

Brimpton Parish Council

At its meeting on 3 September the Parish Council agreed who would lead on each of the 29 recommendations we are taking forward as a result of the new Parish Plan. These include Charles Brims leading a review of the village settlement boundary; Mary Cowdery examining opportunities for building houses for first time buyers and those who may wish to downsize; John Dolphin reviewing a range of road safety problems; Peter Main looking at the possible expansion of the footpath network; and Phil Bassil investigating how to improve mobile phone reception. I will be leading on the organisation of another litter pick and investigating further opportunities for recycling.

One of the recommendations on which I am also leading requires us to "discuss with parishioners what would make people feel more part of the community". We already have the Church, which is used both for services and by community groups; the school; the pub; various formal and informal groups such as the W.I. and dog walkers; and events ranging from the recent fete to litter picks, from the annual plant sale to coffee mornings, and from quizzes to a singing group. To find out about these we have the parish magazine, the Parish Council's website and Facebook page, the Brimpton Village Facebook page and the Update email. I think this is a good range of activities and communications if (and "if" is the key word) someone wants to be involved. However, if you have ideas as to how people can feel more part of the community, we would welcome your thoughts.

We were informed Footpath 15 has been now been cleared by West Berkshire Council and the triangle at junction of Station Road and Wasing Road has been tidied up by Thames Water. However, the fingerpost is still missing and we have asked WBC to investigate. We were also informed by WBC that the drain on the bend outside the Three Horseshoes has now been repaired. Having previously been told the road would need to be closed whilst the work was in progress, we await the outcome of the next heavy rain storm.

We have received further reports of near misses at the junction of Enborne Way and Brimpton Road. Because more data needs to be collected before West Berkshire Council will consider taking steps to deal with speeding, five additional volunteers have now been trained to use the Speed Indicator Device. We will borrow the SID from WBC but apparently there is a waiting list of parishes so it will be some months before we can begin to gather evidence.

The Parish Council considered a planning application for land at the front of The Osiers, Brimpton Road. Objections have been raised by neighbours and the Parish Council also resolved to object to the application on the grounds that the building would be too close to neighbouring properties and would therefore be overdevelopment of the plot.

You can receive all this news and more about local events if you receive by email the fortnightly Parish Update. If you are not among the over 150 people who now receive it but would like to do so, please let me know. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 1 October, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

John Hicks

john.russet@sky.com

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