

# Reports for Brightling Parish Council meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026

This report covers 4 topics:

- Web site
- Broadband
- Environment – jointly with Katrina
- Messenger magazine

Katrina is reporting on the Environment Strategy generally.

This report covers the period since my previous report for the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

## Web site

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

The site continues to be hosted by Rother District Council, free of charge. There is an obvious concern about what will happen when RDC ceases to exist. As soon as a firm decision is made about the move to a unitary authority, we need to ask for details about how this particular service will be transferred.

The clerk has identified that the website does not meet accessibility requirements. Given the uncertainty about the hosting, it may be that we will need to move to a new platform for the website. That would be the logical moment to look at accessibility. The Dallington village website seems to have cracked this problem and I will try and talk to someone at Dallington to find out what they are doing.

The main contributors to the web site continue to be me, the Parish Clerk, Jane Beard, Chris Wing, Katrina Blench, and Judy Petty. If other contributors want to come forward I would be very happy to get them a logon and give any necessary training.

There continue to be about 1 “post” per week to the website. Each post triggers an email to 180 subscribers.

Guidelines for people posting, can be seen at [brightling.community/content-guidelines/](https://brightling.community/content-guidelines/)

## Broadband

The take-up rate for full-fibre broadband has now reached 82.2% across the Brightling exchange. It is not possible to say what the exact percentage is for the parish of Brightling, but it is probably similar.

Every house in the parish except one now has access to full fibre broadband, with speeds of up to 900 Mbps. The exception is one house in Fontridge Lane that is connected to the Burwash exchange, which is expected to get it by the end of 2026.

The date for the analog phone switch-off, remains at January 2027 – not far away now.

If you have a full-fibre connection then you can definitely get a digital voice service, although beware that not all providers offer it.

If anyone in Brightling is told that they cannot get full-fibre, this is likely due to an error in the Openreach database (it has plenty of errors!). This can be resolved and if necessary the parish council can help.

## Environment: Solar panels at Coal Bridge (between the dam and Mountfield Lane)

A new entrance way has been constructed to the field where the solar panels will be. As reported last time, there is no sign of other construction work yet.

## **Environment: establishing a circular off-road path round the reservoir.**

As mentioned last time, this project is effectively stalled and nothing will happen unless someone takes leadership of the project to drive it forward. The late Peter Miles of Mountfield had amassed a lot of information about historic use. I wonder if this is something that Brightling Environment Group might want to take up.

## **Environment – solar panels on the Village Hall roof**

I have not had any further updates since my last report.

## **Messenger magazine**

I continue to chair.

The magazine is in good heart, with about 96 subscribers in Brightling.

Jane Beard continues to do an excellent job collating the copy for the Brightling village pages, and Brightling resident Tom Bourne is the overall editor for the village pages and village news.

Probably the main threat to the magazine is that it is dependent on a small number of people working quite hard, many of whom are not particularly young. It would be good to get some fresh blood on the committee.

Andrew Wedmore