

Brimpton Parish Council

The July meeting of the Parish Council co-incided with the England-Colombia match in the World Cup. Personally I didn't see this as much competition, so maybe it was the continuing heat wave that kept people away. Whatever the reason, there were only five councillors and four members of the public present for a short presentation by Callum Hutchinson of Thames Water about work undertaken in this area.

Thames Water has replaced 480 metres of cast iron pipes with new polymer pipes which will be more resilient in extreme weather conditions. These new pipes are also more resistant to lime scale so will result in better water quality. Thames Water provides a free water sampling service where they will test the quality of the water coming into the house for lead levels and if it is too high they will replace pipes outside the home with polymer pipes.

Revived by thoughts of fresh water, in the meeting itself we considered (in the middle of a drought) WBC's Sustainable Drainage planning document, which aims to avoid flooding, and then moved on (in the middle of a heat wave) to WBC's Highway Winter Service Plan to prevent icy roads. Irony is alive and well at the Parish Council.

Liz Masters, the Chair of the Parish Plan Steering Group, updated the Parish Council on progress made in their first meeting and the work of the sub-group set up to formulate the questionnaire to be circulated to all households later this year. It was agreed this will be the opportunity for residents to say how the village should look and feel. The group are planning an open workshop in September so there is ample engagement with the community.

Following a letter from a parent raising safety concerns, we discussed speeding outside Brimpton School and the difficulty in crossing the road from Enborne Way. This problem has been looked at on previous occasions and there is no easy solution. WBC will require hard evidence of speeding so we will encourage parents to take up Speed Indicator Device training (being held on 15 August in Newbury). A resident at the meeting raised a concern about the barrier outside the school gates being inadequate and suggested it could be extended further along the pavement. We will discuss this with the school Governors.

I was able to report that the public meeting to consider the viability of a village fete in the summer next year had been successful and we have a steering group of 18, including representatives of the Church, the W.I., and the Friends of Brimpton School. We have set a tentative date of Saturday 29 June 2019 and are investigating several possible locations.

There were no new planning applications.

Nearly 100 residents now receive my Parish Updates via email. If you wish to join the list, please contact me as shown below. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 3 July, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

John Hicks

john.russet@sky.com

www.brimptonparish.org.uk

www.facebook.com/brimpton-parish-council