



Any organisation in South Brent may use the parish crest.

Coming Soon – Housing Needs Survey

The existing Housing Need Survey was completed in 2009 and needs to be updated. A new survey will be delivered to every property in South Brent in the New Year.

Look out for the form, please complete and return it, to ensure the information from the survey is accurate and up to date.

Station Yard Car Park

The area of land known as Station Yard is owned by South Hams District Council (except for a few spaces); the formalised car park, is to the east of the Dentists and has 42 spaces plus recycling banks.

In July this year, the South Hams District Council Executive resolved to **“consider the potential for generating income”** in 7 free car parks in the South Hams including South Brent.

A further informal meeting with the Parish Council was then requested by SHDC and it was announced that either Pay & Display meters would be introduced or the Parish Council could lease the car park for £7,000 each year.

At a public meeting on 16 October attended by over 100 people, fear was expressed that the vibrant businesses in South Brent would be damaged by introducing parking charges; shoppers prefer free parking. Some people have said that they do not want to pay for a car park when they do not own a car, (within our taxation system other, similar anomalies occur, such as the person with no children paying towards child benefit). However, village shops and businesses must remain viable; there would, for example, be a problem for local people, if the pharmacy were to close.

The Chairman asked whether those present wished to have Pay & Display meters; no one was in favour. A vote was taken on the lease or purchase of the car park and the meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of the purchase of the car park by the Parish Council.

If the Parish Council were to take over the car park then obviously there are cost implications to be taken into consideration. At present the South Brent Parish Council element of Council Tax is £40.01 p.a. for a Band D property. The situation gives rise to three broad options:

Option 1 – Do nothing, with no additional cost to the Council Tax, but SHDC have stated they would introduce car park charges, albeit with some further consultation on the tariff. It has been suggested that some further legal challenge might be possible if charging is imposed, although this is uncertain.

Option 2 – Lease the car park from SHDC at a cost of £7,000 p.a. reviewable after 5 years. This would add an extra £7.60 a year to the Council Tax on a band D property; this would include business rates and maintenance.

Option 3 - The Parish Council could purchase the car park, a loan would be obtained through the Public Works Loans Board. £65,000, the estimated cost of the formal car park area, over 25 years would cost £5,278 p.a. reducing by £53.50 with each payment. This represents an extra £5.74 a year Council Tax on a Band D property.

The Parish Council had hoped, through this winter newsletter, to be able to present you with sufficient information on these scenarios to ask you to decide on a preferred option.

However, despite asking for the necessary details of the running costs, maintenance, taxes and rates, the Council has not yet had full enough information to furnish you with the full implications of the lease or purchase of the car park. The Council will therefore take advantage of the six months offered by Cllr John Tucker, Leader of South Hams District Council, to explore the options to purchase or lease, and will consult with parishioners on final options after the New Year.

'Community Champion & Young Community Champion Awards'

The Parish Council agrees that this is an excellent way to acknowledge the huge contribution volunteers make in our community, volunteers are essential to the smooth running of so many local organisations, and it is time this contribution is recognised and applauded by the community as a whole.

The Young Community Champion Award has been introduced to recognise the efforts of the younger members of our community. Young people must be 18 years old or younger.

The Parish Council hereby request nominations for these awards for the Council year 2013/14, from village organisations in the Parish, with a supporting statement of not more than 100 words.

Nominations need to be made to Julia Willoughby, clerk to the Council by noon on 30th March 2014.

The winner of the Community Champion Award 2012/13 was Peter Kelly of 'South Brent Recreation Association' and the Young Community Champion Award winner was Lauren Williams of 'South Brent Guides & Brownies'. The Awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th May 2014.

Village Greens and Common Land

The Parish Council is frequently asked about Village Greens and Common Land. This article explains what they are and how to apply for status. The Parish Council is prepared to support any claim providing the majority of the parish supports such an application and the claim is not being used to resolve any civil dispute.

Village greens are usually areas of land within defined settlements or geographical areas which are used for sports and pastimes. Unlike common land, there is no general right of public access over village greens, which are instead reserved for use by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood or locality - Devon County Council is responsible for holding and maintaining the Register of Common Land and Village Greens. This is a statutory document that provides a record of all the registered pieces of common land and village greens across the county.

It should be noted that a village green may be privately owned, although in practice many greens are owned by the local parish council and some greens may also have rights of common over them.

Common land is land over which another person is entitled to exercise rights of common or land. Such land was historically considered to be waste of the manor not subject to rights of common and is normally in private ownership.

Rights of common are legal rights exercisable only by certain individuals (the 'commoners') who live in certain properties or in a certain area. These rights may include:

- grazing sheep or cattle (herbage)
- taking peat or turf (turbary)
- taking wood (estovers)
- taking fish (piscary).

There is a common misconception that common land is land in public ownership that any person has a right to enter. This is not necessarily so and it was not until the **Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000** that the public were granted a legal right of access (on foot only) over registered common land.

Registering a Village Green - The Commons Act 2006 allows for applications to be made to register land as a new village green and can be made by an individual, community group, parish council etc. The application will need to show that the land in question has been used:

- for a period of at least 20 years
- for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes
- 'as of right' (for example, without force, secrecy or permission)
- by the inhabitants of a locality, or a neighbourhood within a locality.

Alternatively, a landowner may voluntarily register land as a new village green, in which case, it is not necessary to demonstrate a set period of use.

It should also be noted that following the enactment of the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013, it is now no longer possible to make a Village Green application in relation to land that is affected by, or has been identified for development. This does not affect any existing applications made before 25 April 2013 and anyone thinking of making an application which may be affected by the new provisions is invited to discuss the application with the Commons Registration Team at Devon County.

There is an alternative means of protecting land through the planning system. The new Local Green Space designation empowers local communities to protect green spaces of local importance without the need to meet strict statutory criteria. Sites may be designated for a variety of reasons, including their setting, nature conservation benefits, or their quietness. Local communities will be able to identify green spaces through their local and neighbourhood plans, which will then receive protection equivalent to Green Belt, ruling out new development other than in very special circumstances. Consideration within the local planning process will ensure that the new designation will complement and not undermine investment in homes, jobs and other essential services. The Parish Council would be interested to hear your views on this matter to inform the next parish or neighbourhood plan.

Cllr Mark Copleston



South Brent Focus

This section is available to voluntary organisations within the village to publicise their activities. Contributions should be sent to the Clerk or Editor for consideration, and whilst there is no formal charge, any contributions towards the cost of printing and distribution would be appreciated.

Sustainability Grants Available

Applications are invited from local organisations for a grant (max £500) towards the cost of projects which improve the sustainability of South Brent.

Applications are judged by the Board of Trustees of Sustainable South Brent against criteria which include:-

1. Reducing energy costs in community buildings
2. Retaining/improving local services and facilities
3. Increasing awareness of sustainability issues through education

Application forms are available from ARTWORKS and can be downloaded from Sustainable South Brent's website at:

www.sustainablesouthbrent.org.uk.

Completed forms should be returned to our letter box outside the School House, Totnes Road, South Brent. TQ10 9BP.

The closing date is 31st December and grants will be announced in January.

NEWS FROM SOUTH BRENT RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Family Fun Day in September to celebrate the refurbishment of the hall was a great success despite the pouring rain. We thank everyone for their help and in particular the young people.

The departure of the Montessori School means that we have plenty of time for new activities to come to the hall. To rent the hall it is £6 per hour plus £5 for the kitchen.

Please contact Anne on 01364 72223 or email: nichollsbennie@aol.com

NEW ACTIVITIES

SCRABBLE on Wednesdays 2-4pm. £1.50 per session refreshments included.

CASH BINGO on alternate Wednesdays 7.30-9pm 22 November & 11 December.

MORE SUPPORT NEEDED

We could do with larger numbers at After School Football Monday 3.45-4.45pm. for 5 to 7 year olds £3 per session, Multi- Sports Tuesday 4.45-5.45 for 8 to 11 year olds £3 per session and Youth Club Tuesdays 7-8.30pm. £1 per session with tuck shop.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2014

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Register of Electors is compiled each year.
- Information is required by law, from each household, annually – forms were sent out on 1 October. If you haven't received one contact South Hams District Council Electoral Registration Office (01803) 861434
- Persons who do not register may be liable for a fine of up to £1000.
- Electors whose details are printed correctly on the form may register using the automated free phone number (if the telephone used has touch-tone dialling), or via the internet – using the security numbers printed on the form. Or simply by signing and posting back the form.
- Only those persons whose names appear on the Register will be entitled to vote.
- You have some choice about who can buy your details. The Electoral Registration Officer must publish two registers: the full version and an edited version. If you place a tick in the box on the registration form for exclusion from the edited register, your name and address will only appear on the full register which will only be used for certain lawful purposes, such as elections, law enforcement and checking applications for credit. If you do not place a tick in the box on the registration form your name will also appear on the edited version of the register which anyone can buy – this means anyone can use your details for any purpose.
- There is no qualifying date so you do not have to wait to provide the information requested. Please return your form without delay to avoid a reminder being sent or a personal visit.



South Hams
District Council

Elizabeth Tucker

Electoral Administrator, South Hams District Council

Council Meetings



Full Parish Council meetings start at 7:30pm, in the Side Hall of South Brent Village Hall, normally on the fourth Monday of the month.

Dates of Parish Council meetings for 2013/14

16 th December 2013	24 th March 2014
27 th January 2014	28 th April 2014
24 th February 2014	13 th May 2014
	(Annual Parish Meeting)

Planning Committee Meetings are now held on the 2nd Monday of the month - if required, in The Old School Community Centre. Please see the Parish Council notice boards (near the Co-op entrance and outside the play park) for full details of forthcoming meetings.

SPONSORSHIP OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2013

Mrs Pam Honeywill £ 50

The Parish Council is extremely grateful for this contribution (£50 covers the cost of a wall feature for this season); any further donations received will be listed in the spring newsletter.

Brent Birds

Starlings. Last winter, large gatherings (murmurations) of Starlings were seen over the village before going to roost, mostly in bamboos around Aish. Some birds are present again this winter, and numbers are expected to build up from December onwards. Information will be gratefully received on daytime feeding areas (the main ones may be outside the parish), roosts (particularly away from Aish) and evening and morning flight paths. *A fact sheet summarizing findings from last winter is available on request.*

Parish Bird Survey. Following a successful pilot survey this autumn, Brent Birders will be launching the South Brent Bird Survey in January 2014. It is hoped that many residents of the parish will participate, for example by recording the birds present in their own gardens. *Further information and recording forms are available on request.* (Brent Birders is an informal and unofficial group of bird, and other wildlife, enthusiasts who meet monthly in The Oak.)

For further information, contact: Mike Goss (72539 or mrgandjng@tiscali.co.uk) or Peter Reay (73293 or peter.p.j.reay@btinternet.com).



South Brent Breakfast Café

After the devastation in the Philippines wreaked by Typhoon Haiyan, an 'Emergency Breakfast Café' was organised at very short notice and held at the Old School Centre on Sunday 17 November. Families and individuals from South Brent and beyond flocked in and enjoyed a convivial, if busy, breakfast, listened to local musicians and, more importantly, raised an amazing £2,343.02 which was shared between the 'Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Philippines Typhoon Appeal' and 'ShelterBox'.

Thanks to all those who attended and donated and to all the organisers, volunteers, servers, cooks, cake makers, musicians and others who helped in many and various ways. It really was an example of the South Brent community in action and a very enjoyable social occasion to boot!

The next newsletter will be published in March 2014. Any local organisations wishing to submit articles (Maximum 150 words) for publication should send them to newsletter@southbrent.gov.uk (in Word, PDF or Rich text format) BY 23rd February 2014 please.

South Brent Parish Council 2013 – 2014

Cllr. Greg Wall (Chairman).....	73193	greg.wall@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Donna Warne (Vice Chairman).....	73810	donna.warne@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Glyn Richards (Planning Chairman).....	73622	glyn.richards@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Linda Austin.....	72283	linda.austin@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Mark Copleston.....	73346	mark.copleston@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Peter Kelly.....	73476	peter.kelly@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. John King.....	649344	john.king@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Jane Maunder.....	649265	jane.maunder@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Cathie Pannell.....	72275	cathie.pannell@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. John Rawlinson.....	73117	john.rawlinson@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. John Summers.....	72976	john.summers@southbrent.gov.uk
Cllr. Donald Wiseman.....	73320	donald.wiseman@southbrent.gov.uk
Clerk:		
Mrs Julia Willoughby.....	72894	clerk@southbrent.gov.uk

