

Brixton Parish Council Annual Newsletter



**What Brixton Parish Council achieved during
2025 / 2026 and plans for 2026 / 2027**



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.

NALC – Local Council Award Scheme

BPC **was** delighted to have 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

BPC contributed to the discussion and debate on models for Local Government Reorganisation affecting our parish. The link to Local Government Reorganisation in Devon where all the plans can be viewed: <https://www.devonlgr.co.uk/>

BPC **has been informed** that a decision will be made by Government by 19th July 2026, this will be the subject of further consultation.

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. There is a Sherford Community Panel which incorporates, the Communications Working Group the Shops and Events Working Group, the Environment and Heritage Working Group and Oral Histories of Sherford. There is also an active Community Speed Watch, litter picking team, a Green Infrastructure Naming Programme and a Sherford Over 50s Group. Any details regarding Sherford can be found on the website. www.sherfordtrust.org.uk

Planning

Throughout 2025 / 2026 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. The Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) 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

Following the release of s106 funding from the Sherford development, DCC Highway Authority is currently exploring alternative funding/delivery options to ensure the traffic calming scheme costs come within the available budget.

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, an indicative plan with purely 'no parking restrictions (double yellow lines) marked around The Green, as well as along part of A379 has been put forward for DCC to consider which will be subject to public consultation.

Monkey Lane

Monkey Lane has been reclassified as a multi- use lane (Pedestrians, Cyclists and Horse Riders) with a prohibition of vehicles except for access. Progress is being made on improving pedestrian access from Monkey Lane to Sherford Country Park, with a new 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.

Brixton Parish Environment Working Group

This group continues to meet regularly discussing a range of environmental issues and raising awareness. The group has worked to protect roadside verges by encouraging the growth of wildflowers and creating habitats for pollinators, such as bees, helping to increase biodiversity and support local wildlife.

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). Any works required were completed by DCC, BPC and South Hams Ramblers Association newly assembled path maintenance team, ensuring that the paths remain safe and accessible. Please let Councillor Hawken or the Clerk have any information on the state of the footpaths.

Dawes Lane

Following extensive repairs, Dawes Lane reopened on 15th May and BPC has received excellent feedback from residents. The improvement of Dawes Lane has been on the parish council's agenda for many years, so it is particularly pleasing to see the project finally completed.

Volunteers work to improve the street scene in Brixton village and in Sherford

Street sweeping through Brixton village continued on the first Saturday of each month, weather permitting, except for August and January. This regular sweeping, litter picking and replanting of the planters on the Green is well received with positive feedback. Sherford residents are also volunteering to litter pick and help improve the street scene in Sherford.

Churchyard - St. Mary's Church Brixton

The Parish Council has worked in collaboration with St. Marys PCC and SHDC to ensure that there is an acceptable annual mowing regime in the churchyard at Brixton promoting biodiversity and enabling families to access graves. The Parish Council has allocated funding towards the cost of this cutting regime.

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.rywqq.com

Cofflete Mill

The land at Cofflete Creek, formerly the Old Mill was purchased by BPC as a community amenity space with careful consideration of the significant historic and environmental value of this piece of land to the community.

Phase Two has included the installation of a bird hide along with additional tree planting on the site.



Accessible Picnic Bench

BPC successfully secured funding from the South Devon National Landscape's Defra Access for All Fund for one wheelchair-accessible picnic bench. This bench has been placed near the 'owl seat' on the corner of Steer Point Road and Elliots Hill.

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 and Monday lunch times. 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

Silverbridge Way Extension

In April the proposed route was walked by a member of the Silverbridge Way Working Group with a SHDC planning officer, who advised that various reports will be required including an Environmental Impact Assessment. The working group has since considered the scope and likely costs of the necessary reports. Plans are progressing to install a tree trunk along the path instead of a bench.

BPC projects for this year include:

- Local Government Reorganisation – BPC await the decision by Government by 19th July 2026, this will then be the subject of further consultation.
- Completion of the path from Monkey Lane, 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 continue with the installation of additional fencing, seating and shelving in the bird hide with additional planting.
- DCC will progress the indicative plan for the The Green and A379 which will be subject to public consultation.
- BPC will continue to work with The Brixton Feoffee Trust regarding the possibility of additional parking on the land in Old Road.
- BPC will continue to work with DCC regarding the Traffic Calming project for Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill.

BPC will look to work with Yealmpton Parish Council (YPC) to pursue the reduction in the speed limit from Brixton to Yealmpton from 60mph to 40mph.

- More guided walks from Brixton to Sherford Country Park will be organised
- 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.
- Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group will continue to meet following changes in the NPPF and decide whether the current plan will need to be reviewed.

Following a Community Engagement Event run by Devon Communities Together (DCT) BPC will look to formulate a Community Emergency Plan

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



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