

Reports for Brightling Parish Council meeting

15th July 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 13th May 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. Since my last report, we have not made any progress on addressing this issue, and I have discovered that my main contact, Chris Gander, has left. I now request our district councillors to follow this up. When the future becomes clearer, we can address the issue of accessibility requirements.

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/

Broadband

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

The take-up rate for full-fibre broadband has now reached 83% 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). This is up from 82.2% in my previous report, so take-up has slowed to a trickle.

There are therefore probably around 25 households in the parish who have not subscribed to full-fibre broadband. Some of these 25 may be telephone-only customers (not using broadband), and these telephone-only customers will find that their landline telephones stop working at the end of 2026. If there are any such people, they should have been contacted by their supplier to discuss options.

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

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 full fibre the end of 2026.

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

We have now been informed that installation is likely to start in “towards late Summer 2026” but this will be “subject to the procurement timelines”

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

This project is in abeyance as no-one has come forward to take it up, and I shall not report again unless there is a change.

Environment – solar panels on the Village Hall roof

I understand that this work is likely to take place in August 2026.

Messenger magazine

We could do with a new volunteer to distribute the magazine in the Willingford Lane / Worges area.

Otherwise, little has changed since my last report. 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.

I will be appealing at the November AGM to get some new fresh blood on the committee.

Andrew Wedmore