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Unpaid Workers Community Payback Scheme

Several teams of Unpaid Workers visited Brafield on four Saturdays during September and October. The mild, dry weather was very kind, and the teams managed to clear the area around the Billing Road bus shelter, trim back the whole length of the Bridle Path through the village, and tidy up the grounds of the Sargeant Memorial Hall. The waste was cleared into 'Hippo' bags and removed shortly afterwards.

We are very grateful to both local farmers & contractors for helping us to keep our costs down by emptying some of the Hippo bags on our behalf, and to the Hall Committee for waiving the Hall hire charges as the Hall was being used by the Unpaid Workers for the benefit of our community.

Nevertheless, the cost of the four weeks visits amounted to £160 which included the purchase of 7 Hippo bags, the collection of one of them by Hippo, petrol and trimmer wire, and refreshments on each day. The Parish Council feels that this represents good value for money, but is regularly examining ways of making the precept stretch further.

The efforts of the Unpaid Workers have been much appreciated by local residents and we have received many compliments about their work following the teams' visits. We have sent a letter of thanks to the Northamptonshire Probation Trust who organise the Community Payback scheme.

National Planning Policy Framework and Neighbourhood Plans

The Coalition Government is reforming the planning system in a radical way. In short, the result is likely to be a more local form of planning where District Councils are the lead body responsible for 'Local Plans' working in partnership with local communities who will be able to draw up their own 'Neighbourhood Plans'.

Although the Parish Council will be expected to take the lead in neighbourhood planning, the research, writing and management of a plan will involve as wide a range of local people as possible. The processes for all this change are still being debated, tested and generally worked out. However, the Parish Council has been keenly engaged in this process.

A very detailed response was sent to national government's consultation on the draft 'National Planning Policy Framework' and we have sought to influence Conservative Government policy by sending a briefing note to our MP to use at her Party Conference and with other ministers in the course of the development of policy in this important area.

Your Councillors worked jointly on sections of this work with people from Little Houghton and neighbouring parishes (the Nene Ridge Parishes Group), and have been involved in seminars and discussions with the Chief Planning Officer and District Councillors at South Northamptonshire Council. They are now going to be involved in the national consultation on Neighbourhood Planning.

We will be writing much more about this new planning process, with which we hope many of you will get involved in time, so watch this space! Many of you will have seen these reforms mentioned in the media. So-called 'sustainable development', the newly stated 'purpose' of planning according to the government, is an obvious example.

It seems likely that we may have a real opportunity in future to influence and shape the way our community and our local area develops. It will be up to everyone in our community to try to realise that opportunity when the time comes.

Brafield Jubilee Celebrations : Next Meeting

You will recently have received a leaflet giving details of a provisional programme of events for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. If you are interested in helping at any of the events, please do come along to the next meeting on **Tuesday 6 December 7.45 pm at Brafield Working Men's Club.**

Items for Website please.

If you have any information about local events or activities that you would like publicised on the Village Website please send details to content@brafieldonthegreen.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings 2012

Monday 16 January 7.30 pm
Monday 19 March 7.30 pm
Monday 21 May 7.00 pm
(Annual Parish Meeting / AGM)
Monday 16 July 7.30 pm
Monday 17 September 7.30 pm
Monday 19 November 7.30 pm

Salt / Grit Bins

Brafield should now have five bins situated on or by Elm Close, Green Road, Church Lane, Bridle Close and Lower End Billing Road. The one taken from Green Road last year has recently been reinstated, but the bin at Lower End has disappeared. The County Council has promised us that this will be replaced as soon as possible.
The salt / grit is for use on public roads and footpaths only. Please contact a member of the Parish Council if you have any concerns or comments.

Streetlights in Brafield

The Parish Council, which is responsible for the streetlights in the village has investigated the possibility of restricting the hours of the lights to save money, but has found it not to be cost effective to install the necessary equipment.
No streetlights have been switched off here, so please report any that are not working to **Dawn Allingham on 899083**

Footpaths Bridleways and Drivers

There are some sections of the Bridle Path – which is a bridleway used heavily by people on foot (often with children and push-chairs) and riders – where people have the right to drive cars for access to their properties. It has been reported to the Council that some people are driving far too fast on some sections of the Path and those points where the Path crosses the entrance to The Barracks and The Red Lion in particular. If you, or visitors, are driving on or crossing any part of this Path, would you please drive **very slowly and with the utmost care**. There have been instances, too, where people have been seen to access their driveways – crossing public footpaths running alongside the roads in the village – at irresponsible speeds. Would you all please be mindful of the need to exercise caution and drive slowly and carefully when you have to cross any route used by pedestrians or riders.

Overhanging Shrubs / Hedges

Please be aware that these can not only cause inconvenience to pedestrians and people using mobility scooters, but can pose a serious visibility hazard to drivers exiting from their property on to adjacent roads. Please ensure any hedges on your frontages do not cause an obstruction to others.

*The Chairman and Councillors of
Brafield on the Green Parish Council
send their best wishes to all residents
this Christmas and throughout
2012*

**Review of Parliamentary
Constituencies in England**

To find out more, and to have your say on the design of the new constituencies:
www.independent.gov.uk/boundary-commissionforengland

South Northamptonshire Job Club : Parent Pathways

This is a job club designed for parents and carers looking to return to employment training or education (full or part-time). It is based at Towcester Sure Start Children's Centre (contact the centre if you do not have transport – they may be able to support you). As well as the latest vacancies, it will include workshops on useful topics such as CV writing, preparing for interviews, confidence building, managing money and finding the right childcare. There are as many pathways as there are opportunities, so come along and talk to an advisor. A crèche is available for some sessions.

For further information please contact www.southnorthants.gov.uk/jobclub or telephone The Job Club Team on 01327 322266

Winter Weather : Advice from NHS Northamptonshire

If you have an older person as a neighbour or a relative, please look out for them in the winter months. If you are worried about them, contact your local council or call the free Age UK advice line on 0800 169 6565.

Have a free flu jab : Everyone at risk is encouraged to protect themselves : age 65 or over, under 65 with long term conditions (heart disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, serious kidney and liver disease etc.), pregnant women, carers of people at risk.
Try to keep warm, eat well, have plenty of hot food and drinks, wear plenty of thin layers rather than one thick one, stay as active as possible.
Have your heating system checked and serviced annually, and have all gas, fuel appliances and flues serviced regularly by reputable engineers. (Call 0800 408 5500 to find a gas safe registered engineer.)

For further tips and suggestions key **NHS Northamptonshire 'Your Winter Well Guide'** into Google and download a copy.

Next Parish Council Meeting:
Monday 16th January 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