

Brixton Parish Council Annual Newsletter



1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023



The Annual Newsletter from the Parish Council to all residents in Brixton Parish

During the past year Brixton Parish Council (BPC) has continued to meet regularly, supported by many enthusiastic volunteers, and a range of working groups moving us on from the impact of the pandemic.

Maintaining communication continues to be paramount using a variety of processes including the Council website, regular newsletters, Facebook, and community notice boards located in Sherford, Carroll Island and Brixton Village. Currently the Parish Council is investigating streaming its meetings to increase the opportunities for people to engage in the Council's business. Please let us know what you think.

Celebrations

Brixton enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2022 which was a great success with bunting, tree planting, a church service, and a community picnic as well as individual street and neighbours' parties.

Sherford

Planning and development of Sherford New Town continues to be a major feature on the monthly Parish Council agenda, with a regular report from the BPC nominated director on Sherford Community Land Trust. Plans are in place to hold 3 meetings of Brixton Parish Council at Sherford this coming year. The road between Brixton and Plympton will remain closed until April 2024 during which time the infrastructure for further development at Sherford will be installed.

Planning

Throughout 2022 / 2023 the Parish Council was consulted by South Hams District Council on numerous planning applications, most of which required a site visit attended by a minimum of three councillors. Planning continues to be a major item on our Council agendas. It is a critical issue for this community on the urban fringe of Plymouth.

Brixton Neighbourhood Plan

The adopted Brixton Neighbourhood Plan provides guidance and informed support when considering planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan is in the process of making a minor modification and consultation took place in January this year. This has now reached Reg 15 in the process.

Traffic Management

The Traffic Management Group attended by local people and parish councillors continues to meet quarterly with DCC Highways Officer, Nick Colton, to address the issues of road and traffic safety across the parish. The Parish Council made an unsuccessful application to Devon County Council for a 20mph speed limit through the village; and is currently waiting for proposal from Devon County Council for traffic calming on Stamps Hill and Red Lion Hill. The condition of the road surface of the A379 remains outstanding. Following a recent meeting with our County Councillor John Hart and Devon County Highways parts of the road have now been patched. Plans for total resurfacing are subject to funding availability and currently scheduled for 2024-2025

The VAS monitors the speed of vehicles through the village and a group of volunteer residents have been trained to undertake Speedwatch. If you have concerns about road safety please let the Clerk, Kirstie Aldridge know - email: clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.org.uk or if you need to report a problem on the Highways <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem>

Footpaths

The network of footpaths across the parish is walked by volunteer parishioners quarterly who give feedback on their condition to the P3 group (Parish Paths Partnership) ensuring that the paths remain safe and accessible. Please let Councillor Hawken or the Clerk have any information on the state of the footpaths.

The Green

A consultation exercise took place in October to seek the views of parishioners on improving safety and parking around the Green. A working group will be set up to progress this and any proposals will be the subject of further community consultation.

River Yealm Water Quality

Brixton Parish Council is one of the 7 riparian parishes located in the catchment of the River Yealm and is represented on the River Yealm Water Quality Working Group leading on the improvement of the water quality of the river in collaboration with the Yealm Estuary to Moor project. A water quality monitor has been purchased by the riparian parishes and now over 30 volunteers - known as 'the Yealm Dippers' are sampling the water down the length of the Yealm, and the subsequent data is being used to compare with and possibly challenge the EA findings.

Village Improvements

Volunteers continue to meet on the first Saturday of month (except January and August) to sweep through the village which is looking much improved and receiving positive feedback.

Brixton Parish Environment Working Group

In September as part of the 'Big Green Week' the Bee Wild Group, part of the Environment Working Group, held a community event which included a tree walk around the village, daffodils planted in the autumn and an open afternoon at The Old Mill Site at Cofflete Creek. The Parish Council has adopted a policy of 'No Mow May' to encourage insect life on our verges.

Cofflete Mill

The Land at Cofflete Creek, formerly the Old Mill was purchased by BPC as a community amenity space. Wildlife and nature are important for the land at the Old Mill. An information board has been produced and a seat installed on the site so that the peace and tranquillity of the area can be enjoyed by all.

Cost of Living Crisis

The Parish Council in collaboration with the Brixton Feoffee Trust, St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's School and 'The Foxhound' responded to the cost of living crisis with a warm hub at 'The Foxhound' twice a week from January to March, a community box of hygiene and cleaning products in the Church porch and emergency grants from the Brixton Feoffee Trust. Free products from the community box continue to be available and the warm hub continues at the Foxhound on Thursday afternoons from 3pm – 5pm and everyone is welcome. The Brixton Feoffee Trust continues to receive applications for emergency help and other financial help, information can be found on the Brixton Devon website www.brixtondevon.co.uk

Projects for 2023 include:

- Following the implementation of the Brixton Sport and Recreation Plan, two projects continue to progress – completion of the improvements to Footpath 26 and changing Monkey Lane into a pedestrian / cycle / bridle way access to Sherford Community
- The second phase of the Cofflete Mill project will commence.
- Plastic Free projects will be undertaken by St Mary's CofE Primary School and Sherford Vale Primary School funded by a grant obtained from SHDC.
- A working group will be deployed to look at parking on The Green
- A Traffic Calming project for Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill will continue to be discussed with DCC
- Definitive Map Review will be conducted within the parish looking at Public Rights of Way
- Extend Silverbridge Way inside the hedge from its current exit on the A379 to Bens Farm Shop.

Your Parish Councillors



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Brixton Parish Council usually meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm (excluding August and school holidays).



Tel:
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