

Brixton Parish Council

How Brixton Parish Council meets its duties in relation to crime & disorder



Brixton is a rural location on the urban fringe of Plymouth. It is not a high crime area. However, before January 2020 when concerns were raised these were reported to the Clerk or directly to the local PCSO who ensured that they were dealt with in a timely way, as part of a collaborative preventative strategy to reduce Crime and Disorder in the parish.

Up until January 2020 Brixton Parish Council invited the local Police / local PCSO to monthly parish council meetings to report on crime and disorder statistics and to agree if any follow up action was needed. In January 2020 Devon and Cornwall Police stopped attendance at Parish Council meetings; as a result Brixton Parish Council has joined the Police Advocate Scheme to ensure that it is fully briefed on crime and disorder issues. To ensure liaison and collaboration between the Police and the Parish Council an additional six weekly meeting has been set up between the Chair of the Parish Council and the local Police Sergeant to discuss any issues relating to crime and disorder in Brixton. A direct channel of communication between the Chair and the Police has been set up for urgent issues.

The local PCSO also attended the quarterly traffic management meetings to discuss any issues that may arise. It is through these meetings that Brixton Parish Council has been able to progress the Community Speedwatch involving local residents as volunteers.

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where parishioners volunteer with the support of the Police to monitor the speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Prior to January 2020 local volunteers, trained and supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team worked with the PCSO, started our Community Speed Watch following discussions at the traffic meetings to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community. The results of this initiative are reported to the Parish Council via the Traffic meetings and at monthly Parish Council meetings. Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities both urban and rural and the main A379 through Brixton village is no different. Since the first lockdown in March 2020 the Police have suspended Speedwatch. However, further volunteers have been recruited and trained during 2020.

The Parish Council purchased its own VAS in June 2018 and has since monitored the speed of traffic through the village and lanes. The data and statistics are regularly reported to the local Police and the Parish Council. An overall reduction in speed has been noted. The Road Warden for the Council manages the VAS, data and statistics and reports any traffic offences e.g. parking on pavement next to zebra crossing so that these road safety issues can be dealt with by the Police in a timely way.

The Parish Council works closely with the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme led by local residents in collaboration with the local Neighbourhood Police Team.

Brixton Parish Council utilises the Love Brixton Facebook page and BrixtonDevon website to warn and update parishioners of incidents of burglaries and any scams.

Brixton Parish Council works in collaboration with the local Neighbourhood Team Police aware of its responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and acts as and when required or requested to reduce / prevent crime and disorder particularly in relation to noise, social distancing (since March 2021), fly tipping, speeding vehicles, out of control dogs in the community and in the countryside e.g. sheep/livestock worrying.

A representative from the Parish Council attended the South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership Forum in June 2019 and in December 2020. The topics covered included changes in youth culture, dementia, public protection, police update, domestic abuse and preventing exploitation.