

# Brixworth Parish Council Newsletter

12th Edition, Autumn 2011



## Message from the Chair of Brixworth PC

For more than five years Ian Barratt served as Chair of Brixworth Parish Council which, as an unpaid volunteer, has to be considered to be dedication of a special kind. Ian chose not to stand this year and I was elected.

My name is Michael Lacey. I was born not so far away in Solihull – not too many years after the Luftwaffe has been using my parent's house, in Coventry, for target practice! But my earliest



memories are of my father taking me for walks in my pram around an airfield where I would wave at the aeroplanes. As a teenager I emigrated to Canada with my family. We lived in Vancouver; where my first job was working as an electrician in a radio station, but at the same time I learned to fly. This led to my going back to school to study Aeronautics

After 20 years, living in British Columbia and California and working as a Chief Engineer, Demonstration Pilot and Aircraft Salesman, the economy of British Columbia collapsed; times were tough and I thought it might be nice to see if I could get a job back in the UK, just for a little while – of course. I ended up working as Sales Manager for Lord Hanson's Air Hanson at Blackbushe Airport in Surrey. One day, immediately following the fall of the Berlin wall, I was invited to join a Trade Delegation on a visit to Eastern Europe. We had some success, selling a number of aircraft, but I also met my wife-to-be. She was one of a number of doctors who had expressed interest in one of our aircraft as an air ambulance and in conversation I made the mistake of correcting her when she made a mistake about something or other.

Not long after that I returned to Canada with my new wife to take up a position as Sales Manager and Chief Pilot for a company in Toronto and before too long set up my own company, contracting

*Continued overleaf*

## Parish Council Grants

The Parish Council provides grants to voluntary, community organisations that serve the Parish. Organisations are welcome to apply for a Community Grant.

A grant application form needs to be completed and returned to the Clerk before the deadline—next deadline is 31 October. Application forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or downloaded from the Parish Council website ([www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk)). The Council considers grant applications twice a year, at a special Grants Meeting held in April and November.

## Parish Questionnaire

The deadline for return of Parish Questionnaires had just passed when this newsletter went to press. We received almost 120 completed questionnaires, a quarter on-line. Thank you to everyone who took the time to tell us what is important to you and what the priorities for the Parish Council should be.

We have not had time to analyse the results but a quick overview indicates that grass cutting and litter are particularly important to residents and, thankfully, things that residents are generally satisfied with. Full results will be in the next newsletter.

## Meet your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council holds surgeries in the Library/Community Centre 10–12pm. They are held on the first Saturday of each month. Dates of the surgeries are: 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December.

Come along and meet your Councillors informally and tell us what you think about Brixworth.



## Brixworth Needs You!

There are lots of ways that you can help make Brixworth a better place by getting involved:

### *Parish Councillor*

We have two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you are interested in joining us, or if you want to know more, contact Jane Macken on 881243 or [clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brixworthpc.org.uk)

### *Neighbourhood Watch*

An organised group of residents devoted to crime and anti social behaviour prevention. Meetings are held three times a year in March, July and November in the Olive Branch Coffee Shop. The police provide details of recent crimes, scams, unwanted callers etc in the area. Advice on home security is provided. John Haywood is the Chairman of the group and new members are always welcome. To find out more please contact John ([johnhaywood@bigfoot.com](mailto:johnhaywood@bigfoot.com)) or the Parish Clerk.

### *Brixworth Community Panel*

Meetings are held every quarter in January, April, July and October at the Brixworth Community Centre. The Police and Parish Councillors are present together with residents from Brixworth and surrounding villages. With a resident as Chairman, currently David Hymas, the panel meets for residents to discuss any concerns they may have, decide on the priorities for the police for the next quarter and receive feedback on crime and reported incidents during the last quarter.

Meetings are advertised in the Post Office shop window, Police Notice board in the foyer of the Library/Community Centre and on the Parish Council website. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### *Special Constable*

A Special Constable is a volunteer police officer, volunteering their free time – at least 100 hours a year – to support regular police officers. To be eligible to be Special Constable, you must: be over 18 years of age; have a right to live and work in the UK, be of good character, have a good level of fitness and healthy, have no more than 6 points on your driving licence within the past four years and not be in employment that is incompatible with the office of a Special Constable.

## Parish Council Meeting Schedule

Members of the public are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting—please come and see what we do and participate in the meetings. Meetings are held in the Library/Community Centre. All meetings start at 7.30 pm except Full Council which starts at 7.15. At Full Council meetings members of the public have the opportunity to speak in the Public Open Forum session at the start of meetings. At any Committee Meeting members of the Public can participate in the debate but will not be able to vote.

Future meetings are as follows:

Planning	Monday, 5 Sept
Recreation & Amenity	Tuesday, 20 Sept
Planning	Tuesday, 26 Sept
<b>Full Council</b>	Tuesday, 27 Sept
Highways & Environment	Tuesday, 4 Oct
Finance	Tuesday, 11 Oct
Planning	Monday, 17 Oct
<b>Full Council</b>	Tuesday, 25 Oct
Planning	Monday, 7 Nov
Grant Applications & Finance	Tuesday, 15 Nov
Recreation & Amenity	Tuesday, 22 Nov
Planning	Monday, 28 Nov
<b>Full Council</b>	Tuesday, 29 Nov

Agendas will be displayed at least four days before the meeting, please check for any changes to meetings. Contact details for the Clerk and Councillors are available on [www.brixworthpc.org.uk](http://www.brixworthpc.org.uk) and in the Library.

### **Message from the Chair of Brixworth PC (cont.)**

Canada-wide sales and marketing management for Gulfstream Aerospace. My wife did not like living in Canada and not long after the events of 9/11 we returned to the UK, buying a house in Brixworth.

I have been a member of the Parish Council for about five years. I did not intend to become Chair, but now that I am we have, for the first time, appointed Councillors to handle public relations for the Council and we have established a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to try and take advantage of the provisions in the Localism Bill that may allow us a greater say in Planning Legislation and how it affects our village.

Meanwhile, the Parish Council consists of a group of dedicated, unpaid volunteers, who are doing their best for you and the future of our village. It would be nice if we could count on your support at Council meetings, from time to time.