

BRIGHSTONE PARISH PLAN

Updated and Published January 2009

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Parish of Brighstone comprises the villages and hamlets of Brighstone, Brook, Hulverstone, Limerstone and Mottistone.

The first Brighstone Parish Plan was published in 2005 after lengthy consultation with parishioners through the Parish Newsletter, Housing Needs Survey, 'Planning for Real' events and public meetings which started in January 2003. There were 26 recommendations within the plan which were to be taken forward by various organisations. 6 of the recommendations have been completed, 11 have been partially completed and are carried forward to the updated Parish Plan and 9 have been discussed and agreed that no further action can be taken. The original recommendations and resultant actions are tabled as Appendix A.

In 2006 the Parish Council agreed to update the Parish Plan and also produce a Village Design Statement for the whole of Brighstone Parish. A grant was obtained from the Isle of Wight Council for this and consultation through a questionnaire delivered to every household took place during the summer of 2007. The responses were collated and an open weekend was held in the Wilberforce Hall in November 2007 where the proposed guidelines for the Village Design Statement were displayed as well as the recommendations to go into the updated Parish Plan.



The updated Parish Plan is a more concise document than the first as much of the background information about the Parish is contained in the Village Design Statement.

Our final consultation took place at the Brighstone Horticultural Show in July 2008.

Views from the public meetings, questionnaires and open days have helped form this plan and the proposed actions to create a vision for the future for Brighstone, Brook, Hulverstone, Limerstone and Mottistone.

The Vision

- A Parish that values its assets and rural character, but is prepared to encompass new ideas and changes which benefit both present and future parishioners.
- A caring community which provides for all ages.
- A community which takes opportunities to help itself.
- A community that benefits from improving the lifestyle of its people.
- A community which, although it has a high elderly population, realises the need to work to attract and encourage younger people to remain in and return to the community.

This report examines issues on a thematic basis, and relates to all of the villages in the Parish. Some specific issues concerning Brook are also identified. An Action Plan is to be found at Appendix B.

KEY ISSUES IN BRIGHSTONE, BROOK, HULVERSTONE, LIMERSTONE AND MOTTISTONE VILLAGES

From the questionnaires, public meetings and open events in Brighstone Parish, residents highlighted various issues and needs which they wish to see addressed and which would benefit the whole community.

1. ENVIRONMENT

The environment is a major factor in many local people’s views particularly in relation to the landscape, the community facilities and the social network.



Local people are keen to recycle and make use of the recycling facility in Brighstone car park and use the Amenity facility at Freshwater.

The need for conservation of energy is growing due to the escalating cost of fuel and the concerns about climate change.

Many people use the local shops and use the local footpaths.

Lighting was raised as an issue – about 50% of people did not want more lighting because of the night sky; 50% wanted more lighting to make walking safer.



Over the past few years the elm trees in the Parish have been decimated by Dutch Elm disease. Many residents highlighted the need to preserve and increase the numbers of trees and plants throughout the parish in order to maintain the quality of the natural environment.



Recommendations:

1.1 Develop a strategy for an Eco Parish.

Form a working party to talk to specialists, Isle of Wight Council, Footprint Trust, etc to develop a strategy which will encourage conservation of energy for older properties; recycling of waste; cutting down on packaging, walking, cycling, use of renewable energy sources, etc.

1.2 Establish specific issues regarding lighting

Review the questionnaire results to find out the specific issues and seek solutions whether that might be extra sites where lighting might be required, turning off existing street lighting at a given time, replace existing street lighting with low spill variety.

1.3 Improve roads, pavements and footways.

Lobby the Isle of Wight Council to improve and maintain the existing roads some of which are designated cycle routes which are in a very poor state of repair. Improve the footways where necessary particularly in relation to safe routes to school.

1.4 Encourage trees, shrubs and hedges.

Use the Million blooms grant to plant trees, shrubs and hedges where appropriate particularly where elm trees have been cut down.

2. COMMUNITY

Parishioners valued the great sense of community and the many and varied activities, clubs and organisations that are accessible to local people.

They also felt strongly that local shops and businesses should be supported so that they wouldn't be lost.



The school is a place that is used by many local people and more adult learning could be offered there.

There are a number of buildings in Brighstone that host recreational facilities and a number of people felt these could be rationalised into one centre.

The Seely Hall in Brook is well used by local people and is in need of renovating and upgrading.



Recommendations:

2.1 Provide more Adult Learning at the Primary School.

Review the original responses to questionnaires to find out requirements and re-confirm needs of local people.

2.2 Consider the need for a new Recreation Centre in Brighstone.

Survey all users of facilities to determine the needs and consult with the wider community on type of building and specific site.

2.3 Improve the Seely Hall facilities

The Seely Hall committee to plan renovation and improvements required and seek grants wherever possible.

3. HOUSING

A sub-group of the Parish Plan Steering Group was set up to explore the possible need for affordable housing in the Parish, and this group was able to secure technical assistance from Joanne Downey, the Rural Housing Enabler at the Isle of Wight Rural Community Council. A housing needs survey was drawn up, and with the assistance of some 30 volunteers, this was delivered to, and collected from every household in the Parish. This enabled us to achieve a 75% response rate.

The survey revealed 69 households in housing need – 11 families with children, 20 couples, 38 single people (young and old), and one extended family. The housing needed was identified as flats (24), bungalows (17) and houses (30), with most people indicating a need for one or two bedrooms. Ten respondents indicated a need for warden assistance.

The survey clearly indicates a considerable need for affordable housing for local people with the need clustering around young people (single, couples and families) and older people. The results suggest a scheme which provides both rented accommodation and shared ownership which allows people, especially younger people, to gain a foothold on the housing ladder.

Recommendations:

3.1 Develop more affordable housing for local people.

Establish the housing needs of local people. Seek suitable site/s to develop small scale developments that are acceptable to local people.

4. TRANSPORT

The bus service is good to and from Newport and Freshwater. Everyone over the age of 60 years old can have a free bus pass which enables the non drivers in the parish to access all the facilities that are available in the towns.

Residents highlighted car parking as being a problem in a number of roads particularly in the centre of Brighstone and in New Road outside the School and The Surgery. There is a Car Park in Warnes Lane but elderly residents visiting the Surgery are unable to walk from the Car Park to the Surgery.



Lack of coach parking in Brighstone stops coach parties stopping and spending money in the various shops and businesses in the village.

There is a long standing problem with motorcycles speeding along the Military Road, particularly on Sunday mornings and there are speeding problems on many of the rural roads particularly in the 30 mph limits along the Main Roads in both Brighstone and Brook.



Recommendations:

4.1 Provide more car and coach parking.

Identify land for extra parking for coaches and cars.

4.2 Reduce traffic speeds to appropriate levels at key locations.

Review speed limits, identify locations for reduced limits and lobby for enforcement.

5. PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Brighstone Recreation Ground Administrative Committee accessed grants to replace and renew the playground equipment for younger children. The equipment was chosen by the children and their parents and the area was fenced off on request of parents.



The first Parish Plan identified the need for skate park or ramp for the older age group of children and was strongly argued for by children who attended planning meetings. At present children either go to Newport or Freshwater to skateboard parks or skateboard in the centre of the village by the Bus Shelter. The latter causes a nuisance and a danger. Four year on there is still an identified need.

There are few facilities on the Recreation Ground for teenagers.

Recomendations:

5.1 Provide skate ramp

Form a young persons group to decide what facilities are required. Identify a suitable location for a skate ramp; apply for grants and install equipment.

5.2 Provide recreation facilities for teenagers

Consult further with young people regarding meeting places and other facilities; apply for grants and install equipment.

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Appendix A

The table below shows recommendation, actions taken and results from the first Parish Plan published in 2005

	Action Taken		Result
1.	ENVIRONMENT		
1.1	Garden waste	Discussion and consultation taken place. IWC have in place facilities for recycling of garden waste including green bag collections. May also be taken up by age concern	No further action
1.2	Renewable energy	Continued in updated parish Plan	Continued in updated parish Plan
1.3	Dog fouling	An island wide issue which has been taken up by IWC. BPC have provided an additional Dog Bin	No further action
1.4	Lighting	Consultation with community taken place	Continued in updated parish Plan
1.5	Roads and Pavements	Consultation with community taken place	Continued in updated parish Plan
1.6	Traffic speeds	Speed warning sign erected on Main Road.	Continued in updated parish Plan
1.7	Footpaths	No longer applicable	No further action
1.8	Trees and plants	Consultation with community taken place	Continued in updated parish Plan
2	COMMUNITY		
2.1	Community warden	No longer applicable	No further action
2.2	Broadband	In place	Completed
2.3	Welcome signs	In place at on main routes into the village	Completed
2.4	To consider one new community centre for Brighstone	Consultation with community taken place.	Continued in updated parish Plan
2.5	To improve the Seely Hall facilities	Consultation with community taken place	Continued in updated parish Plan
2.6	To bring dentist, optician and comp. med. facilities	Not reasonably achievable	No further action
2.7	To increase leisure facilities	Deleted from PP refer to 2.4	No further action
2.8	Bus shelter in Brook	In place	Completed
2.9	Use and maintain local facilities	Not reasonably achievable	No further action

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Appendix A

The table below shows recommendation, actions taken and results from the first Parish Plan published in 2005

	Action Taken		Result
3	HOUSING		
3.1	Affordable Housing	Consultation and promotion through PPF. Future new development at Heath Cottage will include some affordable housing.	Continued in updated parish Plan
4	TRANSPORT		
4.1	Car and coach parking	Consultation with community, landowners and business taken place.	Continued in updated parish Plan
4.2	Cycle Racks	In place	Completed
4.3	Cycle Track	Consultation with community, landowners and other parties taken place. Not reasonable achievable.	No further action
4.4	Bus Services	Improvements in place	Completed
5	PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE		
5.1	Play equipment	Installed and in use	Completed
5.2	Play area in Brook	No longer applicable	No further action
5.3	Skate Park/Ramp	Consultation with young people in progress. Action group formed to establish suitable location, type of equipment and funding	Continued in updated parish Plan
5.4	Hang-out facility for teenagers	Consultation taken place	Continued in updated parish Plan

Brighstone Parish Plan

Appendix B

Recommendation	Action	Partners	Timescale	Lead	Resource
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1.	ENVIRONMENT					
1.1	Develop a strategy for an Eco Parish	Form a working party to talk to specialists, IWC and Footprint Trust.	IWC, Footprint Trust and utilities	January-June 2009	BPPF	Voluntary
1.2	Lighting	Establish specific issues and seek solutions	SE, Police, Env. Agency	February-June 2009	BPC	Voluntary/IWC
1.3	Road, Pavements and Footways	Lobby IWC to improve and maintain roads, footways and cycle routes.	IWC, BPC	2009-2012	BPC	Council Tax
1.4	Trees, Shrubs and Hedges	Encourage the planting of trees, shrubs and hedges	BPC, BCF, Tree warden	2009-2010	BPC and BPPF	Residents

2	COMMUNITY					
2.1	Provide more Adult learning at the Primary School	Research requirements and audit needs	Brighstone C of E Primary School	2009	Brighstone C of E Primary School	IWC
2.2	To consider new Recreation Centre for Brighstone	Survey all users of facilities, determine the need and rationalise	BPC, Recreational Organisations.	April-December 2009	BPPF	Grants, FR
2.3	To improve the Seely Hall facilities	Prioritise continued renovation and pursue funding	Seely Hall Committee, Parishioners,	2009	Seely Hall Committee	Grants, FR

Brighstone Parish Plan

Appendix B

Recommendation	Action	Partners	Timescale	Lead	Resource
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3 HOUSING						
3.1	Affordable Housing	Seek suitable site acceptable to the community. Update Housing Needs survey.	BPC, RCC, IWC, BPPF, Housing Association	2009-2010	BPPF, BPC	Housing Associations

4 TRANSPORT						
4.1	Car and coach parking	Identify land for extra parking	IWC, BPC, landowner	2009	BPC	IWC/businesses
4.2	Reduce traffic speeds to appropriate levels at key locations	Review speed limits, identify locations for reduced limits and lobby for enforcement	BPC, BPPF, Police IWC	2009	BPPF, BPC	Residents, IWC, Police

5 PROVISIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE						
5.1	Provide Skate Ramp	Identify suitable location and acquire equipment	IWC, BPPF, BPC, Parents	2009	BPPF, BPC	Grants, FR
5.2	Recreation facility for teenagers	Consult further with young people regarding meeting places and other facilities	BPC, BPPF, young people	2009	BPPF, PC	Voluntary, grants

The following abbreviations are used in the Action Plan:

- BPC Brighstone Parish Council
- BPPF Brighstone Parish Plan Forum
- CC County Councillor
- FR Fund-raising
- IWC Isle of Wight Council
- RCC Rural Community Council
- SE Southern Electric