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Chair's Chat
Hello and welcome. It has been a busy few months with the Clerk and Councillors working on the business plan alongside the budget for 24/25. A number of outstanding historical projects have now been completed including the long awaited replacement litter bins installed in our public open spaces.

The new business plan outlines the Council's short and longer term plans and projects, many of which have been suggested by residents at the Council surgeries and meetings. We are changing the Saturday surgeries slightly so that more of you have the opportunity to meet with councillors. We are now moving the surgeries to other venues around the village at meetings and groups, including the school, as we want to make it more accessible for you to put forward your views and ideas.

Look out for the housing needs survey which will be dropping through your letter boxes shortly. Please take a moment to complete the survey. Your input is crucial to help us understand local housing needs and create a better community for everyone.

New trees and lights will replace the old Christmas trees around the village in December ready for the festive season.

We hope you enjoy the festivities. All of us at Brixworth Parish council wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



West Northants Council and Brixworth Parish Council Housing Needs Survey

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) in partnership with Brixworth Parish Council are conducting a study of the housing needs and requirements of all residents who have a close connection to Brixworth through current or past residency, work or close family.

The housing needs survey is an essential part of planning for future housing requirements and will help to ascertain what kind of housing may be needed in the area. The survey is an independently produced document which gives an unbiased report on the type, size and tenure of dwellings that are needed in the community.

We would be grateful if you would take the time to complete this survey which will be coming through your door shortly. Please complete it even if you are registered for a move through the Council's housing register, not currently thinking of moving, or do not require alternative housing. The information you provide is vital in giving a balanced picture of housing circumstances as well as informing future housing and planning policies.

We would prefer if you filled in the survey online, however if you would like to complete a paper copy, please return this in the envelope provided or drop it into the Brixworth library.

The online survey is available at <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/housing-needs-survey/Brixworth/> or by using the QR code below.



If you know anyone with a close connection to Brixworth parish, or who would like to return to live in the parish, please encourage them to complete the survey. They can access the online survey or request a paper questionnaire by emailing housingstrategy.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk or by phoning the Housing Strategy team on 0300 126 7000.

There will be a drop-in session on Monday 11 December from 9am to 2pm at the Brixworth Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth, Northampton, NN6 9DS. Questionnaires will be available for residents to complete, and Council and Parish Council staff will be available to answer any queries.



Community

Brixworth Parish Council is in the final stages of confirming arrangements to adopt the K6 telephone box on Church Street through the BT Adopt a Kiosk scheme. It is our hope that we are able to give the iconic red phone box a new lease of life, turning it into something that brings more value and enjoyment to local people whilst preserving a historically important asset within the village.

Have your say! What do you think we should use the phone box for?

Whether it's something that would bring heritage and culture, a practical solution or just joy and inspiration to the community, please email your ideas to us at admin@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

K6 Telephone Box Adoption

The survey will start on Monday 11 December, and close on Sunday 14 January 2024.





Welcoming New Councillors

We are thrilled to introduce and extend a warm welcome to the newest members of Brixworth Parish Council. As we continue to work towards making our village an even better place to live, the addition of these dedicated individuals will undoubtedly contribute to our shared vision for the community.

Councillor Gaurang Mehta (pictured left) is no stranger to volunteering in Brixworth as he has spent time on the Brixworth Tennis Committee looking after the finances and ensuring that his and his sons' tennis improves! Gaurang also supported the Neighbourhood Watch to help

reduce crime in Brixworth during the Christmas period. He is now looking forwards to utilising his professional skills for the benefit of Brixworth Parish Council and the community.

Councillor Alan Aisbett (pictured right) is a retired solicitor who has lived in Brixworth since 1998. Passionate about football and motivated by his daughter, Alan started volunteering in the girl's and women's game, working with others to establish one of the early girl's football teams in the village. Alan is motivated by helping people with challenging legal issues and has been a Citizens' Advice volunteer for nearly two years, currently with Corby and Kettering Citizens' Advice. Alan hopes to use his experience and skills in contributing to the community in Brixworth.

As they settle into their roles, our new Councillors are eager to engage with the community, listen to your concerns, and work towards addressing the needs of our village. This fresh perspective and enthusiasm will no doubt lead to positive change.

Winter Safety Advice

As the days grow shorter and the temperature drops, Winter's chill is upon us. While this season can bring the beauty of snow-covered landscapes and cozy firesides, it also brings its share of hazards. It's crucial to take the necessary precautions to ensure your safety and that of your loved ones during the winter months.



- Bundle Up** - When venturing outdoors, it's important to dress appropriately. Layering is key, as it allows you to adjust your clothing to the changing temperatures. Make sure to wear a hat, gloves, a scarf, and a warm, insulated coat. Be prepared for the cold.
- Safe Driving** - Winter roads can be treacherous. Ensure your vehicle is equipped with appropriate tyres and keep an emergency kit in your car. This kit should include items like blankets, non-perishable snacks, a torch, and a first-aid kit. Always check weather and road conditions before heading out and reduce your speed in slippery conditions.
- Prevent Slips and Falls** - Slips and falls on icy pavements and driveways can lead to serious injuries. Keep walkways clear of snow and ice, and use salt or sand to improve traction. Make sure to wear proper footwear with non-slip soles, and walk carefully to avoid slipping.
- Home Safety** - Winter is a prime time for house fires due to heating equipment. Ensure your heating systems are well-maintained, and always follow safety guidelines for space heaters. Check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, and replace the batteries regularly. Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Stay Informed** - Keep an eye on weather forecasts and severe weather warnings. Be prepared for power cuts by having candles, torches, and extra batteries on hand. Make sure you have enough food and water to sustain you and your family in case of an emergency.
- Check on Vulnerable Neighbours** - Winter can be particularly challenging for elderly neighbors or those with limited mobility. Take a moment to check on them, and offer assistance if needed. Clearing their drive, bringing them groceries, or simply spending time with them can make a significant difference.
- Limit Exposure to the Cold** - Prolonged exposure to extreme cold can be dangerous. Minimise your time outside in frigid temperatures, and take breaks to warm up if you must be outside for an extended period.



In the midst of Winter's challenges, it's essential to find ways to enjoy the season safely. With the right preparations and precautions, you can make the most of the winter months while safeguarding your well-being. Stay safe!



Carbon Literacy Action Day

On 4th December, we are participating in the Carbon Literacy Action Day - the world's largest climate education-and-action training event, coinciding with COP28. The Action Day is a global movement which sees the largest number of people simultaneously complete Carbon Literacy training in a single day.

Our planned activity for the Action Day is to deliver Carbon Literacy training to our Councillors, officers and working group members. Our training will commence on 13th November and culminate on 4th December.

Becoming Carbon Literate means taking actionable steps towards tackling the climate emergency, and Brixworth Parish Council are passionate about doing everything we can to mitigate the effects of climate change. Taking actionable steps towards mitigating climate change is vital because we want to ensure a healthier planet for future generations, preserve biodiversity, and reduce the impact of extreme weather events on our communities and ecosystems.

Follow along with our activities on the day via our social media channels and wider Action Day activities via #CLActionDay.



HOW TO REPORT

FAULTY STREET LIGHTS

- West Northants Council are responsible for the majority of the street lighting in Brixworth.
- If you have a fault with a streetlight near you, please report it using one of the links below. Please make sure you provide as much detail as possible to help identify the fault.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths/street-lighting>
 Non-Emergency Number: 0800 0850257
 Emergency Contact Number: 0800 0850284

This information has been brought to you by Brixworth Parish Council. All incidents of this nature are reportable to and investigated by West Northants Council using any of the contact links above.

Contact the Parish Clerk:

To contact the Parish Council please write to:
 The Parish Clerk, The Information Point, Brixworth Library and Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth NN6 9DS
 Email: parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Telephone: 01604 347993

Full Council (Thursdays): 21 December, 25 January, 29 February
 Planning (Mondays): 18 December, 8 January, 29 January
 Finance & Personnel (Thursdays): 14 December, 14 March

Please check website & noticeboard to confirm dates and times. All meetings are held in the Library and Community Centre.

For further information please contact the Clerk.

The Brixworth Parish Council Team

