



Brixton Parish Council

How Brixton Parish Council provides leadership in planning for the future of the community.

Brixton's Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2034, (see Parish Council website), was 'made' by South Hams District Council in January 2020. This was the culmination of 5 years work by the Neighbourhood Plan group set up and led by the Parish Council. All the required consultations took place over 3 years including various surveys, all age consultation days, and attendance at the annual community fête over three consecutive years. Progress was regularly reported in the monthly Brixton Village Magazine, at Council meetings and on the Brixton Facebook pages. Further consultation included paper copies of the draft plan being available in the village shop and pub providing opportunities for group and individual feedback on the draft plan. Brixton's Neighbourhood Plan provides a planning policy and strategy for the parish outside of the development of the nearby new town of Sherford. It is considered in all planning matters alongside the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (2014-2034). In 2012 the Parish Council produced a Parish Plan which is monitored annually through the Council's Action Plan.

Promoting health and wellbeing the Neighbourhood Plan Group also led on the production of Brixton's Sport and Recreation Plan (see Parish Council website). Consultation included surveys, all age consultation days as well as seeking input through the village magazine and Facebook. This plan, for a 10 year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2029 was adopted by Brixton Parish Council at its meeting on 12th December 2018.

Brixton Parish Council produced a draft Business Plan 2020 – 2023 during 2020 and following a period of consultation adopted the Business Plan on 24th March 2021.

The Parish Council took the lead on Community Emergency Planning in 2009. A councillor has lead responsibility for updating, encouraging and training a team of volunteers in implementing the Community Emergency Plan (CEP). The CEP is reviewed, updated and approved by the Parish Council annually. The CEP played a significant role at the start of the COVID 19 pandemic in March 2020 leading to rapid volunteer support to deliver prescriptions and food to those people who were vulnerable, shielding or self-isolating while respecting GDPR and personal safety. A further development was a network of 38 local volunteers which was set up across the Parish to ensure each area had a named local person to turn to, helping avoid isolation or report problems early, again respecting GDPR and personal safety. This teamwork received considerable accolades from the community, improved cohesion and good practice was shared with neighbouring parishes.

Over the past 9 years Brixton Parish Council has been a founder and major contributor with four neighbouring parish councils to the ground-breaking project 'Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm' which supports over 40 people living with dementia and their families in their rural communities. This project has achieved a local, national and international reputation. Its work contributed to the 'Guidance to Parish & Town Councils on Dementia Friendly Communities' published by NALC in 2020.

Seven years ago, to address issues of road safety the Parish Council, set up a quarterly meeting chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council of Councillors, residents, the Devon County Council Highways Officer and the local PCSO. Issues addressed include the introduction of Speed Watch, having a Road Warden, purchasing and installing VAS speed monitoring and monthly VAS reports to the Parish Council and community. DCC Highways commend this as a model of communication which they would like to see other Parish Councils adopt.

The Parish Council is a member of the Yealm Climate Emergency and Environment Action Alliance. A Climate Crisis and Environment Group is being set up by the council to develop and implement the Environment and Climate Change Plan agreed by the Council in February 2021 engaging with parishioners and local organisations. The Chairman represents the Council on the Sustainable South Hams Climate Change group. The Council is leading a group of four neighbouring parish councils to work with the statutory agencies on the improvement of water quality on the River Yealm from the local sewage treatment works.

The Parish Council has for four years been active in supporting the new community as it develops in the nearby town of Sherford under construction (planned 5,500 houses) and is also represented on the Sherford Community Land Trust. Sherford will have its own town council in the longer term and representatives from the Residents Association and the Community Land Trust regularly update at parish council meetings.

In January 2021 Brixton Parish Council became a member of the County Committee of DALC