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Brafield on the Green ACTION GROUP

The Action Group was formed to encourage and help residents to make their views known about the plans to build 18,000 new houses west of Brafield on the Green and a new road from Billing to the M1 which will pass close by the village. We have produced a leaflet which has been delivered to all houses in the village giving information and advice on how to object and we have also put up posters and left copies of the leaflet in the Village Stores, Working Men's Club and Ramco Convenience Store.

We held the first two drop-in sessions at the Working Men's Club and were overwhelmed with the response. Many letters of objection have been written and some residents of other villages have taken posters and copies of the leaflets to distribute around their villages. We have produced several letters for children and young people - these are very important as it is their future in the village that is at stake. We are holding two more drop-in sessions on

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September at the Working Men's Club from 11am to 4pm.

The next meeting of the Action Group will be on

Thursday 24th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

We've also arranged a final drop-in session on

Saturday 26th September from 10am to 12pm. in the Village Hall

Although we have made a good start we need many more letters of objection to be sent in. Please pass on the word to all your friends / neighbours to send an objection letter themselves.

Keith Crompton Oak House, 14a The Green 01604 891 277 07990 597411

Northamptonshire Probation Area Community Payback Initiative : Unpaid Workers

Six unpaid workers (male and female) and two supervisors from the Northamptonshire Probation Service, came to Brafield on Saturday 22 August 09 to work on our Bridle Path, as planned and mentioned in our previous Newsletter. However, they may have been rather ambitious in the amount of work they thought they would achieve in one visit. They brought a pick up truck and lots of power tools and started on the Billing Rd. end of the Bridle Path, cutting back the grass creep and generally strimming and tidying up the area. They only got as far as the Red Lion, but did an excellent job on the section they managed to cover. They were all very pleasant, and several local residents commented that they were a good crowd – one resident even came out to help them. Thank you. That section of the Bridle Path is now much wider, and, if maintained regularly, could stay so. They took away all their spoils and left the area very clean, so I'm glad that our first experience with them was a positive one – at least we haven't heard of any complaints! The Village Hall was used for refreshments and comfort breaks. The Parish Council has written to thank them and to offer them further work around our village. It is a productive way in which offenders can make amends to the community for the harm they have caused.

Debt Advice from South Northamptonshire Council

SNC's Housing Options Team provides a range of homelessness prevention services for all residents of the area. These include a full Options Service for ALL households in housing need, and referrals to our in-house Debt Counselling Service provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau. SNC also administers the governments Mortgage Rescue Scheme, which is a homeless prevention measure for vulnerable homeowners at risk of repossession. For more information on any of these initiatives contact the Housing Options Team in confidence on 01327 322067

Village Autumn Clean

After the success of the village Spring clean earlier this year, we have agreed to repeat this activity again this Autumn. If you would like to give a hand to make the village a more pleasant place to be, please come and meet up on

Saturday 31st October at 10 a.m. on the Village Green

Rubbish sacks and gloves will be provided as before. Please contact Gill Ager on 891488 or Dawn Allingham on 899083 for further details. Even if you cannot support us on this particular morning, it would be wonderful if you could spare a few minutes to clear litter from your own house boundaries to support us in helping to improve our village environment.

Affordable Housing in Brafield

You may recall that, some time ago, SNC undertook a Housing Needs Survey in relation to Affordable Housing within the Parish. Immediately after the survey was completed the Officer in charge of the project left SNC. We are delighted to inform you that a new Strategic Housing Officer, Alice Izzett, has been employed and we will be liaising with her in relation to the Affordable Homes issues within Brafield over the next few months.

Improvement Works : Billing Bridge

May Gurney WSP in Partnership with NCC are proposing to undertake modernisation and improvements works to the traffic signals at Billing Bridge. The works are scheduled for October and are expected to last for approximately two weeks. Road safety will be managed during this time by temporary traffic signals. Some delays may be experienced during this time.

Crime Figures Down for Brafield

From April – July this year the crime figures reported to the local Safer Community Team were down, with incidents as follows:

10 rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour / 2 malicious nuisance / 1 firearms / 1 animal related anti-social / 1 vehicle break in.

The priorities for the next 3 months are: vehicle crime / number plate theft / schools parking issues / anti social behaviour.

Distraction Burglaries

Distraction burglaries are nothing new but they can leave people very distressed. Finding someone has been through your home and personal possessions is a very upsetting experience whether you are young or old. Northamptonshire Police are setting up a Doorstep Crime Action Network. If you are aware of elderly or vulnerable people in your area please keep a look out to prevent these people falling victim to a doorstep crime. If you have any suspicions or concerns that distraction burglars or doorstep rogue traders are operating in your area contact the Police on the dedicated Doorstep Crime Hotline 0345 23 07 702.

SNC Chairman's Charity for 2009/2010

You may be aware that each year the Chairman of SNC specifically supports one or two charities in the district. This year the current Chairman, David Aaronson is supporting two charities, the first is the Caring and Sharing Trust which works with adults who have Challenging Behaviour and Learning Disabilities and is based in Cogenhoe. The second is the PSP Association based in Towcester which is raising the profile of a debilitating condition and provides care and support for sufferers and their families. If you would like to raise funds for either of these worthy causes and would like further information please contact David Aaronson on daidaaronson@btinternet.com or by telephoning 01908 564233.

VACANCY – Independent Board Member for SNC Homes

As you are no doubt aware, SNC Homes is the Housing Association now responsible for all the social housing stock previously managed by SNC. They currently have a vacancy on their board and are hoping to recruit from within the South Northants Homes area. If you are interested please contact Debbie Macphail on 01327 357811

**Next Parish Council Meeting:
Tuesday 24th November at 7.30 p.m. in the Sargeant Memorial Hall Brafield**

**Members of the public are most welcome to attend any meeting
At the start of the Parish Council meeting, time is set aside for public enquiries**