Reports for Brightling Parish Council meeting 8th May 2024

This report covers 2 topics:

- Web site
- Broadband

Katrina is reporting on the Environment Strategy.

Web site

The village website is at https://brightling.community.

The main contributors continue to be me, the Parish Clerk, the Village Hall representative, and Jane Beard. If other contributors want to come forward I would be very happy to get them a logon and give any necessary training.

The site continues to be hosted by Rother District Council, free of charge.

Starting on 27 March there were a number of occasions when the web site was "down" – unresponsive. This was eventually fixed on 18 April when Rother found that they were able to upgrade the hardware that the site runs on, without adding to their own costs. This seems to have solved the problem. I have installed a "down notifier" program on my own computer which will notify me by email if the site goes down in future – I believe the Parish Clerk has done the same thing.

Broadband

In my last report I said that within the parish of Brightling there were just 4 properties that do not have access to full-fibre broadband - all in the Mountfield Park Farm area.

I have now discovered that there is a 5th property that does not have access to full fibre. This property is Phoebe's Shaw on Perrymans Lane / Fontridge Lane and is unique (as far as I know) in that it is within the parish of Brightling but not on the Brightling telephone exchange (which was the scope of the project). Unfortunately there are no current plans to deliver full fibre broadband to this property and so we will end up with the situation where there is just one property within the parish without access to full fibre broadband.

There is nothing I can do about this; ultimately it reflects policy failures – and lack of vision - at both county and national level.

The situation regarding the other 4 properties, all in the Mountfield Park Farm area, has moved forward. The lead landowner has agreed a wayleave to install 4 new telegraph poles down from Mountfield Lane, which will enable the delivery of full fibre to these properties. The current completion estimate is October 2024.

If you have any queries, please drop an email to highwealdsuperfastbroadband@gmail.com

Andrew Wedmore