

Brimpton Parish Council

Our meeting on 5 February began with a presentation on the role of the Ministry of Defence Police who protect the AWE facilities at Aldermaston and Burghfield and cover a 5-mile radius around the site. At the moment they are focussing on Rosebourne garden centre and Reading West Services to provide a high police presence at these locations and engage with anyone acting suspiciously. They are mainly involved in counter terrorism activities and asked us all to be vigilant and to pass to them information about any suspicious activity.

Liz Masters, the Chair of the Parish Plan Steering Group reported that good progress has been made on the analysis of the results of the questionnaire circulated last Autumn. All sections of the report have now been completed in draft form, although the conclusions and recommendations are not yet finished. A public meeting to report the findings of the survey will be held on 26 March at the Village Hall. Some of the key findings so far are that 40% of people living in the parish are retired and 60% of residents are over 45. 29% of the working population work from home, which shows there is need for a good broadband and mobile service in the parish. 95% of respondents use the public rights of way and 68% support the creation of new footpaths in the parish. About one third of respondents thought that the number of houses in the parish should not increase (from which I presume two thirds thought it should or didn't care either way) and 38% thought that the settlement boundary should be reviewed.

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee have agreed jointly to purchase a bench as a memorial to Cllr Dennis Cowdery. It will be located on the patio at rear the Village Hall.

As West Berkshire no longer provide paper copies of planning applications, the Parish Council agreed with Phil Bassil's suggestion we should purchase a Wi-Fi enabled projector for the Village Hall to allow planning applications to be viewed during meetings.

Cllr Boeck reported on a meeting held between West Berkshire Council and Gigaclear to agree the way forward for the installation of high speed broadband. Gigaclear was not able to provide a plan for completion of the work at this time. WBC is to meet with Gigaclear investors to encourage them to meet their contractual obligations.

We will be organising a litter pick in the parish on Saturday 16 March. West Berkshire Council and AWE will be providing safety and picking equipment. In the Parish Plan survey 70% of residents said they'd be willing to help collect litter so I am optimistic for a good turn out.

Over 130 residents receive my usually fortnightly Parish Update via email. It provides details not only of Parish Council activity, but of local events, road closures and other issues of which we think you should be aware. If you wish to join the list, please contact me as shown below. The Parish Council meets again on Tuesday 5 March, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

John Hicks
Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

john.russet@sky.com
www.brimptonparish.org.uk
www.facebook.com/brimpton-parish-council