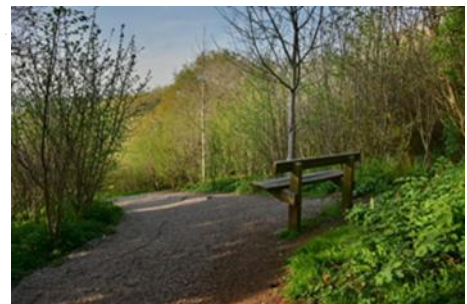


Brixton Parish Council Annual Newsletter



**What Brixton Parish Council achieved during
2024 / 2025 and plans for 2025 / 2026**



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.

Local Government Reorganisation

National government signalled in December 2024 its intent to end the current system of District and County Councils and smaller Unitary Councils. These are to be replaced by Unitary Councils covering much larger areas, with a guideline minimum population of 500,000 people. Plymouth City Council (PCC), South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Devon County Council (DCC) have submitted initial plans to Government. This will be high on the parish council's agenda for the forthcoming year,

Sherford

Planning and development of Sherford 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. Alternate meetings of Brixton Parish Council are held in Sherford Community Hub. Sherford have an active Community Speed Watch, Environment & Heritage group, litter picking team, as well as engaging with the Urban Fringe Team regarding street naming.

Any details regarding Sherford can be found on the website. www.sherfordtrust.org.uk

Planning

Throughout 2024 / 2025 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.

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. BPC have asked for a review of the speed limits within the village. The A379 has been resurfaced and the VAS signs continue to ensure drivers keep within the speed limits.

If you have concerns about road safety please let the Clerk, Kirstie Aldridge know - email: clerk@brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or if you need to report a problem on the Highways <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem>

Stamps Hill / Red Lion Hill Traffic Calming

With the release of s106 funding from the Sherford development, DCC Highways have provided an indicative plan for a traffic calming scheme on Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill and this is the subject to a public consultation.

The Green

Following an initial consultation, which took place last year to seek the views of parishioners on improving safety and parking around the Green, a proposal has been drafted by DCC Highways Officer. This is subject to a public consultation.

Monkey Lane

Monkey Lane is now closed to vehicular traffic and has been downgraded to a multi-use lane for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, with a prohibition of vehicles except for access. A consultation with the emergency service is ongoing prior to the installation of bollards.

Brixton Parish Environment Working Group

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.

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. A planter has been installed beside the bus stop on A379 by Winstone Lane and the noticeboards have been replaced along A379.

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. The group continues to meet to work with Environment Agency and South West Water to look at improving the quality of water in the River Yealm particularly relating to the discharge of sewage into the river at times of heavy rainfall. The River Yealm Water Quality Group has launched an engaging and eye-catching website relating to the work of the group www.rywqg.com

Parish Plan 2012

At the July parish council meeting the 'Parish Plan 2012' was reviewed and the review document is now available to view on the parish council website www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

This plan has now been superseded by the Neighbourhood Plan and BPC Business Plan.

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.

Following a successful public consultation in November 2024 phase 2 of the project has commenced with the installation of a bird hide and additional planting.



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, no membership is required or recording of book borrowing and the library of books is expanding daily.

St Mary's Churchyard

BPC met with SHDC and St Mary's Church to formulate a plan for the cutting regime in 2025. The intention is to reach a satisfactory balance between having a churchyard which is accessible for families and improving its biodiversity.

Projects for this year include:

- Local Government Reorganisation
- A path from Monkey Lane will be installed running alongside the hedge into the Sherford Country Park, this will join with the existing PROW
- The second phase of the Cofflete Mill project will commence
- Feedback from the public consultation regarding The Green will be collated and a working group will progress this with DCC
- Feedback from the public consultation regarding the Traffic Calming project for Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill will be collated and a working group will progress this with DCC
- Walks around Sherford, the Country Park and Brixton area are planned for the summer
- 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.
- Active Travel – BPC will continue to ensure that the Brixton to Plymouth route, to include Dawes Lane, is high priority.
- The seats on A379 and at the end of Steer Point Road will be refurbished
- Working with SHDC and LiveWest to ensure both play spaces in the village are fit for purpose

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



Kirstie Aldridge

Clerk

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Please note that BPC has changed the details of the parish council website
www.brixtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The details of all councillors and their emails can be found on the parish council website.
The main change is that all councillor and clerk emails now end in gov.uk

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