

## **Brimpton Parish Council**

At our March meeting we decided to call for volunteers to join a working party to collect the many items of litter – usually thrown from passing cars – that are gathering in the hedges in and around the village. If you would be willing to take part or provide support, please let me know. No date has yet been set for the litter picking.

The Parish Council was pleased to hear the Brimpton Common post box has been replaced, albeit at the time of the meeting had not yet been commissioned for use. However, we were bemused to hear that on the day we were informed the box was in place, our Clerk had received an email from Royal Mail to say they had decided not to replace it as other post boxes were within the prescribed distance. Left hand, right hand, as they say.

We unanimously supported a planning application to build a bungalow in the grounds of Kiln Cottage. A previous application to build a house was turned down because of the height and the location being within the village conservation area. The new application has addressed the issue of the height and although the property is still in a conservation area, there has already been significant development behind the proposed site. Moreover, the application meets the requirements of the Parish Plan which supports small-scale infilling.

By a majority vote, the Parish Council has opposed a planning application for additional gates and parking at Larkwhistle Farm. This is because the additional parking area constitutes unnecessary urbanisation of a rural area and the additional access on to the B3051 would make the road more dangerous.

The Parish Council has been informed that WBC will not be sending us paper copies of planning applications after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. Instead we will receive an email notification of applications with a link to the supporting documents online. If the Parish Council requests a printed copy there will be a charge. Anyone who has submitted the requisite number of printed copies of a planning application may be excused for wondering, as we did, what WBC does with them all.

We previously expressed our concern about West Berkshire Council's proposal to significantly reduce its financial support for the Citizen's Advice Bureau. We were therefore pleased to hear from Charles Brims that Greenham Common Trust, of which he is a trustee, has agreed to provide funding to match the reduction made by WBC.

We discussed the requirements of the new data protection regulations that come into force in May. Whilst we acknowledge the importance of data protection, for small councils and bodies such as village charities, the words "sledgehammer" and "nut" come to mind.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be in the evening of Tuesday 1 May. This is an opportunity to catch up with what is going on in the parish and to talk to representatives of organisations whose services and activities affect life in Brimpton. More details next month.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 3 April, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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