

Brixton Parish Council - Annual Report for 2014-15

2014 – 2015 has been a challenging year for Brixton Parish Council.

Planning Applications

- Steer Point Quarry – the Parish Council objected to the application by Aardvark to Devon County Council to restore Steer Point Quarry with inert waste. Steer Point Quarry Parish Working Group was set up. An environmental and planning consultant was appointed with the agreement of parishioners to use some of the Sherford Reserve Funds to challenge the application. This challenge stopped the initial application. Aardvark submitted a varied proposal. David Croot presented the objection at the Development Management Committee at County Hall in September. By the Chairman's vote the application was approved. The Parish Council applied for a Judicial Review. This was refused by Her Majesty Courts & Tribunal Service. A formal complaint was made to Devon County Council on procedural matters, following considerable correspondence with the County Solicitor it was decided not to proceed further. The highly committed working group met at least 21 times during the year. Thank you to David Croot, Michael Wills, Alan Powell, Bryn Davis, Derek Curtis, Jon Capel, Martyn Oates, Alistair Macpherson and to Councillor Richard Hosking for making representations to Devon County Council.
- Solar Farm Balls Wood – the Parish Council recommended objection to this application.
- Sherford – the Parish Council was consulted on reserved matters relating to application by the Consortium of the three developers for Phase 1 of Sherford.
- Stage 2 Canes Orchard - based on the constructive working relationship with the District Council and the developer in Stage 1 the Parish Council has asked to be included in all planning discussions for Stage 2. During Stage 1 the Parish Council raised issues of mud on the road, traffic controls and variations to planning conditions in response to local residents concerns.
- The Parish Council made recommendations on 30 other applications most involving a site visit of at least 3 councillors. Thank you to Councillors Ian Martin and Debbie Jessop for coordinating the Council's responses.

Neighbourhood Plan - a Neighbourhood Plan Group chaired by David Croot has been set up. The designated neighbourhood covers the Parish but does not include the Sherford Town area. It is now subject to the 6 week statutory consultation.

Traffic Management Group - this group met quarterly with Nick Colton, the local Highways Manager and Andy Potter PCSO to address issues of road safety and environmental matters; including locating cheese blocks by the crossing, the installation of a disabled parking space, and improvement of visibility at Steer Point Road roundabout. Drains at the bus stop and Lodge Lane have been repaired and cleared. Thank you to Nick Colton and Andy Potter and residents for their time and positive contributions.

Brixton Composters continues to be successful in collecting green waste generating an income for the community. Applications for funding are welcome. The Composters AGM will be held in the Foxhound on the 1st June when Antony Jinman, Polar Explorer, will talk about Climate Change. Thank you to Steven Cane, Jacqui Donaghy and Alan Powell together with Councillor Gay Murch for their commitment to this scheme.

Footpaths – Thank you to Councillors Martyn Oates and Debbie Jessop who have monitored the footpaths and to local residents for regularly updating the Parish Council on their condition ensuring repairs can be done promptly. The reprinted footpath leaflet includes Silverbridge Way.

The village - Thank you to Mr Tony Davis for looking after the Green and to Elaine Tapper, Maxine Jewell and Peter Wearne for the Christmas tree. Thank you to Councillor Michael Wills for the installation of the granite stones kindly donated by Graham Lanning last summer.

Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm - currently 42 families are visited and awareness raising sessions have been held in each parish. The project is the subject of local and national interest and has been extended for another 2 years.

St. Marys School - the Parish Council supports the school as an important community resource for our children. Congratulations on their recent 'outstanding' award from Ofsted.

Communications - Thank you to Graham Searle for managing the website, funded by the Parish Council and the Feoffee Trust and to Councillor Ian Calvert promoting the work of the Council on the *I love Brixton* Face Book page. The Welcome Pack, thanks to Councillor Sarah Gray, is available as a booklet and on the website.

Emergency Plan - Questionnaires will be going to every house in the Parish to discover how people can help in a Civil Emergency. This will become part of the Emergency Plan.

The Police - PCSO Andy Potter regularly reports to Council meetings and efficiently handles issues brought to his attention.

District and County Councillors - District Councillors, John Squire and Basil Cane, have continued to keep the Council informed about the considerable changes for the District Council. County Councillor John Hart has continued to take an interest in the parish particularly with the roads.

Clerk

Mike Stickland left the Parish Council last June. Clare Parkinson has grasped the work of the Parish Council with enthusiasm and clarity.

Conclusion

Over the last 4 years - Silverbridge Way opened, Brixton Play Trail completed, in May 2012 the torch bearer with the Olympic Flame ran through the village, in June a memorable street party in Old Road and the restoration of the Victorian lamp post celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee

Thank you to all Councillors for their commitment to the work of the Council acting always in the best interests of the people of Brixton parish. Basil Cane who has been on the Parish Council for 36 years, Sarah Gray and Martyn Oates both of whom have made considerable contributions in their term of office have left the parish council. I would particularly like to thank Councillor Michael Wills, our Vice Chairman, for his support to me as Chairman and Clare Parkinson, for all her work for the Council. As a Parish facing considerable change councillors and local people need to work together in the best interests for the future of our Parish

Liz Hitchins
Chairman