

Brimpton Parish Council

Despite the ominous date, the Parish Council met on 5 November. There were two planning applications. The first was for Langton in Brimpton Common and the second was for the removal of a chimney at The Lodge, also in Brimpton Common. We recorded "no objection" to both applications.

We discussed the first draft of our budget for 2020/2021 and have decided that although reserves are high, there are potential projects which will need significant investment. These include the provision of a recreation ground closer to the centre of the village and possibly contributing to road improvement schemes.

We recorded our thanks to John Dolphin and the team of speed watch volunteers who recently carried out over 30 hours of monitoring in the space of a week. The results have been received and a major problem was identified in Brimpton Road. This will not surprise the residents. WBC will now deploy their sentinel device to monitor and record speeding vehicles. Speeding was also found to be a problem in Wasing Lane, albeit not so frequently as in Brimpton Road.

Perhaps surprisingly in view of the number of comments from parents, no significant speeding above 30mph was identified outside of the school, although some drivers breached the 20mph advisory limit. The next step will be to carry out monitoring on Crookham Common Road and the B3051 in Brimpton Common.

One of the recommendations in the Parish Plan asked us to investigate other transport options to and from secondary school. It has come to light that at present only 4 of 16 seats on the 8.15am bus to Kennet School are booked. This is not cost effective and unless the take up improves alternative arrangements may have to be made next year. Those vacant seats are available to anyone who would like their child to travel on the school bus. To apply for a seat for the current academic year, go to www.westberks.gov.uk/schooltransport.

The Parish Council has received a number of comments about the condition of the planting that surrounds the Solar Farm. If you haven't walked in that area, 38 of 43 trees and 85% of bushes planted to provide screening have died. We have recently been informed that the trees and bushes will be replaced at the "optimal time" for planting, which I presume to be now. The original planning application also proposed the planting of a woodland copse. This has not materialised because it was removed as a planning condition.

Over 160 residents receive my usually fortnightly Parish Update via email. It provides details not only of Parish Council activity, but of local events 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 3 December, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

John Hicks
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