwellings are affordable.

There are 3 types of affordable homes:

- Social Rented. These will make up 70% of the affordable homes.
- Discounted for Sale
- Low Cost Home Ownership.

Discounted for Sale properties are built by the developer and sold at a discount directly to private individuals who qualify for a discount (in the H & LP ward the indicative discount from the open market value of 58%). Low Cost Home Ownership is shared equity. Together, these 2 make up the remaining 30%.

Issues

1. The consultation document shows there is a need for 238 affordable new homes to be built each year in Craven (based on the HNS). It also gives the impression that its new planning proposals will make a major contribution to the affordable housing problem. However, at present only 153 new homes of all types are completed annually in Craven. This is expected to increase to 250 annually. There-

fore, at its most optimistic, CDC has to recognise that only 100 (40% of 250) affordable homes could be provided per year in general housing development, compared with the 238 identified. This is assuming all the 250 planned houses will be built and will be in developments of more than 15 houses or will be on smaller sites with scope for some affordable houses.

2. There is clearly a need to look for other ways of meeting the shortfall of at least 138 affordable homes per year. Reference is made in the Craven Herald, dated 24 November, to the fact that when Craven Housing took over the Council's housing stock 3 years ago, it promised to provide 20 affordable homes per year. So far it has provided 3. That's 57 affordable homes lost already to people in need. There is also a model being developed for affordable housing in the commercial sector using existing open market value houses. A separate paper '**Affordable Housing: Proposed Commercial Shared Equity Model**' discusses this model further.
3. There is no reference about the availability of funding in the consultation document, although there is reference in the Craven Herald, dated 24 November of between £28.5 and £32 million being designated to North Yorkshire for social housing between 2006 and 2008.
4. There is no reference in the consultation document as to whether the social rented housing is to be retained in public ownership or whether it would be subject to the Right to Buy legislation. It must be retained otherwise there will be a constant need to replenish it with more sites for development.
5. There is an existing means for affordable housing to be provided (on sites of more than 25 dwellings). In the past, CDC have allowed developers to buy out their obligation to provide affordable homes in certain cases. For example, 14 affordable homes should have been built on the former auction mart site in Hellifield. Instead, the developer paid £350,000 to CDC to provide affordable homes elsewhere in Hellifield. None have yet been built and, worse still, if the money is not spent within 6 years (by 2009) the full sum will be returned to the developer. Meanwhile 14 families have been denied the opportunity of a home. CDC now recognises that this is the wrong approach and states in its consultation that only in exceptional circumstances would this be allowed to happen again. The argu-

ments against allowing developers to buy out in Para 49 of the consultation document appear weak and should be strengthened making it absolutely clear that this is only as a last resort.

6. Purchasers of Discounted for Sale properties, when they come to dispose of the house, must offer it at the original rate of discount to other purchasers who also satisfy the occupancy criteria. There needs to be control over the value of the property to avoid the potential to inflate the value. Whilst reference is made to the Council being involved in the valuation, clarification is needed as to which officer would be responsible for the valuation process or whether the work would be contracted out to the District Valuer.

Suggested comments to CDC

1. The consultation document should be more realistic and explicit in the case it is making for the need for affordable housing on new developments. It is clear that this approach can only make a maximum annual contribution of 41% to the identified need of 238 houses.

2. Affordable Housing: Proposed Commercial Shared Equity Model

The Parish Council and LoPRA believe that affordable housing on a shared equity basis can also be provided by the commercial sector. This would allow potential homeowners to own a certain percentage of the property whilst a lender, such as a Building Society, owns the remainder.

Shared equity affordable housing could be provided, not through new build, but through intervention in the existing housing stock. There are several advantages such as (a) **flexibility**, as people would be able to choose the house that best serves their needs in the locations that suit best, and (b) **availability**. There would be no time lag in provision, which would happen if new build affordable housing were to be provided. New build is dependent on finding suitable land and obtaining planning permission. The problem of voids and/or no properties available at the right time would not arise.

The Parish Council and LoPRA are considering a number of practical issues associated with the commercial shared equity idea:

Eligibility

Who would be eligible to participate in the scheme? We think it should be first-time buyers (FTB) and key workers, for example those in local trades, businesses, agriculture and education

Other means of meeting the shortfall should be pursued vigorously. It seems only fair that if CDC is expecting private developers to make a contribution they should also require their public sector partners to honour their commitments to the provision of affordable homes i.e. Craven Housing. Another way of achieving affordable homes quickly through shared equity in the commercial sector is set out in '**Affordable Housing: Proposed Commercial Shared Equity Model**'.

1. To give developers and the interested public confidence in the proposals it would be helpful if indicative levels of funding for the proposed social housing were included in the consultation. One hundred houses even at £70,000 each would require public funding for Craven of £700,000 per year.
2. The consultation document needs to make clear whether the planned new social rented housing to be provided will be kept in public ownership, thereby maintaining an increasing stock of affordable homes.
3. The arguments against the buy-out of affordable homes by developers need to be strengthened.

(subject to income levels).

Percentage of ownership and size of loan

The property would be purchased with a mixture of a loan and a mortgage from a Building Society (BS). For the model to work the BS would need to forego interest on the loan (except for a nominal amount of, say, 2% to cover admin costs) knowing that it would benefit from the increased capital value of its share of the property.

What percentage of ownership is appropriate and should there be a maximum house price? Should a deposit be required?

We think there should be a minimum mortgage of 51%, a maximum property value of £150,000 (linked into the Halifax Price Index) and a deposit of 5%.

Length of Scheme and Staircasing

We think the period of the scheme should be limited to say 15 years to avoid purchasers taking undue advantage of the subsidised loan. We also think staircasing should be compulsory to encourage long-term investment by the purchaser, to prepare the FTB for what will happen when the 15 years is up (ie they move into a normal mortgage with no loan) and to return loan money to the pot to help newcomers. Staircasing is the means whereby the homeowner

buys a larger share of the property as they can afford it. We think the reviews be undertaken at 5 and 10 years.

Flexibility

To encourage potential homeowners to be responsible and realistic we think interest should not be deferred and the loan repayment should be interest capital and interest.

If the scheme did run for a 15-year period, we think the borrower should not be able to move to a bigger property whilst remaining in the scheme for the residual period of the 15 years.

Protection

Some insurance will be necessary for the pur-

chaser and the lender. We think this should be Life, Sickness, Unemployment and Buildings. If it is undertaken with the BS it should be at preferential rates. We also think if the homeowner gets into financial difficulties it is essential they enter into early discussions with the lender.

Penalties

We think there should no be penalties for early redemption.

Home Improvements

Given the need to ensure homes are as energy efficient as possible we think incentives should be offered to new homeowners to make their property as efficient as possible.

You know you are living in 2007 when:

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of four.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You go home after a long day at work and still answer the phone in a business manner.
7. You make phone calls from home and accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.
8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
10. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
11. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
12. You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
13. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
14. Leaving the house without your mobile phone, which you didn't have for the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
15. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
16. You start tilting your head sideways to smile.
17. You're reading this and nodding and laughing
18. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
19. You are too busy to notice there was no number 9 on this list.
20. You actually looked to check that there wasn't a number 9 on this list.

Courtesy of a friendly email

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

An Anagram Tour of Ribblesdale in two good walks

Go by "**lace bank**" - a pretty name, be careful where you tread!

"**Gig slew Wroth**" - an ancient tale? No, but "**Whew, a girt slog**" for some!

Did you see the "**big red cow**"?

As far again and a bit more and you'll meet "**Mr Lethal**".

If "**Kings got elicit swag**" doesn't make sense, wait for a train home.

If it does, go by "**let's peter up**" and the old Settle primary school, under "**shoal gulf lair**" and back down off the moor.

Another day, go this way, "**use when alone**", to see "**if he'll idle**" and "**idle elf pee hill**".

Then over the back over the railway and on to "**better rock bun**", which will not mingle with the Ribble - and no refreshments here.

Return home by "**Lea Burn Glen**" in time for tea.

Answers on page: 9

River Ribble Catchment Area Plan

The Environment Agency (EA) has been tasked by the Government to produce a comprehensive plan for all river systems in the UK. They have chosen the River Ribble as a pilot. This covers the area from Ribbleshead to the Irish Sea with all its tributaries.

The plan is to ensure a strategic approach covering, protecting and improving the river, its economic and social uses, and so on. Because I expressed an interest in this at a very early stage, I received a consultation document inviting me to put forward my views to the EA on the preparation of an integrated plan for the Ribble. In turn, I consulted with Long Preston Parish Council (LPPC) and the LoPRA committee on the views that should be put forward.

There was no realistic time to be able to canvas

views beyond this. One of the major responses was the need for more people and organisations to be involved.

The EA will be considering all the comments they have now received and will be taking them into account in order to produce its Plan. They hope this will be in March 2007.

Until this Plan is received there is little to do at present. However, bearing in mind that water is essential to life and the Ribble is integral to our lives, is it a good idea to think how schoolchildren through Long Preston School may start to become involved in protecting their (water) environment. After all much of the Plan, like the planting of trees, will be for the future generations.

Ian Evens

Chatterbox

A Peeved Postscript to the Dog Poosters.....

Having been extremely impressed by the brilliant posters that have enriched and informed our village I have been aware that many dog owners have taken the advice to heart – that dog poo needs to be picked up and bagged up to avoid disease and distress. However, several people, probably more than several, have noticed the increasing numbers of brightly coloured bags adorning our verges, walls and hedges - not a particularly welcome addition to our wonderful countryside views! Surely the effort to collect up the mess can be extended to carrying the bag home or to the nearest suitable bin? **PLEASE!**

The Pennine Bridleway through Long Preston

LOPRA have been investigating the progress of the Pennine Bridleway route and its likely effects on the village. Long Preston is a key location on the national Pennine Bridleway route and also the point at which the trail enters the Yorkshire Dales National Park from the south. This trail is for horses, mountain bikes and walkers and when fully opened will run the length of the Pennine Hills from Derbyshire to Northumberland. Much of the trail is now in use, either formally opened or informally used; one of the sections to be completed soon is that which runs through Long Preston from the Wigglesworth Road to Settle. As many will know a major issue is the crossing of the A65 in the village. A recent addition to the National Trail has been the 'Settle Loop' which runs from Settle via Stockdale Lane, to the west of Malham Cove, round the back of Langcliffe Scar and down above Langcliffe to Settle – a 10 mile route that has proved very popular in the year that it has been open.

There are several aspects of the Bridleway that are likely to have an effect, and therefore be of interest to residents including:

- The proposed crossing of the A65;
- The improvements to existing paths/routes to accommodate the trail;
- The need for and the route of new links between existing tracks and paths;
- The opportunities for business in association with the trail.

The A65 crossing is not yet agreed and proposals are currently undergoing a 'Road Safety Audit', to be vetted by both North Yorkshire County Council and the Highways Agency. This means that the plans are being assessed by independent engineers for safety issues and will either be agreed, refused or amended, probably before Christmas. Once agreed any proposals will then be discussed with the Parish Council and the vil-

lage – there will be public consultation, which the National Park hope to carry out in the coming year.

The proposed crossing is for pedestrians and horses, near to Moorfields bungalows at West End and involves traffic lights and traffic warning on approach from both directions. Apart from benefiting horse riders a 'plus' point for the crossing would be safer access to and from the bus stops on either side of the road! The most likely date for the crossing to go ahead is during 2008.

Improvements are planned for the track between Moor Lane and Edge Lane, on up Edge Lane and along Mitchell Lane running down towards Settle. These are to be carried out by March/April 2007 and involve 'minor works' such as pothole filling and drainage improvements. In particular, drainage will be improved along the upper part of Moor Lane where, at the moment, runoff is causing a lot of erosion to the footpath. The Bridleways Officer, Gareth Evans, is concerned to get a balance between improving the path and not making it attractive to motor or quad bikes, so the works will concentrate on getting the water off the path and into the highway drains. Residents and dog-walkers of West End will hopefully benefit from the results, no longer needing to swim against the tide of the stream pouring off the hillside or defend their properties with sandbags!

A new link is also needed between the Wigglesworth road and the A65/Moor Lane crossing to join up the long distance route and allow trail users to travel in both directions from Long Preston. Negotiations for this link are about to start regardless of the timescale for the crossing.

The most obvious business opportunities for Long Preston as a result of the Pennine Bridleway are the provision of accommodation for people, horses and bicycles, as well as providing food and

drink at the pubs, hotel and village shop. There is already now a particular shortage of accommodation for horses and bikes (with or without their owners) within reasonable distance of the Settle Loop, and whilst the later opening of the trail through Long Preston might not bring a flood of visitors, there is likely to be a steady and growing interest in the route if this part of the trail follows patterns elsewhere.

To offer accommodation there is a system of registering your facilities with the newly formed Natural England which can provide free advertising on its website and in booklets. Accommodation can be anything from camping to bed and breakfast or self-catering for the humans, secure grazing and/or stabling for horses and secure bike housing and washing facilities for mountain bikes.

On some other parts of the route individuals have got together to co-ordinate a service to trail users of booking a series of overnight stays, luggage transfer between overnights, packed lunches and ferrying walkers/cyclists from one part of the route back to their cars – a sort of mini-package for an additional charge. There is also a need for secure horsebox/trailer parking for riders.

LoPRA have examples of the accommodation registration forms and details about the existing routes and facilities if you want to find out more.

For a fuller picture you can visit the website www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway .

The National Park bridleway officers are also extremely helpful. Contact details are: Gareth Evans or Cathy Bradley on 0870 1666 333 or pennine.bridleway@yorkshiredales.org.uk .

You are also welcome to speak to Jackie Hunt, who has done the research for this article, on 840460 or redcarfarm@aol.com .

LoPRA Membership and items for the next Open Meeting

May we remind any members who have not renewed their membership recently, that their membership of LoPRA ran out at the end of September.

New members are, of course, also very welcome.

Please feel free to contact a committee member if you have issues or concerns which you think we can help with, or if you require further information on work we are undertaking at present.

Also please contact a committee member if there are any matters you wish raised at the forthcoming public meeting.

Langber Lane
Otterburn Beck
Hellifield Peel
Hellifield
New House Lane
Sugar Loaf Hill
Upper Settle
Giggleswick Station
Rathmell
Cow Bridge
Wigglesworth
Back Lane
Anagram Answer



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I / we wish to become a member of the Long Preston Residents Association

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other title First name / initials

Surname

Second name at address below (if appropriate)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other title First name / initials

Surname

House No/Name Street

.....

..... Postcode

Tel

Emails (if available)

I/we enclose annual membership fee (please tick relevant box)

Standard (per person) **£5.00** Pensioner/Student/Unwaged (per person **£1.00**)

Plus optional donation for reserve fighting fund £.....

Total amount £

Methods of payment (please tick relevant box):

At any LoPRA public meeting by cash (or cheque payable to LoPRA)

OR By sending my completed form and payment to:

Dr Andrew Walkden, LoPRA, St Oggs, Church Street, Long Preston BD23 4NU

OR By handing in at the Post Office in an envelope marked "LoPRA"
Annual membership is valid from 1 October to 30 September

THE LONG PRESTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ABOVE PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE HELD SECURELY AND NOT DISCLOSED TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT YOUR PRIOR CONSENT.



Your New Committee

We were extremely sorry to see the retirement from the LoPRA committee of two outstanding members, John Rodgers and John Finnigan, both of whom worked extremely hard on A65 and planning issues. Although John Finnigan

has now left Long Preston John Rodgers is still very much around and we hope to gain his help on the A65 committee from time to time in the future. The rest of the committee were reappointed at the AGM.

We are also delighted to welcome aboard two new committee members, Jackie Hunt and Elizabeth Gray and hope that they will enjoy serving on the committee however onerous some of the tasks may seem!

The Officers and Committee of Long Preston Residents Association

Patron: Susan Brookes

email addresses:

Chairperson: Keith Grimshaw 01729 840283
Vice-chairperson: John Mathew 01729 840604
Treasurer: Andrew Walkden 01729 840074
Secretary: Heather Thomas-Smith 01729 840113

keith@lopra.org.uk
johnM@lopra.org.uk
andrew@lopra.org.uk
heather@lopra.org.uk

Committee members:

Robert Cater bob@lopra.org.uk
Gavin Dewar gavin@lopra.org.uk
Elizabeth Gray elizabeth@lopra.org.uk

Jackie Hunt jackie@lopra.org.uk
Gillian Jones gillian@lopra.org.uk
Keith McBride representing the Parish Council

General correspondence address:

LoPRA, Croft Close House, School Lane, Long Preston, BD23 4PN

Editorial address for newsletter: as above

Membership enquiries: LoPRA, St Oggs, Church Street, Long Preston, BD23 4NJ

LoPRA website: www.lopra.org.uk