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Village Information Booklet

New residents : Information booklets have been handed out to two new households in Brafield. We offer those residents a warm welcome. Do please let us know if you see or hear of anyone moving into our community so that we can welcome them, too.

Amendments to the booklet:

P12 Hilary Dolan is no longer involved with The Brafield Youth Choir, the Benefice Choir or the Music group. Please delete her as the contact for those groups.

P27 Andrea Leadsom (Conservative) is now the Member of Parliament for the new constituency of South Northamptonshire which includes Brafield.

Contact details: Westminster: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA Tel: 020 7219 7149

andrea.leadsom.mp@parliament.uk

Constituency Boswell House, 9 Prospect Court, Courteenhall Road, Blisworth, Northampton, NN7 3DG

Tel: 01604 859721, 07834 843507 Fax: 01604 859329

andrealeadsom@googlemail.com www.southnorthantsconservatives.com

Please continue to contact the Parish Council if you come across other changes that need amending. A running list of amendments is posted on the website as we receive notification of them. (P. Council section)

Police Matters

The latest Safer Community Panel Meeting was held in Yardley Hastings on the 2nd June 2010. In the last meeting held on the 4th March 2010 School Liaison was identified as a priority. As a result all 5 primary schools in the area have now signed up to Safer School Partnership Protocol which enables children to be educated about, and made aware of, crime prevention methods.

The new priorities for this quarter are:-

1. Speeding
2. Anti-social behaviour
3. Community presence/interaction.

There has been an ongoing spate of car key burglaries so please take extra care and do not leave keys on view at home or at work. Keys have been stolen without premises being entered.

Finally there have been a number of instances across the area of petrol tanks being stabbed and the petrol drained out of them. Please do all you can to protect your vehicle at all times.

Recycling Centres / Re-use shops

Recycling Centres

Some changes are being made to the opening hours of Northamptonshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres. Ecton Lane (our closest centre) and Sixfields will remain open 7 days a week, though several others will close for two days each week. Opening hours at all centres have been extended as follows:

Summer (April – September) 8am – 8 pm
Winter (October – March) 8am – 6pm

Re-use shops

Northants County Council re-use shops are moving. There are six around the county but our nearest one is at

Northampton's Re-use Store 3 St. Peter's Way Northampton NN1 1SZ
Re-use is important in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and helps to reduce disposal costs. The off site re-use shops, where the public can browse at their leisure, contribute to the running costs of the HWRC's. If you have items for re-use, please take them to your nearest HWRC and leave them in the designated drop off area.

(Check www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/hwrc for full details of Recycling Centres and Re-use shops)

Repossession Notices

Since 1st October 2009 Local Authorities have been notified when lenders commence possession proceedings against homeowners in their area. South Northants Council's Housing Options Team has been proactive in contacting these homeowners offering advice and an invitation to use SNC's free Housing Options service. This initiative has helped to bring about a continued drop in households being accepted as homeless despite the recession and associated unemployment.

Community Speed Watch / Traffic concerns

Over the years the Parish Council has been proactive in attempting to address the problems associated with traffic through the village. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) have been installed along the Bedford Rd, and, on the Billing Rd, a further sign, 30mph road markings and an HGV ban put in place. Despite these measures a considerable amount of traffic continues to flout the rules, which is frustrating for us and very annoying for you.

Consequently the P.C. is now considering signing up to join the next batch of the Community Speed Watch Campaign. Community Speed Watch enables local people to get actively involved in road safety and helps encourage drivers and motorcyclists to watch their speed and keep to the limit. Community Speed Watch is a partnership initiative operating in Northamptonshire using the combined efforts of the local Police, County Council and local residents, in association with Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). The scheme aims to help tackle the problem of speeding in local communities and, thus, to improve the quality of life. Over 40 villages across the county have already benefited from this scheme.

All villages and local town communities are eligible and, initially, the local Parish Council is expected to volunteer to participate, with the endorsement of the local Police Officer.

In order to be accepted into the Community Speed Watch scheme **a significant proportion of the local residents must also be willing to show their support for the initiative by:**

- Committing to stick to the speed limit in the village and throughout Northamptonshire
- Signing an anti-speeding pledge
- Encouraging others to do the same

For smaller communities, 20% of local residents are required to sign the pledge. Having gained the local support and commitment necessary, the next step is to identify between 8 and 12 volunteers in each participating village who are prepared to be trained in the use of the speed gun. Working in pairs at pre-selected locations, the volunteers are expected to monitor traffic through the local area and write down details of those vehicles exceeding a prescribed speed. Completed forms are forwarded on a regular basis to the Police where the identities of the registered keepers can be established. Letters are then sent out, under Police headed paper, to the registered owners explaining a little about the scheme and requesting that they keep to the speed limit in future. A second, more strongly worded letter is sent if they fail to adjust their speed on a subsequent occasion. Continued ignoring of the speed limit may lead to targeted enforcement and possible prosecution by the Safety Camera Team from Northants Police.

Additional benefits

In addition to the active monitoring of speeds through the use of laser speed guns, participating villages will also receive:

- Deployment of portable speed indicator devices to measure speeds before and after local speed monitoring
- High visibility Community Speed Watch boards for erection on lamp posts
- Educational literature for local residents explaining the scheme
- Regular feedback to all residents signing the pledge
- Visits from the Safety Camera Team

Petition

A petition was received at the Parish Council meeting on July 5th signed by over 40 residents living close to the Billing Road, expressing numerous concerns about traffic along that road. This has been forwarded to the Head of Traffic Management at Northants Police to ask how he intends to address those concerns. We hope that many of you who signed that petition will be willing to show your support for the Speed Watch Campaign. If so, please contact a member of the Parish Council.

Major Works / South Northants Homes

Following the completion of major external works to South Northants Homes in Grove Road, further external works are now being carried out to S.N. Homes on the Horton Road.

Overhanging hedges

Properties with overhanging hedges which restrict footpaths, can cause significant difficulties for those who need to use mobility scooters, buggies etc. At this time of year please ensure that shrubs hedges etc. are kept trimmed back so they do not cause an obstruction to those who need to use the full width of the footpaths.

Responses to West Northants Joint Planning Unit published

The WNJPU has now published all the responses received to its Emergent Joint Core Strategy which involved a majority of Brafield residents last year. These can be accessed via the Village Website (address at top) – click on Northampton Expansion Diary on the Home Page, then click on the link for the 5th June to find out how to access them. Thank you to everyone for a fantastic effort.

Next Parish Council Meeting:
Monday 20th September 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