

**BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 AT 7.30 PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present: Cllr Cane (chairman), Cllr Hitchins, Cllr Wills, Cllr Searle, Cllr Foweraker  
Cllr Aylett, Cllr Tapper**

**Apologies: Cllrs Hart, Lang and Martin**

**There were 6 members of the public in attendance plus Sergeant Teakle, District Cllr John Squire and the Clerk.**

**1. The Chairman's Annual report (Councillor Basil Cane)**

During the past year Brixton Parish Council has introduced changes to improve its governance to ensure that local people are clearly engaged in the democratic processes of the Parish Council. The Monitoring Officer for South Hams District Council, Delyth Jenkins Evans, attended a Parish Council meeting in September to explain the purpose and function of a Parish Council as part of the hierarchy of local government. Since then we have introduced advice on participation at meetings for members of the public and a community engagement policy has been agreed following consultation. This Annual Parish Meeting is also part of the new governance arrangements. Five members of the Parish Council have attended training on the role of the Parish Councillor. Contact details and photographs of all members of the Parish Council are published on the Brixton village website.

In June the Parish Council consulted with local people on the Local Development Framework on future housing needs for Brixton and fed their views back to the Prince's Foundation and to Forward Planning at South Hams District Council. This now forms part of the District Councils Development Plan submission for housing across the District.

Grants have been made from South Hams Community Fund to the Parish Plan Steering Group and Brixton Youth Action.

We are in the process of drawing up the first Parish Plan for Brixton. A small steering group has worked throughout the year to consult, draft and develop a questionnaire to find the views of local people to inform the Parish Plan. Every home in Brixton received a questionnaire and to date we have a 23% return. Completed questionnaires will be accepted up to the end of April. Thank you to Councillor Liz Hitchins, Alistair Macpherson, Alex Whish and others who have helped in the process to date.

In July in collaboration with Yealmpton Parish Council a ballot was held seeking the views of each household on a shared use footpath linking Brixton with Yealmpton either parallel to the A379 or along the Yealm Estuary. Currently the Joint Working Group of both Parish Councils represented by 3 Parish Councillors from Brixton is in negotiation with Devon County Council to progress the outcome of the ballot for a shared use path along the A379.

£10,000 has been allocated by South Hams District Council to Brixton to improve the play area at the rear of Steer Point Road. In agreement with the Parish Council a small working group of parents and interested residents was set up to consult on how best to use this funding. Consultation is taking place later in April for a scheme to improve all 3 play spaces in the village as part of a play trail. Funding has also been allocated by Tor Homes and the group will be applying for further funding to develop the project. We thank the Friends of Brixton Play Spaces for their work in drawing this project together in the interests of the whole community.

The Parish Council has carefully considered all the planning applications which have been received this year. Thank you to Councillor Ian Martin for chairing the Planning Committee and Councillors Wills, Foweraker, Aylett, Searle and Tapper who have given their time and effort so that the Parish Council has made informed recommendations to the Planning Authorities.

A small group has been set up to draw up an Emergency Plan for Brixton. We plan to work in partnership with Yealmpton Parish Council for the benefit of both parishes in the event of a civil emergency. We are now asking for volunteers to offer their skills and expertise to implement our Emergency Plan. Forms are in the 'Brixton Magazine' and on the Brixton village website.

The public footpaths in Brixton continue to be maintained at a high standard and provide people with access to the beautiful surrounding countryside. Our continued thanks go to the footpath group for all the work they do in maintaining the footpaths and Councillor Elaine Tapper for her role for the footpaths and trees in the Parish.

We are very proud of the website which contains a wide a variety of information and is constantly updated by Graham Searle and I thank him for his diligence in keeping the website up to date and interesting.

We were part of the first Community Service for Brixton held in May last year. This was a very good event bringing individuals and organisations together to celebrate the community of Brixton.

The Green. I would like to thank Councillor Tapper and everyone for their time and commitment to the improvement of the Green with new planting and particularly the daffodils and the tubs. This year was the first year we had a Christmas tree on the Green which was a particular highlight for the village this Christmas.

Finally I would like to thank the Clerk for his work and support for the Parish Council over the past year and thank you to all Parish Councillors for your commitment to addressing local issues and improving the work of the Parish Council in the interests of people living in Brixton Parish.

## **2. The County Councillor's Annual report (Councillor John Hart)**

Apologies from Councillor Hart

## **3. The District Councillor's Annual report (Councillor John Squire)**

In May it was all change at the top with the Election of Cllr Melvyn Stone elected to be the Chairman of the Council with Cllr John Baverstock as the Vice Chairman.

Cllr John Tucker was re-elected as Leader with Cllr Bill Hitchens as Deputy Leader.

During the year two Councillors resigned and at the subsequent bye-elections two new Councillors were elected.

After a prolonged period and public protests the proposed plan for the Sherford New Town was passed on the 31st, July 2009 by the Development Control Committee with a majority of one.

The Local Development Framework proposals have also been agreed by the Council and a formal public consultation will commence in late April for 6 weeks followed by the final determination by an Inspector in the Autumn.

The Budget for the year 2010/2011 was set, after much discussion with a Council Tax increase of 2.95% or £3.86p on a Band D property.

The Boundary Review proposals have been amended until they bear no resemblance to the original criteria and there is still uncertainty over the outcome.

With a general election likely in May and a possible change of Government the next year may be very challenging.

#### **4. Neighbourhood Policing report for March. Sergeant Anya Teakle**

**JJ/10/213.** Between Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010, a shed on the allotments at Stamps Hill was broken into, and a wheelbarrow was stolen from within.

**JJ/10/283.** On the evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010, a female charity worker whilst knocking on doors in Brixton in order to raise funds for charity was assaulted by an unknown female occupant.

Enquiries continue to identify the offender; unfortunately the matter has been complicated somewhat as the female aggrieved did not know the street where the assault took place.

**JJ/10/300.** On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2010, the driver of silver Volkswagen Golf withdrew £60 fuel at Rogers Garage, Chittleburn Hill, and then drove off without offering payment.

This is believed to be deliberate, as opposed to an oversight on behalf of the driver, as the registration plate of the vehicle had been obscured by tape.

A similar incident also took place a few days later in Lee Mill, involving a Silver VW.

There has been one domestic incident; policy does not allow disclosure of details regarding such incidents.

With regard to the 'voluntary curfew' imposed on certain residents of Woodland Drive & Silver Stream Way. Police have today liaised with Tor Homes, and it has been decided to lift all restrictions.

If further complaints are received regarding 'Anti-social behaviour' a decision will be taken regarding imposing the curfew again.

#### **5. Emergency Planning.**

**Speaker: Peter Dale, Emergency Planning Officer, South Hams District Council.**

Peter congratulated Brixton Council in preparing its own Emergency Plan (EP). Peter reminded us that the purpose of this plan was to cover the 'extreme' emergency which could not be handled by Devon Emergency Services. Historic examples cited were: Kingsbridge chemical incident in 1999, the national fuel crisis in 2000, severe flooding in South Hams in 2000, foot and mouth crisis in 2001 and 2007. More recently, the major fire at Watter which nearly led to the evacuation of 3000 residents of Watter and Shaugh Prior is a good example of how the local communities can work together with the Emergency Services. There is now a Community Risk register in Devon & Cornwall. Risks identified for South Hams are: major coastal pollution, nuclear incident at Devonport Naval Base, Calor gas leak or explosion at Lee Mill depot. Brixton needs to identify its 'most likely' emergency and use that to concentrate on the type of activities which the community needs to plan.

#### **6. South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

**Speaker: Sarah Scaife, AONB Community Project Organiser**

*This is a brief summary of the presentation. See their web site for full details.*

- **What we do:**

- Influence strategic documents, legislation and plans on wildlife, future development, landscape and recreation.
- Raise awareness and involve communities through events, outdoor activities, publications, environmental education, walks and trails.

Projects such as knotweed control, light pollution, community schemes, beach cleans

- This year we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of South Devon AONB.

- **Programmes aim to:**

- Raise profile of AONB.
- Explore, understand & celebrate our landscape.
- Direct action to conserve distinctive landscape.
- Promote creative lifestyles & informed choices to support the AONB environment & economy

- **Anniversary themes**

1. **Then & Now.** Working with communities to explore what is special about their landscape, how we got it and how it's changed.

2. **Let's Celebrate!** Events to highlight the special features of the AONB  
(e.g. 50th Birthday Party, arts, music, Walking Festival, traditional skills).

3. **Our Beautiful Place.** Photo Competition, campaigns, 50 conservation projects, 50th Anniversary Orchard / Woodland.

- **What can we offer?**

- A range of professional help (e.g. historian, photographer, artist, sound engineer, etc).
- Loan of equipment.
- Range of training.
- Some funding towards suitable projects.
- Help, advice & support.
- Promotion for your related events.

7. **Any other business.**

a) **Proposed incineration plant at New England Quarry, Yealmpton.**

The Clerk outlined the planning application from Viridor and explained that Yealmpton PC had set up a 'working group' to handle this enormous application which ran to 15 major sections. Their findings are in a draft letter to be considered by Yealmpton PC (YPC) on April 12<sup>th</sup> at their monthly meeting.

In summary, YPC are recommending rejection of the proposal for many reasons but principally because of: a) Proximity to the river Yealm b) Inability of Viridor to achieve a satisfactory conclusion to the traffic problem in Lee Mill and c) Risk to human health from potential air and water pollution.

After a discussion, the Councillors present voted (with one abstention) for Brixton support of the Yealmpton recommendation.

b) **River Yealm & District Association (RYDA)** is holding their annual 'river clean up day' on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers required. Posters are in the shop and the Post Office.

c) **Senior Council for Devon** are holding a meeting in Brixton on April 20<sup>th</sup>

d) **Friends of Brixton Play Spaces** are holding consultations on April 24<sup>th</sup>

e) **Brixton Community Association.** There is a Community Festival in St Mary's Church on Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

**The chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.**

**Minutes prepared by M J Stickland, Clerk to the Council**