



## **BRIXTON PARISH PLANS A PLAN!**

Brixton Parish Council has started the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Neighbourhood Plans are a relatively new initiative by the government to stimulate local ownership of local planning issues. They have legal status and have to be taken into account by the planning decisions of local authorities. So we as residents can decide what our preferences are for land use, housing location and green spaces etc.

The process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan involves consultation with all residents and can take up to 2 years to complete, but when completed it sets out how and where future development will take place in the designated area. It will build on the results of the detailed parish survey conducted in 2012, which identified the key planning issues of local concern.

Brixton Parish Council have set up a Parish Neighbourhood Plan group which meets every couple of weeks. The group currently comprises 6 parishioners, each of whom has experience in some aspect of the planning process or local community issues. The group reports to the parish council. As our project gathers pace we hope other parishioners will feel free to join and contribute in whatever way they can, whether it is making tea, helping organise events, supporting surveys of local sites or gathering the views of other parishioners on specific topics.

The first steps have already been taken. The parish council has submitted a proposal for the area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan to South Hams District Council. This proposed area has now gone out for public consultation to parishioners and statutory consultees. At this stage the only matter for consultation is the area to be covered. In the case of Brixton Parish it has been provisionally agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan will cover only that part of the parish not including Sherford New Town.

Sherford New Town has its own agreed development plan for the next 25 years and will in due course have its own town council who will have responsibility for overseeing this plan.

Readers are invited to see the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area application at [www.southhams.gov.uk/shneighbourhoodplans](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/shneighbourhoodplans) or see local noticeboards. Copies have also been deposited for consultation in Mary Green Stores, The Foxhound and the parish council noticeboard in the centre of the village. The closing date for comment is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The South Hams website also has lots of general information on Neighbourhood Plans.

There will be an opportunity to find out more about the process and to have your say on what you would like the Neighbourhood Plan to include at the Brixton summer fete on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015.