

Brimpton Parish Council

At our April meeting we discussed the work needed to revise the Parish Plan. This is an important document that sets out the community's priorities and preferred future development. When the previous plan, published in 2003, was prepared a working party was set up, chaired by a member of the Parish Council, but made up of other members of the community. A questionnaire was sent to all residents of the parish and the resulting views were used to develop the Plan. We intend to follow the same procedure so if you are interested in joining the working party to oversee the work, please let me know. It is essential that all parts of the parish are represented.

We have been informed WBC will no longer send the Parish Council paper copies of planning applications free of charge because they now receive 80% of applications on-line. We accepted we will have to work electronically because we do not wish to pay for paper copies, although we may do so if we feel this would aid discussion of complex proposals. We will also trial showing the plans on a screen during the council meeting and will put links to planning applications in the agendas and on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council has received a donation of £20,000 from INRG Solar. We resolved to accept the donation on the understanding that it was reparation for the disruption caused during the installation of the solar farm and it will not influence any future decision making. We will be asking you how the money should be spent as part of the Parish Plan review.

Historic England is running a national campaign to list war memorials as sites of special historic interest. We decided to apply to have the Brimpton War Memorial included in the list to recognise its importance in the parish and to ensure it is properly looked after in the future. This will also open opportunities to apply for grants to maintain the memorial.

We are proposing to locate a defibrillator outside the Village Hall. We will discuss this with Heartstart Thatcham and with the Village Hall committee. There is already a defibrillator at Brimpton School which is always accessible via the small gate.

Subject to the number of volunteers who take part, we are organising a litter pick throughout the parish on the morning of Saturday 28th April. Please assemble at 10am in the Three Horseshoes car park for a safety briefing and to collect hi viz jackets and equipment.

Finally, we have decided to separate the Annual Parish Meeting from the May AGM of the Parish Council. This is so we can devote more time to Parish Council business and to the local organisations and service providers who are the centre of attention at the Annual Parish meeting. The new date for the Annual Parish Meeting is Tuesday 22nd May, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Further details will be publicised closer to the date.

The next Parish Council meeting, which is also our AGM, is on Tuesday 1 May, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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