

Brinklow Parish Council

Chair Report

Once again the year has passed by very quickly and it's my happy duty to provide a summary of what has been happening within Brinklow Parish Council for 2015 -16, through the Chairs Annual report.

Change within the Council

This year has seen major change in the team that represents the council, after many years' service Cathy Moore stepped down from the Council and her position as Chair to focus on new horizons. More recently Roger Pearson and Charles Tew decided not to stand in the May election and on behalf of the Parish I would like to thank them all for the hard work and dedication to improving our community. As part of planned resettlement programme for retiring councillors we hope they will continue to support the Parish Council and various sub committees that exist within the village.

New team

As a result of change we start 2016 -17 with a new team, Elaine Friswell, Jenney Boonham and new to the council Vera Mcbay, Tina Brothers and Mick Lavin. I look forward to working with them.

Support from Borough and County Councillors

As a council we get tremendous support from our Borough Councillors and County Councillors, Tony Gillias and Heather Timms, throughout the year they attend our meetings, provide the community with an insight as to what is happening at county and borough level. They always take away a number of issues raised by either residents or the council and more importantly take action to resolve issues where they can. Thank you.

Activities that we undertake

Amongst the many activities that we oversee as a council, grass cutting, street light provision and repair, maintenance of the park, running of the cemetery, statutory consultee on planning applications, there are a number of challenges and issues facing our community.

Speed aware

Some of them present a clear danger to our community such as speeding vehicles. The council continues to support our speed aware team, the volunteers who go out three or four time a week to persuade drivers that's it's not good to speed on our

roads. It's disappointing to see the abuse these volunteers get, but they are making a difference. They have my admiration for their dedication to a sense of purpose, to try and make a difference for our community, making it safer. Over 100 speed aware outings have been made this year and some 570 vehicles reported for speeding, the team receives our sincere thanks for their efforts.

School Picture Competition

To raise the issue with one of our most vulnerable groups, the council invited the local primary school to design speed aware posters. We had over 86 entrants, all there posters were displayed in the Community Hall and the winners of the competition had their posters displayed around the village, helping to raise speed awareness.

Play Area

The parish council has been taking steps to plan and deliver improvements to our playground, making it more accessible, safer and attractive to different age groups. Having gone through a tender process we now have a company ready to install the new area. The cost is in the region £49k, we have so far collected £3,000 in grants, the council has set aside £15k towards project and we are currently completing applications for further grants to fund this project. Subject to funding we would like to start this work as soon as possible.

Village Warden

I would like to thank our village warden, Colin Cooke for the time and effort he puts in to keeping our streets litter free and all those volunteers who came forward for the village spring clean. As always it never ceases to amaze me as to what we throw away, and the amount of litter we collect. We had a great turn out this year with support from the scouts, staff from the quarry and residents; it was great a effort, well done to all concerned.

The Tump

The council continues to oversee the maintenance of the tump, and again we are very grateful to the volunteers who make this possible, particularly Vince who can be found up there just about every Sunday. Our approach remains to restore the balance between nature and the ability to see and understand the historical importance of the tump. A large part of the work this year has focused on the scrub at the rear of the site. We continue to work with Warwickshire Wildlife trust concerning management of the site and one of the things we hope to start this year with them is the creation of a wild flower meadow at the rear of the site.

War Memorial

Our war memorial continues to be one of our most treasured assets. Situated right at the heart of the village, visible to all who live and travel through the village on a daily basis, it is well kept and a credit to the village. I would like to thank the volunteers who go out on a daily basis to keep the memorial clean and the planted areas well tendered. We are entering the memorial into Britain in Bloom and sincerely hope that the work of the volunteers is recognised.

Challenges

There are some challenges that we need to face, in February we heard about the proposal to build 100 homes in our community and we had a well-attended meeting to learn and understand the impact of the draft Local Plan. The Council responded to Rugby Borough Council and expressed concerns about the number of houses proposed, the underlying methodology to justify such change in our village, the loss of green belt land, the loss of farming land and the impact on the rural nature of the village. I understand that Rugby Borough Council having taken into account the responses it received will be again putting out the draft plan for further consultation and as a council we will endeavour to keep you informed.

NDP

In light of the proposal to build 100 homes in our village, a number of volunteers have formed a subcommittee to consider the implications of establishing our own Neighbourhood Development Plan. The NDP will be discussed in detail a little later, and while the NDP can't stop development it can be used to influence how and where development takes place. The parish is currently been asked to indicate through a referendum whether they wish the council to take step to develop such a plan and we look forward to your response.

The Year ahead

Looking forward to this coming year, we may subject to the outcome of the referendum start the process of developing the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which will need considerable input from both the community and council.

If we can collect enough grant money we would like to start the refurbishment of the play area.

To be a successful council we need your support. For those who are here today thank you for taking the time to come a listen as to what your council is doing on your behalf.

We value your input and hope you will continue to show your support through volunteering and attendance at Parish Council meetings.