



## **Brixton Parish Council**

### **How Brixton Parish Council provides leadership in planning for the future of the community.**

Brixton's Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2034, (see Parish Council website), was 'made' by South Hams District Council in January 2020. This was the culmination of 5 years work by the Neighbourhood Plan group set up and led by the Parish Council. All the required consultations took place over 3 years including various surveys, all age consultation days, and attendance at the annual community fête over three consecutive years. Progress was regularly reported in the monthly Brixton Village Magazine, at Council meetings and on the Brixton Facebook pages. Further consultation included paper copies of the draft plan being available in the village shop and pub providing opportunities for group and individual feedback on the draft plan.

Brixton Parish Council submitted its proposal to South Hams District Council for a modification of the Brixton Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in October 2023. The Neighbourhood Planning Team consulted residents and other interested stakeholders on the modification proposal for the Brixton Neighbourhood Plan and the modification was 'made' by South Hams District Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Brixton's Neighbourhood Plan provides a planning policy and strategy for the parish outside of the development of the nearby new town of Sherford. It is considered in all planning matters alongside the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (2014-2034).

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Brixton Parish Council adopted 'A Parish Plan for Brixton'. This plan was drawn up after analysis of the questionnaires which went to every household. This plan was recently evaluated and a full review undertaken. This was discussed and finalised at the parish council meeting in July 2024 when it was agreed to archive this document as following the adoption of the Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and other planning documents it was no longer relevant

Promoting health and wellbeing the Neighbourhood Plan Group also led on the production of Brixton's Sport and Recreation Plan (see Parish Council website). Consultation included surveys, all age consultation days as well as seeking input through the village magazine and Facebook. This plan, for a 10 year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2029 was adopted by Brixton Parish Council at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Brixton Parish Council produced a draft Business Plan 2020 – 2023 during 2020 and following a period of consultation adopted the Business Plan on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This is reviewed annually.

The Parish Council led on Community Emergency Planning for Brixton village where a councillor took responsibility for updating, encouraging, and training a team of volunteers in implementing the Community Emergency Plan (CEP). The CEP played a significant role at the start of the COVID 19 pandemic in March 2020 respecting GDPR and personal safety. Currently the CEP for Brixton village is on hold with the chairman of the Parish Council actively looking to recruit volunteers to take it forward. In the new town of Sherford a CEP is being developed, led by a resident with volunteers, this is still in the early stages, but initial training has been undertaken by a Sherford parish councillor.

Over the past 13 years Brixton Parish Council has been a founder and major contributor with four neighbouring parish councils to the ground-breaking project 'Dementia Friendly Parishes around the

Yealm' which supports over 40 people living with dementia and their families in their rural communities. This project has achieved a local, national and international reputation. Its work contributed to the 'Guidance to Parish & Town Councils on Dementia Friendly Communities' published by NALC in 2020. Brixton Parish Council has an action plan reviewed annually to continue developing as a dementia friendly community in both Brixton village and the developing town of Sherford.

Eleven years ago, to address issues of road safety the Parish Council, set up a quarterly meeting, chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council, of Councillors, parishioners and the Devon County Council Highways Officer. Issues addressed regularly include Community Speed Watch, Community Road Warden reports purchasing and installing VAS speed monitoring and monthly VAS reports to the Parish Council and community. DCC Highways commend this as a model of communication which they would like to see other Parish Councils adopt.

A Climate Crisis and Environment Group was set up by the Council to develop and implement the Environment and Climate Change Plan agreed by the Council in February 2021 engaging with parishioners and local organisations. This working group meets on a quarterly basis. The Chairman and a councillor represent the Council on the Sustainable South Hams Climate Change group. The Council is leading the River Yealm Water Quality Group - a group of seven neighbouring parish councils in the catchment of the River Yealm to work with the statutory agencies on monitoring of water quality on the River Yealm. Brixton Parish Council coordinates this group and supports the funding of the CSI monitoring of the river by volunteers known as '*The Yealm Dippers*'. The River Yealm Water Quality Group has its own website linking the seven parish councils [www.rywqg.com](http://www.rywqg.com)

The Parish Council has for eight years been active in supporting the new and developing community of Sherford currently under construction (planned 5,500 houses with all the relevant infrastructure). and is also represented by a director nominated by Brixton Parish Council on the Sherford Community Land Trust. Sherford will have its own town council in the longer term and representatives from the Residents Association and the Community Land Trust regularly update at parish council meetings. Two parish councillors have a particular interest and responsibility in promoting the parish council in Sherford and responding to issues raised as the community expands. The Parish Council takes an active interest in all planning applications relating to Sherford ensuring that the issues raised by new residents are taken into account as the town grows. The Parish Council and residents are actively involved in naming green spaces in Sherford.

The Parish Council works proactively, wherever possible, to strengthen and improve relationships with community groups, local organisations, businesses, statutory bodies, voluntary groups, district and county councils. BPC supports children and young people through annual grants to St Mary's Primary School, Sherford Primary School, Elburton Brownies/Guides, Yealmpton Brownies/Rainbows and Brixton/Yealmpton Scout Group. Brixton Parish Council, through a grant from SHDC worked with St Mary's Primary School and Sherford Primary School on a community plastic free art project. **BPC contributed to the upgrade of the Brixstix playspace in 2022. through s016 funding, and continue to work with SHDC and LiveWest to ensure that the two play spaces in the village are fit for purpose.**

Since January 2023 the Parish Council has led a community working group addressing the issues of the cost of living in Brixton e.g. setting up a warm hub, and community food box and working in collaboration with the Church and a local charity. This has ensured that the wellbeing of families, in need and people at risk of the mental health impact of isolation and loneliness, is being addressed

The Parish Council will continue to work in balancing the current needs of the people, the economy, and the environment without compromising the future.