

# Reports for Brightling Parish Council meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

This report covers 4 topics:

- Welcome packs
- Environment Strategy
- Web site
- Broadband

## Welcome packs

The updated welcome pack is now ready to use, and I will email or print copies on request.

## Environment strategy

Brightling Environment Group had its first meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Eight people attended and one sent an apology. Members of the group have attended a presentation by Elize Manning and Lucie Bolton about RDC's progress towards net zero as a council. I am planning to attend a meeting of the "Warmer Crowhurst" group on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March and we have the second meeting of the environment group later the same day.

## Web site

The site continues to be hosted by Rother District Council.

The main contributors are me, the Parish Clerk, Jane Beard, and Chris Wing.

If other contributors want to come forward I would be very happy to get them a logon and give any necessary training.

## Broadband

The broadband project for Netherfield Village / Brightling / Woods Corner project got the go-ahead from BT Openreach on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The timescale is broadly 6 months planning, 6 months physical delivery, which would mean that the build phase should have a delivery deadline of July 2023.

In July 2022, Openreach promised that "*you will start to receive build updates after around 6 months.*" No such updates have in fact been received. I contacted the Openreach project manager who did not say what progress had been made but said that they hoped to update me by the end of March. I do not think this is satisfactory and I have requested an on-line meeting to discuss it.

Four properties from Mountfield Park Farm were excluded from the original scheme on grounds of cost. After pressure from me, Openreach have at last re-looked at this area and realised that they are much closer to Mountfield Lane than they are to Brightling Road (which is where their phone lines currently come from). As a result it is possible that these properties will get included in the scheme after all, but this is not yet entirely clear.

Unlike many broadband projects, there is no legal contract with BT Openreach and no cash deposit has been required. In particular there is no commitment from the Parish Council. The only commitment is from individuals who have pledged that when the new service becomes available, they will sign up to take the new service for a minimum of 12 months.

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