

Minutes of Braishfield Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Electors held at Braishfield Church Rooms 7/5/2019

(The Annual Parish Meeting is also known as the APA – Annual Parish Assembly)

draft

Present

Members of Braishfield Parish Council:

Chairman Jane Bennett
Vice-chairman Ian Knights
Cllr Richard Brazier
Cllr Carole Renvoize
Cllr Mark Swinstead
Cllr Peter White
Cllr Sally Yalden

Others:

County Councillor Alan Dowden
Borough Councillor Martin Hatley
Approximately 20 electors
Clerk to Braishfield Parish Council, Kate
Orange

(Note: questions/comments from electors are in *italics*)

Apologies

47. Apologies have been received from Hazel and Mike Prince; and PCSO Rich Saunders on behalf of Hampshire Constabulary, Test Valley Rural Team.

Introduction

48. Chairman of Braishfield Parish Council, Cllr Jane Bennett welcomed those present and introduced Cllr Alan Dowden (Hampshire County Council) and Cllr Martin Hatley (Test Valley Borough Council), and Members of the Parish Council. Cllr Bennett gave congratulations to Cllr Hatley on his forthcoming appointment to Mayor of Test Valley and best wishes to Jo Hatley also.

Accuracy of Minutes

49. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 May 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and a copy was signed by Chairman of Braishfield Parish Council Jane Bennett.

Chair's Report on Braishfield Parish Council

50. Copies of the Chair's Report were circulated and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

Cllr Richard Brazier added that CIL replaces s106 in part. There are considerable sums with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) yet to be spent, and the Parish Council is working with TVBC on possibly reallocating some to other categories of spending.

Cllr Carole Renvoize proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Jane Bennett for her work throughout her first year as Chairman of Braishfield Parish Council, where she has been proved to be a fair, firm and logical Chairman.

Reports on specific parish matters:

Grants available for the community:

51. Vice Chairman of Braishfield Parish Council, Cllr Ian Knights, reported that Braishfield Parish Council is seeking to access two grant funds: the Resilient Communities Fund (Scottish and Southern Electricity) and a CIL Bid (TVBC).

Regarding a CIL Bid, the Parish Council are working towards a well considered bid, following a rather hurried first attempt last year. The scope of the previous bid included village signs and gateways, fencing at the Recreation Ground and signposting of the footpaths, Village Hall and Pantry. With the new bid, there is some overlap with the findings of the traffic working party; as for example, village gateways may form part of traffic calming. The submission of the bid may need to be postponed in order to ensure that it covers the full scope sought by the village. Some questionnaires were provided at the Meeting for public comments.

Review of the Village Design Statement

52. Jimmy Chestnutt, Chairman of the Village Design Statement Working Party, reported on progress with the revision of the Village Design Statement (VDS). A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes.

Traffic working party

53. Michael Stubbs, Chairman of the Traffic Working Party reported on their work. The working party was formed in order to investigate the issues with through traffic, perhaps routed via sat-navs, as well as local traffic. Traffic is generally at a higher volume, and fairly inconsiderate of the need for careful driving in rural lanes.

The working party was established in March 2019. Members include Michael Stubbs, Carole Renvoize, Ian Knights, Stuart Yalden (who is a highways engineer), Mike Edwards & Julie Holland.

The conclusion drawn in the January meeting was that soft measures were preferred, rather than humps etc. Hampshire County Council (HCC) road

safety staff are assisting the group. Mandy Ware of HCC has advised that subject to being commissioned by the Parish Council, on payment of a fee, HCC can survey the area and suggest measures to put in place. The report can be used as the basis of seeking funding to make improvements.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council will hold an Extraordinary Meeting in order to make the decision to commission the report, allowing HCC to start.

Emergency Plan

54. Cllr Jane Bennett reported on the work of the Community Resilience Working Party, who are drafting an Emergency Plan for the parish. If anyone can remember when they lost power for a significant period, please let the Parish Council know, as this would form evidence in our Resilient Communities grant application.

The second table-top practice drill will take place in July, under the advice of Tom Greenwood. Following that, the Emergency Plan will be published.

Cllr Ian Knights reported on the SSE Resilient Communities fund. The Parish Council is applying for a grant for a generator which will be fitted to the village hall so that the hall can be a refuge in the case of power outage. The value of grant funding applied for is in the region of £14,000. There has also been an offer of a donation of a concrete plinth.

Crook Hill footway

55. Cllr Carole Renvoize issued a report and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

Mike Edwards noted that the route was being surveyed over recent days.

Byelaws for the Recreation Ground

56. Cllr Peter White reported on draft byelaws for the Recreation Ground. Residents may not be surprised, following parking problems and various other issues, that the Parish Council have been considering having byelaws. The Parish Council has proceeded to draft set of byelaws for consideration. The issue of unauthorised parking brought this to a head as the other mechanisms for dealing with unauthorised parking are cumbersome. Parking on the ground itself is also a worry and byelaws would empower the police to take action to clear trespassers. A model set of laws has been used as the basis.

Extensive consultation is necessary with the public, which is why it was important for this topic to be mentioned at this Meeting. Cllr White circulated a set of the draft byelaws as they currently stand, and any comments are invited: please send them to the Clerk of the Parish Council, Kate Orange,

clerk@braishfield-pc.org.

An email to the village said that various acts such as kite flying may be banned. That was never the intention and the email could have been better worded. The intention is that they should be flown safely and without interfering with other users. Drones are another important category which is covered: the Council is trying to find a suitable way to cover these – for example to prevent estate agents, whilst allowing children's toy drones.

There were comments as follows:

A member of public asked how will "responsibly" be defined, for the flying of kites and drones. She would not like to see children's use of these restricted; the recreation ground is very lightly used and the byelaws seem to be going to far - Cllr Knights replied that the consultation period is intended to bring out these views and find a reasonable way forward.

Is there a restriction on civilian drones over the Parish – the Parish Council does not know.

A resident has had drones flying over their garden, which came from the neighbour's estate agent, which is unacceptable.

A photographic drone, 6' wide and of considerable weight, was flying at a resident's place of work. Drones such as these would be hazardous to the public if launched at the recreation ground.

The Parish Council needs to look at how best to restrict the use of drones to those considered safe in some way.

Does the rule have to stipulate the size of drones?

Cllr Renvoize asked that residents should please let the Council have their views: this is a consultation and the views will shape the approach of the Council.

Cllr Brazier feels that another option is to limit the byelaws to the key issues eg. unauthorised parking.

A member of public said, perhaps the byelaws could cover the things we don't want rather than cover all the possibilities that may arise but have never done so so far.

Cllr White noted that the starting point had been the government's model byelaws, which are extensive.

A proposal for a mobile fish and chip van

57. The Parish Council has been contacted by a mobile fish and chip shop, which wants to operate from the recreation ground carpark, and seeks the views of the public.

The following views were expressed:

Other villages have this, eg Awbridge, Lockerly, Carters Clay.

I want this – this is why I have come to this meeting.

It is likely to be popular – perhaps do a trial period.

Concerned about the rubbish afterwards.

Concerned about the smell for the neighbouring houses.

Our Pubs do offer takeaways – how will this affect them?

Twice a month would surely not affect the pubs.

This matter will go on the agenda of the Meeting of Braishfield Recreation Ground, 4 June 2019.

Report from our police officer

58. The Clerk read out the report from the local police, and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

A resident noted that their neighbour's house was burgled this year and they reported this to the police – but this has not appeared in the crime figures in the report .

A resident asked that feedback is sent, that all the police are doing is collecting figures and not actually preventing the crimes. The Clerk will pass this feedback on.

Nottingham knockers: a resident did not understand why the Nottingham knockers were discouraged by the police in an article in the local press recently, as they have been polite. Another resident had an incident where the caller was troublesome and the police were called. The Clerk recalled that the article said Nottingham knockers are claiming to be – but are not - people on probation.

Report from our County Councillor, Alan Dowden

59. Cllr Dowden gave his report and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

A member of public asked about care homes in Romsey: what is the plan?
There is a plan for an extra-care facility in Romsey. There have been delays but it is planned. Whether it will be private or council run is not, or the dates, Cllr Dowden is not certain at this point.

Report from our Borough Councillor

60. Cllr Hatley read out his report and a copy is attached to these Minutes. Cllr Dowden and Cllr Hatley have worked closely together over the years to ensure that local matters are dealt with properly.

Cllr Hatley had suggested to the developer at Abbotwood that it would assist in their marketing if they put a footpath on Crookhill, to connect the development with the facilities – pubs and school – at Braishfield. He is pleased to that this path is being delivered.

For the CIL bid that the Parish Council is putting together, please write to the Council with your comments or support, because there is a points system for deciding these applications.

Test Valley Borough Council are in purdah because of the European election.

Contact Cllr Hatley via his mobile if you have an issue that requires his input.

How is the footpath going to be constructed around the Braishfield Road/Sandy Lane roundabout. Cllr Dowden notes that the design will go through a safety audit at HCC. The Parish Council has a copy of the design.

Electors' Open Period and Questions

61. *Emergency Planning: does it include the telephone service? Her neighbour's line was out at the time that he was having a heart attack and couldn't dial 999 as there is no mobile reception in some areas.*

A resident mentioned that a Braishfield resident is a paramedic: would he be able to help with the emergency plan arrangements?

Chair's Report on Braishfield Parish Council – May 2019

Introduction

I would like to thank all the Councillors for their hard work and commitment over the past year and in addition, all the volunteers who have contributed to the success of our working groups resulting in a lot of positive action being taken. All this work impacts on our Clerk, Kate Orange, so on behalf of everyone I would like to thank Kate for all her work and the guidance provided.

After serving as a Councillor for over 23 years, as vice chairman for a considerable time as well as being elected as chairman after the sad loss of Councillor John Bevan, Mike Edwards decided not to seek re-election. The Council has benefitted from Mike's wealth of knowledge and expertise over the years and I understand he will continue to share this with us as he continues to serve on some of the working groups. At this point I would like to thank Mike on behalf of the village for his service to the community and ask him to accept this gift as a token of our appreciation from the Councillors and the Clerk.

We are now very pleased to welcome Sally Yalden who has been elected to the Council.

Representing the Council and Village

I attended the Hampshire Annual County Service in Winchester Cathedral on 18th June and on 17th July Richard Brazier and I attended the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the official opening of Sir Harold Hillier Gardens.

I attended the flag raising on two occasions in Romsey and as you know, we have raised the flags here for Armed Forces Day and more recently for St George's Day. We have appointed Richard Brazier as Flag Officer with Tim Howkins assisting to fly our flags on other commemorative days too.

This brings me to ask whether we should have a village logo. This was raised at a recent parish council meeting and it was decided to ask for your views this evening which we look forward to receiving.

Grants

The Parish Council awarded two grants totaling £3298 for the upkeep and one half of the cost of felling the three Austrian pines in the Burial Ground of All Saints church.

Planning

The importance of planning to the village and to the council has been reflected in having a planning committee under the chairmanship of Richard Brazier. This enables us to conduct meetings where the sole focus is planning matters. We continue to receive substantial numbers of

kept to a high standard satisfying health and safety regulations. In the past year we have had (1) the Thuja trees felled as they were impacting on the school playground, and (2) the branches overhanging the garden of a property in Common Hill Road, cut back. The play and fitness equipment have been closely monitored and action has been taken when any form of maintenance has been required. One or two potholes have been noticed in the car park, so we are obtaining quotes for the repair work.

The council has been concerned over abandoned vehicles being left in the car park at the recreation ground for long periods. We now have a process in place should this happen again. This, together with other concerns raised by parishioners, has prompted the Council to reconsider the implementation of Byelaws which Councillor Peter White will speak on later this evening.

Village Library

It has been a year since we cut the ribbon to open the village library in the redundant telephone kiosk opposite Newport Lane. It has been popular, especially for villagers to donate their books even if they didn't take any in return! We are grateful to Lisa Grummett for the idea and Carole Renvoize and Kate Orange for keeping everything in order.

Lengthsman Scheme

This scheme provides us with access to a handyman who can undertake minor tasks under our direction. The budget is limited, but the scheme has enabled us to complete work that would otherwise have taken much effort to organise. The latest work has been clearing the overgrowth on the recreation ground. Thanks go to Kate Orange for helping organise the lengthsman schedule for us.

To sum up, it has been a very productive and busy year and I would again like to express my thanks to everyone who has given their support in my first year of being Chair of this Parish Council. We have achieved a lot and there is always more to do, so what is important to me and the Council is that we work with the community to achieve our goals.

Jane Bennett
Chairman, Braishfield Parish Council

planning applications, including those for new dwellings and for extensions. The appropriateness of the proposals and their design details require us to exercise considerable judgement. We continue to have a policy of site visits and discussions with the applicants to ensure our better understanding of proposals.

Last year we said we were looking to revise the Village Design Statement – to bring it up to date and to reflect developments that have taken place since it was created. To help inform current thinking on planning, I attended a Neighbourhood Plan seminar. We are pleased a working group has now been formed under the chairmanship of Jimmy Chestnutt who will provide us with the latest position.

Councillor Richard Brazier has taken the lead on the allocation of s106/ CIL money.

Roads, Highways & Footpaths

Although primarily the responsibility of Hampshire County Council, the Parish Council does act as a set of local eyes on the condition of the roads, highways and footpaths.

A Traffic Group has been formed chaired by Michael Stubbs with Councillors and volunteers. This will be reported on by Michael .

The footpaths are also monitored but in recent months goats, sheep and buffaloes have made their way out of fields. Whilst we strive for this not to happen, it is incumbent on walkers to close the gates behind them.

Emergency Planning

I chair the emergency planning group consisting of volunteers from the wider community. Its focus is to be able to respond to any emergency in the village whether caused by extreme weather or by failures of infrastructure. We are making good progress and will be applying for a grant to SSE to fund a generator and associated costs. We hope that coordinated community action can help deal with all emergencies, particularly in the case of vulnerable people. We are grateful to all our volunteers and especially Tom Greenwood who has recently agreed to bring his expertise to the group taking forward Table Top Exercises.

Footpath from Dog & Crook to Jermyns Lane Roundabout

We are making progress with the footpath and Councillor Carole Renvoize will report the next steps.

We thank Councillors Martin Hatley and Alan Dowden for their continued support on this matter.

Recreation Ground

The recreation ground continues as one of our major responsibilities and we have continued to ensure that the trees, equipment and car park are

Baddesley Division County Councillor's 2019 report

Hampshire County Council Tax will increase by 2.99% Therefore Hampshire's Band "D" Council Tax will rise to £1236.87p during the 2019/20 financial year. This is on top of last year's Council Tax rise of 5.99%.

Over recent years, Hampshire County Council has struggled to protect adult social care, relative to other services. But, the overall funding picture for local government nationally, means adult social care services still face a £3.5 billion funding gap by 2025 just to maintain existing standards of care. The likely consequences of this are more and more people being unable to get the quality and reliable care and support they need. Children's services are also facing challenging financial pressures.

With no firm government plans yet in place for what happens to council funding and finances after 2020 obviously makes it very difficult for councils because they require budget certainty. The Government claims that they have provided more funding for education. But analysis by the House of Commons Library, shows Education spending has actually fallen from £95.5 billion in 2011/12 to £87.7 billion in 2017/18. All the schools within my Baddesley Division have achieved either good or outstanding status by OFSTED. I recognise the huge difficulties that the reduced funding imposes on the school management and congratulate the teachers and pupils for their hard work and dedication.

Braishfield

– After agreement was reached with Hilliers, Braishfield Parish Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council, this summer will see the commencement of a pedestrian footway on Braishfield Road. This will be funded from Developer contributions. I am sure that this will be welcomed on safety grounds, by the vast majority of residents.

I have supported various organisations through my County Council Community funding allowance.

- Eastleigh/Romsey Mencap
- Companions of St John's Church, North Baddesley .
- Romsey/North Baddesley Foodbank.
- North Baddesley Community Library.
- North Baddesley, over 60's club
- Unity Social Prescription Pilot North Baddesley
- Valley Park The Friends of the Park
- Mulberry Pre-School Valley Park
- The Romsey Chamber Music Festival
- Hampshire Rescue Search Dogs
- Valley Park Summer Floral displays

HCC Alan Dowden
Baddesley Division

Borough Councillor's Report for the last year (2018-2019) – Cllr. Martin Hatley

I have just completed my 24th year as your Borough Councillor for Ampfield and Braishfield in the privileged role as Deputy Mayor. I am delighted and humbled to report that I have just been re-elected to serve this ward again for the next four years. As a result, I therefore will be Mayor of Test Valley for the ensuing year. Whilst still carrying out my full duties as a Borough Councillor, the past year has been very busy in my Deputy Mayoral role but also inspiring, meeting so many diverse groups and individuals doing so many fantastic good things within Test Valley, often very quietly and not seeking any form of publicity..

Although I freely invest a very large amount of my time looking after what I think is a very special ward, over the years I have had to accept that whilst identifying all sorts of problems is relatively easy, regrettably sometimes there are simply no practical or possible short term solutions – or if there are, they will not please everybody. So it can be very much a juggling and compromise exercise. One recent example is the parking situation by the school in Knapp Lane, Ampfield. The Parish and Borough Council have worked hard to find a solution but most suggested 'solutions' only moved the problem to another part of the village. In the end I brokered a compromise with a reduced yellow lining scheme, which if observed, will preserve the safety at the A3090 junction by the war memorial and the pedestrian route to the new school gates and prevent the driveways being blocked to the first few dwellings in the lane. Together with the permission to use the Village Hall car park, this provides a solution, albeit not an ideal one for all.

Many walkers from Braishfield enjoy walking in the Ampfield Woods but have become recently very frustrated with the reduction in available parking. I am currently working on schemes which, if successful, would provide extra parking and this would be paid for out of developers' contributions ringfenced to mitigate and reduce any adverse impact on the New Forest National Park. I will keep you informed of any progress.

Sometimes projects just seem to take forever to materialise after they have been agreed in principle many years ago. In Braishfield, one such project is the proposed footway along Braishfield Road, from Jermyns Lane to the Dog and Crook. This is an extra scheme which I personally negotiated with the developers to provide, in addition to all the other schemes required by the Borough and County Councils. The late John Bevan (the immediate past chairman of Braishfield PC) was a great help in supporting its implementation which hopefully will be completed in time for the darker school evenings in the Autumn to make it a safer route for our many students, etc.

Sometimes my many years of experience and list of personal contacts comes in very handy. This was the case one Friday evening, after the Council offices had closed, when I received a call on my mobile phone from a vigilant and public spirited resident, followed by a call from your diligent chairman, Jane Bennett. In brief, very prominent protected trees were due to be illegally felled in Braishfield. I was able to immediately contact the Chief Executive and Head of Planning at their homes and after several phone calls going on until very late in the evening, the trees were saved. A good team effort all round

I have been pleased to support a number of grants from the Borough for use within the Parish, including grants for the Village Hall for a more sustainable heating system.

Finally, the Borough's Council Tax and car parking fees have been frozen this year due to very prudent investment of our money in our Project Enterprise scheme which we set up in 2014. This year we received £1.9 million from these investments in real estate – that's £1.7m more than if we kept the money in the bank. The Council Tax remains one of the lowest in the country – and is £43 lower than the average in the rest of England.

Report for Braishfield Annual Parish Assembly 2019, by Hampshire Constabulary, Test Valley Rural Team

I just want to take a few minutes to explain how the area is policed.

Leaving aside the likes of CID and Intelligence, you have the Response teams out of Hedge End and Andover. These are the officers who respond to 999 calls and the more urgent matters reported via 101. In the limited time between calls, they patrol areas based on intelligence and crime patterns.

Alongside that you have the Neighbourhood teams, which is where we come in. We investigate local crime matters, work with partner agencies to solve problems and patrol hot spot areas.

The neighbourhood team for Test Valley, covering all the Rural beats, from Vernham Dean in the north to Wellow in the south and from the Wiltshire border across to the border with Winchester consists of;
Sergeant Gary Lyons, PC Tim Allen, PCSO Rich Sanders and PCSO Lisa Moore based at Stockbridge and PC Tristan Pugh and PC Vernon Gook at Romsey.

That's a relatively limited resource for such a big area. If there was ever a time when a PC or a PCSO had responsibility for only one village, sadly those times are gone. Rich Sanders is PCSO for Braishfield; however Braishfield is just one of the towns/villages that they are responsible for.

We work very hard to focus our attention on the right places and on High Risk and High Harm people and places.

To do that we rely completely on your reporting what is happening.

Too often I hear, "Oh crime is so bad these days" but there are no crime figures to support that. That is either just a perception that crime is bad, or, more likely, an under reporting of crime.

Now, I know that 101 is clunky at best. I can't hide from that but please be patient; it is worth the effort to make the call.

Alternatively, we also have an on-line reporting system that is working extremely well.

I can't encourage you enough: please tell us what is happening. But please; don't expect us to take reports via e-mail. You need us to be out and about, not sat in an office creating reports. If you try to report something directly to one of the team via e-mail we will politely decline.

When you make a report you may be told it will be filed as there are no lines of enquiry. Don't worry: we still see what's been reported from our daily searches, so we do capture the information.

Can I also encourage you to follow us on HantsAlerts and Twitter. I promise that we will do our best to get messages out to you that way.

The team resources are slowly coming back up to where they should be, so we will be able to get out and meet people at engagement events more often in the future.

Crime figures for the year up to 30 April 2019: Braishfield

Burglary – shed/garage/outbuilding etc. = 7

Burglary – house/dwelling = 0

Theft = 4

Criminal damage = 3

Assault = 4 [2 incidents]

Report of suspicious person/vehicle = 8

Crook Hill Footpath

Brief History:

Braishfield Parish Council has been requesting from Hampshire County Council for the past 30 years a foot path from the Jermyns Lane/Sandy Lane roundabout into the village.

This request by the Parish Council was intensified following the building of Abbotswood which released sufficient S106 money to cover the cost of the footpath.

Several meetings have taken place between the Parish Council and Hampshire County Council the last being in October 2018 when the plans for the proposed footpath were discussed.

These plans were submitted to Hampshire County Council on 23rd April this year and were approved.

Latest News:

The construction work is now going out to tender and when contractors have been appointed we understand the work will begin at the start of the school summer holidays and hopefully be completed by September this year. The footpath will be 1.8 metres wide. Due to the width of the footpath, some areas of the route will require the existing drainage ditch to be culverted in order to adequately disperse surface water from the carriageway.

I do have a copy of the Decision Report from Hampshire County Council which gives greater detail of the project if anyone would like to see this after the meeting. It's also available on the Hampshire County Council website.

The completion of this project is a considerable achievement by the Parish Council over many years. Our late Chairman John Bevan was very instrumental in pursuing the footpath project and I know he would be delighted to know that all his efforts are coming to fruition.

*Alan
A. Martin*

VDS Committee report

The VDS Committee was created in accordance with the Parish Council directive at para 25 and tasked as in para 26 of the minutes of the Braishfield Parish Council Planning Committee meeting held on 4th June.

A call for members was made via the BV Network and Braishfield Facebook Forum and six residents volunteered:

Jimmy Chestnutt (Chairman)

Tom Greenwood

Alex Macleod

David Robinson

Mark Sennit

Mike Stubbs

Howard van Rooijen

The first meeting was held on Tuesday 28 August.

The task

At the start of the process we reviewed all the documentary options available to a Parish Council to influence planning authority decision making (NP, PP, VDS) and concluded that a Neighbourhood Plan was the most effective but also the most risky and expensive.

We accepted that although a VDS cannot stop, or influence the size and location of any new development, it can be used to try to influence developers and Test Valley Borough Council to ensure that new buildings respect and reflect local character, and also help councillors decide on design suitability of every application by providing a village view of what they would find acceptable.

It is a useful document in its own right and its findings would be incorporated in any further village planning documents.

The current VDS is still an excellent document and much of what it asserts and details is as true today as it was when it was written, a real credit to Rosie Groves and her team who did all the hard work required to produce the high quality 2002 VDS that has served us well.

However, it is undisputedly 17 years old and can, for that reason alone, be dismissed as out of date. If it is to be accepted by the planning authorities and of any value to the village and developers it needs an update.

We passed those views to the Parish Council and were tasked to carry out a light touch, no cost, update and review of the 2002 VDS.

Work to date

To save time and cost, we decided to try to keep the same structure and layout, and photographs and text where still relevant and correct.

Each committee member took responsibility for reviewing a particular section of the 2002 VDS and our comments and proposed amendments were incorporated into our first draft of the review.

We gave a progress report to the Parish Council on 30th October and then attended a village open meeting “Reviewing the Village Design Statement (VDS)” on Wednesday 7th November 2018 from 1600-1900 in the BVH Community Room. Members of the committee were on hand to answer questions and hand out the questionnaires to those attending.

Later, with the support of Julie Kemp who folded and inserted a questionnaire into the BVN magazine and the BVA who distributed it, we posted the questionnaires to all residents. A copy was also placed on the village network.

The questionnaire was simple and straightforward and designed specifically to allow us to verify or update statements made in the 2002 version and justify amendments to the recommendations.

Just under 100 completed forms were received online and in hard copy, and the views and comments were analysed.

In February we invited the TVBC planning team to Braishfield to brief them on how we intended to complete the review and seek reassurance that we were going in the right direction. I was able to brief them on the results of the survey and then drive them around the village and point out the qualities that were important to us and the threats to our village way of life. They saw for themselves the hamlet layout of the village and the importance of the open spaces, the damage to the lanes and the reducing gap between Braishfield and Romsey.

They all agreed that they were much better informed as a result and looked forward to helping us during the final stages of the review.

The questionnaire

The scoring and comments indicated that:

The qualities considered essential to maintain the village feel were that Braishfield:

- a. remains surrounded by countryside;
- b. is separate from Romsey;
- c. has open spaces between the hamlet settlement pattern.

The greatest threats to the village were:

- a. the expansion of Romsey northwards along the Braishfield road;
- b. the volume and speed of the resultant new through traffic from the developments at Abbotswood;
- c. the traffic damage to the exit lanes particularly the King’s Somborne Road.

These views have been reflected in the latest version of the draft VDS which Howard van Rooijen has kindly produced as an online version which we will, after a final committee review and check, present to the Parish Council for comment before discussing it with TVBC planners.

It will then come back to Braishfield for the final stages of the process which will allow further opportunities for residents to comment.