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Newsletter

A Word from the Chair



Hello and welcome to my second attempt to write something of interest regarding the work of the Brixworth Parish Council. Since my last effort there has been much going on and, no doubt it will continue. In the last few days the proposed development of Mabbutt's Wood Yard on Station Road, was finally rejected on appeal – much to the relief of many councillors who held grave concern about additional traffic through the "old" village. But Outline Planning Permission for 15 houses in an extension of Eaglehurst was approved, even though the Parish Council and many residents local to the proposed development voiced objection.

Next, will be the Carter Jonas Outline Planning application; that will be heard at Daventry in the near future.

Meanwhile, changes to the Planning Legislation that the Government has put in motion draw ever closer. The Parish Council established a Working Group to assess this new legislation, engage the people of Brixworth for their advice and prepare a draft Neighbourhood Plan. The goal is to take advantage of this legislation to establish local control over future growth and we would like your views about how you think the village can be developed for the future; be it planning for infrastructure or housing.

I would like to remind you that the Parish Council is, and has been, two councillors short for some time. So, if you think you might like to contribute to the future of Brixworth; even between now and next May's Election, I would urge you to apply to the Parish Council Clerk.

Until the next time...
Mike Lacey

More Dog Fouling Controls thanks to Brixworth Young People

Dog fouling continues to be an issue that bothers many Brixworth residents. However, Brixworth Youth Club has proved that local voices can count. They researched how extensive this problem had become in local recreation areas and in November last year made an impressive presentation to the Parish Council and Daventry District Council's Environmental Manager. Following this, Daventry District Council has announced a formal consultation on introducing new Dog Control Orders. These would make it an offence to fail to remove dog faeces, not to have a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, and to permit a dog to enter a playground where dogs are excluded. These strengthen existing dog laws that require all dogs in public places to wear a tag with their owner's name and address.

Improving St David's Playing Fields

If you are fed up of the tatty state of facilities in St David's playing fields—so are we! The Council has set up a working group to plan improvements to this important recreation ground for the village. The group has been tasked with regenerating the tennis court and the children's play area, and to search for funding. Local residents and the sports clubs have been invited to give their views. The first meeting took place on 18th October.



Meet your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council will hold a surgery in the DDC office at the Community Centre on

3 December 10 am - 12 noon

Come along and chat to your Councillors about any matters you would like to bring to our attention.

Could You be a Parish Councillor?

You should consider becoming a Parish Councillor if

- You want to do something positive for your community
- You want to spend your time productively
- You can think, listen and act locally.

In **May 2012** the current Parish Council comes to the end of its period of office. It may seem a long way off, but the Council is already thinking about the next election.

As at every election, some people will stand down and, given sufficient people willing to stand, some may not be re-elected. We would encourage everyone reading this to consider offering themselves as candidates and take the opportunity to influence the way amenities in our community are managed. It is becoming increasingly important that we are able to draw upon the best skills in our community as the Localism Bill, currently working its way through Parliament, is expected to give local communities unprecedented powers to shape their future development.

Parish Councillors are unpaid and the minimum commitment is to attend usually two meetings a month – one committee meeting and one meeting of the full council – and to be available to take a councillor's surgery on a Saturday morning approximately twice a year. Look out for the display in the Library/Community Centre foyer in mid January 2012.

Disappointing Response Rate from Survey

During the Summer, we asked you to rate us on how well we look after amenities in the village. For the first time, we posted an online survey on our website as well as distributing it through the Bulletin. However, we only received 123 responses! As this does not give us a representative view of the population, we shall consider alternative ways of consulting with you in future.

The responses we did receive gave us a good "thumbs up" - satisfaction was higher for the amenities the Parish Council manages, such as the recreation fields, than for things we can only influence, such as parking.

Higher levels of satisfaction with crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as with grass cutting, appeared to justify the Council's decisions to invest in these areas. The main areas identified for improvement were dog fouling, speeding and parking on grass verges.

Parish Council Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting. These are held in the Community Centre. Agendas are displayed at least four days before the meeting.

Highways & Environment	Tuesday, 6 December	7.30pm
Planning	Monday, 19 December	7.30pm
Full Council	Tuesday, 20 December	7.15pm
Planning	Monday, 9 January	7.30pm
Recreation & Amenity	Tuesday, 17 January	7.30pm
Planning	Monday, 30 January	7.30pm
Full Council	Tuesday, 31 January	7.15pm
Highways & Environment	Tuesday, 7 February	7.30pm
Planning	Monday, 20 February	7.30pm
Full Council	Tuesday, 28 February	7.15pm

New Councillors

Richard Vizor and Kevin Parker have recently become Parish Councillors.

Richard is 41 and lives in Lessson Road. He moved to Brixworth with his wife in 2000, and they have since had three children. He originally comes from another hilltop town—

Malmesbury in Wiltshire. His wife grew up in Brixworth. They are both members of Brixworth Christian Fellowship and are actively involved in youth work at BCF. Richard works as a Marketing Executive at Bluewater Marketing on Ferro Fields Industrial Estate. He joined the PC so that he could give back to the local community and he looks forward to the challenges Brixworth offers.

Kevin has lived in Brixworth for 26 years and is married with two daughters. He is a Business Director of a European chemical company. He joined the Council because he felt he wanted to put something back into the community, using his skills. He believes firmly in keeping Brixworth a village and in supporting the local businesses and amenities, and is concerned about any further expansion of the village.



A Plan for Brixworth

In anticipation of the Localism Bill becoming law next year, the Council has set up a Working Group to develop a draft Neighbourhood Plan. This will represent the views of the village about how you would like to see Brixworth develop in future. The Group meets every fortnight and is currently consulting with a wide range of different community groups. Please get in touch if you would like to join this discussion.



For more information or to contact your Parish Councillors go to our website at
www.brixworthpc.org.uk

Or contact Parish Clerk Jane Macken on **01604 881243**