

# **Update for Chippenham Area Board**

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| <b>Update from</b>                | <b>Bremhill Parish Council</b> |
| <b>Date of Area Board Meeting</b> | 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2016  |

## **Headlines**

### **Bremhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

Bremhill Parish started the Neighbourhood Plan process in 2013. The Plan which outlines development in the parish for the next 10 years is a culmination of many months of work by a committed team.

The questionnaires to the public were sent out in the summer of 2014, an overall response of 47% has given the parish a good mandate to write a Plan that preserves the open space between the villages of Bremhill parish and the two surrounding towns of Chippenham and Calne.

The work to complete a Neighbourhood Plan, cannot be underestimated, and guidance is most certainly required from a Wiltshire Council Link officer.

Wiltshire parishes and towns are one of the leaders in completing Neighbourhood Plans, but to date in the country only about 150 Plans have been completed in England & Wales from a possible 7,000 parishes.

The clearest advantage of a Neighbourhood Plan is that it gives parishes the opportunity to state what development is need in the parish. It can stop unwanted large developments, which do not reflect the landscape or needs of a parish.

The costs for completing a Plan can be recovered from the Local Government Communities programme, and upto £7,000 can be claimed. However Wiltshire Council estimates for completing a Plan can rise to £17,000. This cost is often way beyond the means of many parishes, and is discouraging smaller parishes to enter into this opportunity.

The Bremhill Plan is in the public consultation phase , and will have been for 12 weeks by the end of January. The Plan is available to review on the parish website, and in the public houses and village halls.

One of the key elements of the Plan is to ensure houses in the flood risk areas are flood resistant. Any new houses will need to be designed to minimize the effect of rising flood water. The recent events in the north of England has shown how fragile our flood defences are. The Environment Agency estimates for Climate Change have been shown to be underestimated, the Climate Change Commission has called upon the EA to reassess those figures.

Local parishes and the residents of Chippenham are very concerned with risks involved in building upstream which may increase the risk of flooding. Mr Seed the cabinet

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member responsible for flooding expressed at the cabinet meeting in December that there were risks in building upstream as well as downstream.

What the residents in local parishes surrounding Chippenham and residents in Chippenham need to know, "Are those risks acceptable?"

Yet again the road to Chippenham via Kellways was shut due to flooding on 28th December.

It is only a matter of time for when Chippenham Town and the surrounding countryside is seriously flooded again, it happened on 24th December 2013, it will happen again but with a greater impact due to Climate Change. It is not a matter of "if" but "when".

Signed: Cllr Ian James – Bremhill Parish Council

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016