



WELCOME TO THE MARCH NEWS BULLETIN FROM BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL



March 2026

Welcome to the March bulletin from Brixton Parish Council (BPC).

The Parish Council meets monthly in either the Brixton Community Room (adjacent to St Mary's school) or Sherford Community Hub. The meeting location will be rotated and advertised prior to the meeting.

Councillors welcome the opportunity to meet parishioners in the other areas of the parish.

Please do come and say hello!

The location of our meetings is constantly reviewed as we are mindful of the safety of parishioners and councillors alike. All working group meetings are continuing via zoom.

#### Subscribe to the latest news and information from BPC

BPC will now produce a monthly newsletter, which will be available on the BPC website. All agendas and minutes for BPC are also available. [www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

If you would like to receive this bulletin electronically, please subscribe on [Join our mailing list - Brixton Parish Council](#)

#### Local Council Award Scheme

BPC has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award, the highest accolade for the second time, by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) as part of the Local Council Award Scheme.

This achievement recognises that Brixton Parish Council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and Council improvement. BPC has shown that it goes above and beyond legal obligations, leading its community and continuously seeks opportunities to improve and develop even further.

#### Local Government Reorganisation

In December 2024, Government set out its intention that all areas with two levels of local government (District and County Councils) were required to develop plans for a single level of Government. The current system of local government involves different types of councils responsible for various services which affect our day-to-day lives. Most of Devon currently operates under a two-tier system of local government, where:

Devon County Council provides services such as education, transport, libraries, social services, public health and trading standards.

District Councils providing services such as environmental health, licensing, housing, planning applications, sports centres, parks, waste collection and recycling services.

Plymouth and Torbay councils are both unitary authorities, which means that they are single-tier and each council provides all the services above.

Devon's councils have engaged with the public and important stakeholders when creating their LGR submissions for the Government. The five proposals put forward each have their own website, with information on the thinking behind their submissions. These can be found on the Devon LGR website <https://www.devonlgr.co.uk/>

Once you have read the proposals, please complete the Government consultation on LGR in Devon. The closing date is **26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. Brixton Parish Council also has all the information regarding the Local Government Reorganisation on its [website](http://www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Local_Government_Reorganisation_49776.aspx)

## Highways

BPC Traffic Management Working Group continues to meet remotely with DCC Highways Officer on a quarterly basis and the next meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to attend or have any highways related issues or any questions for a future meeting, please email

[clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill

Following the public consultation in May, a working group was formed, comprising of Clerk, Cllrs Hitchins, Carson and Wills, Community Road Warden and parishioner who met with Richard Jackson, DCC Principal Highways Development Management Officer and Nick Colton DCC Local Highways Officer to discuss the feedback.

Richard Jackson has confirmed that the design team have undertaken a design and this is currently being safety audited. This may induce design changes. They are also liaising with noise specialists. Some concerns have been raised with certain hump positions and suggestions have been made to the designers. BPC await the final design; there will then be a DCC consultation.

## The Green

Following the public consultation a working group was formed, comprising of Clerk, Cllrs Hitchins, Carson and Wills, Community Road Warden and parishioner who met with Nick Colton DCC Local Highways Officer to discuss the feedback. At the October BPC meeting Nick Colton produced a revised indicative plan with purely 'no parking restrictions (double yellow lines) marked around The Green, as well as along part of A379. Nick Colton has put this proposal forward for DCC. This will be subject to public consultation.

## Speed Limits within Brixton

BPC is working in conjunction with DCC Cabinet Member for Highways, DCC County Councillor Carson and DCC Local Highways Officer to reduce the speed limits in Brixton, especially Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill to Sherford.

BPC has also asked for a review of the speed limits within the village. BPC had approached YPC to discuss the speed limit on the A379 between Yealmpton and Brixton and to see if this could be reduced to 40mph. At their February meeting YPC voted against the reduction between Brixton and Yealmpton, the Clerk reported that it was split evenly and the Chairman used his casting vote to vote against the motion.

## Monkey Lane

DCC has issued a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Monkey Lane to be downgraded to a multi-use lane (Pedestrians, Cyclists and Horse Riders) with a prohibition of vehicles except for access. The signs prohibiting vehicles except for access are now in situ at both ends of Monkey Lane with bollards also now installed. Drainage at Monkey Lane, where it joins Catson Green, is prone to flooding and BPC will be looking at the drainage options. It has also been confirmed that there will be a path, running alongside the hedge into the Sherford Country Park from the Sherford end of Monkey Lane, this will join with PROW 18 to West Sherford. Following discussions BPC will liaise with SHDC Principal Urban Designer in an effort to retain the historical link, as it is believed that monks once walked from Plympton to the Brixton priest cottages. It would therefore be valuable to preserve this piece of local heritage. One suggestion could be to name the lower end Monks Way, leading into Monkey Lane and Monks Wood.

## Stopping Up Order

The Sherford Consortium has applied for a short section of public highway to be permanently closed. Known as 'Road Past Vealeholme', the piece of road is 282 metres long and runs between Main Street in Sherford and Plympton Hill. This proposal involves the stopping-up of a public highway, a formal road stopping-up order is required. This decision sits with the Secretary of State for Transport and an application has been submitted. A consultation period will take place from Monday 23 February 2026 for 28 days. Following discussions

BPC raised serious concerns to these proposals for the following reasons: The proposed closure of Plympton Hill would significantly disrupt local access, increase congestion, and redirect traffic onto residential roads not designed for higher volumes. BPC's view is a new route must be operational before any closure takes place to avoid major disruption.

Traffic is already under severe strain, with over 11,000 vehicles per day using Hercules Road — a 55% increase since 2021 — and congestion at Deep Lane and Haye Road regularly causing delays. With Deep Lane also due to close between April 2026 and October 2027, removing Plympton Hill risks worsening gridlock and reducing network resilience. There are also serious concerns about the impact on emergency services, as increased congestion and fewer route options could delay response times and compromise public safety

## Dawes Lane

PCC have confirmed that improvements that have been planned for a number of years has now secured funding through contributions from the Sherford development (£95k) and Government grants (£46k). PCC also confirmed that the northernmost section will be repaired using a combination of pothole patching and resurfacing and where the bedrock has become exposed, a reinforced concrete slab will be laid. The remainder of the route will be re-graded and topped up with plantings and a drainage channel will be created to take away surface water. Overgrowth of vegetation will be cut back from Monday 23 February, with the main work due to start on Monday 16 March, at which point the lane will need to be closed. Works are expected to finish in mid-May. A temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO) for the closure will be advertised on Monday 16 February.

## Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

- A379 Elburton Road (near Brixton Road Station Bridge) – Monday 21st July 2025 – Friday 10th July 2026
- Road past Vealeholme (for Deep Lane Cycle Bridge Scheme) – Wed 22nd April 2026 – Thurs 21st October 2027

## Climate Change

### Brixton Parish Environment Working Group

This group continues to meet regularly via Zoom with the next meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. All are welcome to join and the Zoom details will be placed on the website nearer the time.

### Forthcoming events

There will be a walk from Brixton to Sherford on Sat 25th April 10.30am. starting from the Feoffee Park in Brixton. This will be advertised nearer the time on the website, Facebook and the noticeboards. Watch this space!

### River Yealm Water Quality Group

This working group of representatives from the 7 Riparian Parish Councils in the River Yealm Catchment area together with other interested parties continues to meet to work with Environment Agency and South West Water to monitor the quality of water in the River Yealm particularly relating to the discharge of sewage into the river at times of heavy rainfall. For more information email

[clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The River Yealm Water Quality Group has a fantastic website dedicated to the work of the group where the findings from the latest River Yealm Water Quality Westcountry Rivers Trust Citizen Science Investigation are published.

<https://www.rywqg.com/>

### Land at Cofflete Creek

BPC owns the parcel of land at the head of Cofflete Creek on the site of the former Cofflete Mill. Following consultation with parishioners, the aim is to create a community amenity space for the residents of Brixton Parish, through careful consideration of the significant historic and environmental value of this piece of land to the community. Following a successful public consultation, a bird hide has been installed, clearing undertaken and planting taken place. If you would like to get involved please contact

[clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Hedgehog signs

BPC are awaiting a final quote for "saving hedgehogs" signs, which are planned to be ready before hedgehogs come out of hibernation.

### Accessible Picnic Bench

BPC has successfully secured funding from the South Devon National Landscape's Defra Access for All Fund for one wheelchair-accessible picnic bench. The bench has been delivered, and permission is being sought from Live West to install it at one of two proposed locations.

### Silverbridge Way

Overhanging branches have been removed, and the contractor will be asked to repair a dropped gate during the first scrape. Regarding the proposed extension, both BPC and YPC have agreed to pause any preparatory work until planning requirements are clarified. A meeting has been undertaken with SHDC Duty Planning Officer and the working group will complete a 'Pre App' where a Planning officer will meet on site to discuss the plans. Plans are progressing to install a tree trunk along the path instead of a bench. A discussion on signage concluded that existing signs are likely sufficient, though additional signs are available if needed.

### Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Following a recent DALC training session regarding Neighbourhood Planning, SHDC is holding a briefing regarding the changes in the NPPF affecting Neighbourhood Plans. BPC will attend this briefing and then discuss the next steps.

### Brixton Community Emergency Plan

A Community Engagement Event run by Devon Communities Together (DCT) was held on 4th March in the Sherford Community Hub to start thinking about emergency planning across the parish. There will be further discussions following this event. If you are interested in participating, please email [clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Cost Of Living Crisis

A small working group of representatives from the community meets regularly to discuss the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis for residents

The warm hub in The Foxhound is popular on Thursday afternoons and will continue as a regular community event to help reduce isolation and loneliness. So please do pop in for a chat.

The group fund raises to purchase tinned food, personal hygiene and household cleaning products which are available in the St, Marys Church Porch when the church is open.

### Street sweeping / litter picking

Due to the weather, there was no street sweep in February. Volunteers did litter pick from Otter to the main road. Thank you to all the volunteers.

### Yealm Harbour Authority

BPC is looking for a volunteer to represent BPC on Yealm Harbour Authority. There are ten regular meetings a year (every third Tuesday of month at 6pm, in the Harbour Office, there are no meetings in August and December) by zoom or in person. For more information, please contact [clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Civility and Respect

NALC's Improvement and Development Board has introduced the Councillor's Statement of Assurance. This initiative strengthens the commitment to creating positive, supportive, and respectful parish and town council environments. BPC has already demonstrated their commitment by signing the Civility and Respect Pledge and councillors have personally committed to upholding these values in their daily work and interactions by signing a 'Statement of Assurance' at the February meeting.

## Defibrillators

Brixton has SIX defibrillators at different locations in the parish.

The sites are as follows:

- Outside Venn Court
- Outside the main entrance door to Brixton St Mary's Primary School
- In the former phone box on The Green
- In the former phone box at Fordbrook
- Plymstock Albion Oaks, Horsham sports field
- Entrance to Chittleburn Business Park

## Forthcoming Parish Council meetings all starting at 7.00pm

March	Sherford	25th March
April	Brixton	29th April
May	Sherford	20th May
June	Brixton	24th June
July	Sherford	22nd July
August	No meeting	
September	Brixton	30th Sept
October	Sherford	21st Oct
November	Brixton	25th Nov
December	No meeting	

There is a calendar of events available on the BPC website.

Any changes will be conveyed on [www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) noticeboards and the Facebook pages. To keep up to date with the parish council please visit our website, [www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or by following the Facebook Community pages:

LOVEBrixtonDevon  
Brixton Village

If you have any question or queries regarding the work of BPC, please do not hesitate to contact Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk via email - [clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Useful Contacts and Links

### Report a Problem

#### South Hams District Council

South Hams District Council should be contacted via the [Report It | South Hams District Council](#) page. Here you can report full litter bins, planning breaches, missed recycling collections and nuisances such as smoke and bonfires amongst the others listed below:

Abandoned vehicle

Dead animals

Fly Tipping

Stray Dogs

Planning Breach

Flooding

Missed Bin

Recycling Bank

Public Toilets

Lost Dogs

Housing Disrepair

Play Park Issue

Litter or Leaves

Full litter or dog bin

Car Park Problem

Dog fouling

Nuisance

Anything else

## Report a Problem

### Devon County Council

Devon County Council are responsible for our roads and any issues should be reported via the

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#) page.

Here you can report any of the issues listed below

 <p><b>Pothole</b> Large 40 mm vertical-edge hole that is also greater than 300 mm wide</p>	 <p><b>Parking</b> Request enforcement in residents' parking and on-street parking zones</p>	 <p><b>Overgrown vegetation</b> Pedestrians forced into road, cars over central line, reduced visibility</p>	 <p><b>Broken inspection cover</b> Broken, missing or rocking inspection cover</p>	 <p><b>Grit bin</b> Empty bin, damaged bin or a bin with contents that are unusable</p>	 <p><b>Bridges and retaining walls</b> Structural damage or significant obstructions restricting water flow</p>
 <p><b>Public rights of way</b> For example, blocked access or broken stiles</p>	 <p><b>Hazardous or fallen tree/branch</b> Fallen tree or branch, or trees that are leaning, unstable, diseased or dying</p>	 <p><b>Debris or obstruction</b> Thick mud, soil, stones, embankment slips</p>	 <p><b>Fences and barriers</b> Damaged or missing roadside fences or barriers</p>	 <p><b>Ice</b> Ice or snow on the road</p>	 <p><b>Street lights, lit signs, lit bollards</b> Faulty street light, zebra crossing, bollard, lit sign</p>
 <p><b>Defective road markings or signs</b> White and yellow, stop or give way lines or warning signs</p>	 <p><b>Trip hazard</b> Hole or significant difference in level on pavement or cycleway</p>	 <p><b>Traffic lights</b> Damage or fault to traffic lights or signals or school crossing patrol light</p>	 <p><b>Flooding and blocked drains</b> Standing water, blocked drain, flooded property, impassable road</p>		