

Brimpton Parish Council

At our meeting on 2 October Liz Masters, the Chair of the Parish Plan Steering Group, reported on a successful evening when residents had joined the group to discuss the topics to be included in the forthcoming survey. The questionnaire will be made available both on line and on paper at the end of this month and residents will have three weeks in which to complete it. I would like to stress that it is very important that the Parish Plan is based on the views of as many residents as possible.

We discussed potential legislation which will extinguish the right to walk on footpaths that are not included on West Berkshire Council's Definitive Map. We have checked all footpaths in the parish and believe these to be registered and secure.

We considered the draft of Vision 2036 by WBC's Health & Well Being Board. It's a well meaning document covering five topics: personal opportunities; housing; the local economy; health & wellbeing; and landscape & culture. Vision statements are usually aspirational and don't offer precise objectives and targets. This one is no exception but even with that caveat we felt the goals listed for the environment and culture were weak. We will be submitting a response.

The Parish Council considered two planning applications. The first was for a smaller development at Blacknest Farm than had originally been proposed. The second was for an extension at Old Thatch in Crookham Common Road. Details are available on the WBC Planning website. We offered no objection to either scheme.

We were given early sight of a proposal to build an additional house at The Osiers in the village. We welcomed this opportunity to comment before plans are finalised and a planning application submitted to WBC. This follows the pattern established earlier in the year when the Wasing Estate presented their ideas for developing the barns at Shalford Farm. The Parish Council would be happy to receive similar presentations from builders or developers.

You may have noticed some volunteers have been checking traffic speed in the parish at various times using a Speed Indication Device. This is the first stage of trying to persuade the highways authorities to take action to reduce speeding. It's too early to draw any firm conclusions and there are more locations to be checked, but already there is hard evidence that in the morning rush hour around two thirds of the vehicles coming through the village are above the speed limit.

There's been some interest recently in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme covering Brimpton village and Hyde End. A scheme already exists in Brimpton Common. If you are interested in participating please let me know as the subject will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 30 October, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We have moved the date to avoid a clash with WBC's District/Parish Conference.

John Hicks

john.russet@sky.com

www.brimptonparish.org.uk

www.facebook.com/brimpton-parish-council