

Brixton Parish Council

Annual Newsletter



**What Brixton Parish Council
achieved during 2023 / 2024
and plans for 2024 / 2025**



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

Maintaining communication continues to be paramount using a variety of processes including the parish council website, regular newsletters, Facebook, and community notice boards located in Sherford, Carrollsland and Brixton Village.

Celebrations

Brixton enjoyed celebrating the Kings Coronation - three trees were planted, one on the main road, one in the Feoffee Park and the other in St. Mary's School grounds, a church service was held, and gifts given to the children at St. Marys School and Ladybirds Nursery.

Brixton Parish Council were gifted a seat by The Royal British Legion which is located by the bus stop at the entrance to Elbridge and planters have been added to complete the sense of space around the seat.



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. Some meetings of Brixton Parish Council have been held in Sherford Community Hub this year and this will continue. The road between Brixton and Plympton will remain closed until end July 2024. A public information session was held in February concerning the Sherford Road traffic calming project and any details regarding Sherford can be found on the website. www.sherfordtrust.org.uk

Planning

Throughout 2023 / 2024 the Parish Council was consulted by South Hams District Council and Devon County 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 2014 - 2034 provides guidance and informed support when considering planning applications and the modification was 'made' by SHDC on 7th March 2024. Details can be found on the Parish website.

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.

Traffic calming on Stamps Hill is being discussed with DCC Highways and is a longer-term project subject to the release of s106 from the Sherford development. The plans for Quiet Lanes to the east of Sherford did not progress due to a change of policy by Devon County Council. The plan to close Monkey Lane to vehicular traffic is progressing and DCC is currently working on a Traffic Order for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders only to use Monkey Lane.

The very poor condition of the road surface of the A379 remains outstanding and continues to be the subject of discussion with County Councillor, John Hart. Two new solar powered VAS signs have been installed along A379 ensuring drivers keep within the speed limits.

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>

Brixton Parish Environment Working Group

During the year the Bee Wild Group, part of the Environment Working Group, have been busy planting daffodils around the trees planted last year, making a colourful springtime display. The Bee Friendly Group also ensured that the school in Brixton had a large bee and bug hotel



The Parish Council has adopted a policy of 'No Mow May' to encourage insect life on our verges. On some verges wildflowers are being left to grow for the whole season.

Footpaths

The network of footpaths across the parish is walked quarterly by volunteer parishioners 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 restoration of the wall on FP26 has been completed.



The Green

A consultation exercise took place last year 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.

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.

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. The data from CSI inputs and deployment of the continuous water monitor are able to view on the Yealm Estuary to Moor website www.yemcorridor.com and findings from Westcountry Rivers Trust Citizen Science Investigations between July 2022 and October 2023 on the parish council website.

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' continues to respond to the cost of living crisis. The community box remains in the church porch and will continue to provide free household cleaning and basic personal hygiene items along with tinned food. The warm hub in 'The Foxhound' continues every Thursday afternoon between 3-5pm. 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

Brixton Community Book Swop

The Brixton Community Book Swop is located in St Mary's Church and is available daily when the church is open from 10am - 4.30pm. There are books for all tastes including a selection of children's books, there is no membership required or recording of book borrowing and the library of books is expanding daily.

Projects for this year include:

- Following the implementation of the Brixton Sport and Recreation Plan, projects continue to progress including changing Monkey Lane into a pedestrian / cycle / bridle way access to Sherford Community
- The second phase of the Cofflete Mill project will be subject to community consultation.
- 'Plastic Free' projects will be completed 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
- Traffic Calming project for Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill will continue to be discussed with DCC
- Plans for the extension of Silverbridge Way inside the hedge from its current exit on the A379 to Bens Farm Shop will continue to be developed.
- BPC will review the Parish Plan 2012
- Active Travel – BPC will continue to ensure that the Brixton to Plymouth route, to include Dawes Lane, is high priority.
- A planter will be installed beside the bus stop on A379 by Winstone Lane
- BPC will implement the action plan from Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm
- The seat at the end of Steer Point Road will be refurbished
- The noticeboards will be replaced along A379

For any further information regarding Brixton Parish Council please contact the clerk or alternatively any councillor detailed on the next page



Kirstie Aldridge

Clerk

Tel: 07890945785

clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Your Parish Councillors



Liz Hitchins
Chair
Tel: 880715

liz.hitchins@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Michael Wills
Vice-Chair
Tel: 880012

michael.wills@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Ian Martin
Councillor
Tel: 880539

ian.martin@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Terry Clegg
Councillor
Tel: 07503 836268

terry.clegg@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Stuart Nix
Councillor

stuart.nix@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Neil Hawken
Councillor
Tel: 07985489008

neil.hawken@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Rachael Gillard
Councillor
Tel: 07894906658

rachael.gillard@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Premila MacLennan
Councillor

premila.maclennan@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Tony Carson
Councillor

tony.carson@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk