



the Brandeston

July 2007

Chance to control our future

Villagers have agreed to the next step in a plan to help take control of Brandeston's future.

At a meeting last week of those interested in playing a part in the proposed 'parish plan', a steering group was established to make suggestions as to the way forward.

The plan is an attempt to express the views of the village on its future development.

It is expected that all villages in the Suffolk Coastal area will have a plan eventually, either prepared by themselves or imposed upon them by Suffolk Coastal.

There is agreement among all those involved that it is preferable to have the future of the village in the hands of those living here, rather than leaving it to the planners.

But the significance of the initiative is still uncertain. At the meeting Phil Summers, who is close to the thinking among planners, questioned how far it can affect planning in practice because Brandeston is too small a community

to stand alone if other plans require different ideas.

But there is also the feeling that the plan provides the means by which the village can 'put down a marker' on our ideas for the future.

Those ideas can address housing, transport, culture, the environment or any other aspect of village life on which we feel strongly.

Through pursuing these

themes, it is felt that the plan may provide a useful 'project' by which to draw together the village in much the same way as happened during the building of the village hall.

Peter Thurlow felt strongly that the steering group should remain flexible and ad hoc, to ensure that all the village has every opportunity to contribute.

Nick Holland-Brown agreed that villagers should feel free to attend and contribute to future meetings as they wish. He was elected chairman of the steering group, with Nick Hayward as secretary.

The next meeting is scheduled for 19th July at 8pm.



Nick Holland-Brown will chair the new group



The Samboomba samba band make merry at the fete. More pictures overleaf

Hall success 'surpasses all expectations', says chair

Brandeston village hall's success over the first two years 'surpasses all expectations', claims chairman Sue Thurlow.

For the first eight months of the current financial year the hall has made an operating profit of £4,496.

'The hall is now used on most days of the week,' says Sue.

'Everything is running very smoothly, which is great credit to all the

volunteers involved.'

'We can congratulate ourselves as a village on having achieved such a successful venture, and we should also congratulate all those who have so far served on the committee for helping to put us in this marvellous position.'



Sue Thurlow

Doctors new on the job

Two new members of the parish council have been co-opted—and both are doctors.



Will Elsom

Will Elsom and Paddy Fielder will prove a popular choice.

Will is a sailor and golfer and

Paddy is a walker, explorer and wine drinker. He will be expected to represent the authentic voice of Friday Street.

Still though, the council has seen only one election in the past 30 years. Because names are not forthcoming in order to require an election, members are invariably co-opted.

The next scheduled election is in 2011, when it is hoped Brandeston will at last go to the hustings.

The Brandeston awaits news of anyone hopeful of a political career on the parish council.



Paddy Fielder adopts the 'serious and purposeful' expression he expects to use frequently in his duties as a parish councillor

Abbott and Mugleston get their mojo working (allegedly)

The stars come out again next weekend (14 July) when crowds will once more gather at the village hall to gawp at the arrival of the stretch limos.

For Brandeston's most glittering social occasion, showbiz legend Fred Mugleston gets his mojo working again at his annual disco.

Last week's Diana gig at Wembley was always recognized by the tabloids as only a warm-up act.

In fact Brandeston will have its own princes in attendance. In addition to Fred, the event will feature the edgy sounds of

Mike Abbott and the celebs' favourite, *Boomers* disco.

Mike will interrupt his role as roving UN ambassador to the primitive hill tribes of the upper Deben valley to appear, for one night only.

The extravaganza of music and celebrity costs £10, which includes the usual gourmet food.

Tickets are still available from the coffee morning, the Queen or from Fred on 685661.



Fred Mugleston

New school links bring concerts

New moves aim to promote closer liaison between the village and Brandeston Hall school.

The idea is the brainchild of school head Nigel Woolnough.



Nigel Woolnough

'I would like to think we could put on a concert, for example, free of charge once each term,' he says.

Discussions are under way with the village hall committee as to other ways in which the two organizations can work together.

New dates for your diary

Fewer events are scheduled during the summer months

14 July—disco & barbecue

15 July—organ recital at the church, 3pm

6 Sept—ballroom dancing lessons

13 Sept—wine society

22 Sept—craft fair

At the pub—

27 Aug—hog roast

17 Sept—morris men

The pub now has a new and earlier opening time of 5pm.

Village Fete In Freak Storm Downpour Shock Horror Drama

The fete was almost washed away by a late thunder storm, described by shocked locals as 'the worst the village has ever known'. Fortunately, the only storm-proof shelter was the beer tent. In spite of the weather, the event raised £2184, split between the church and the village hall. Regulars blamed Kettleburgh for the weather. They pinched our traditional date of the week before.



Ted Peck tries his luck at the bottle stall



Ruth Garratt and Mary-Jane McArthur share a joke



Sally Moody, her mother and son Thomas remain cheerful



Eve Crane and Sue Fisher pretend it's Glastonbury

Parish pump... what's hot and what's not at the coffee morning and elsewhere



Anthony Fletcher is interviewed in a new feature on the website, called 'Village People'...

The flamenco and tapas evening was cancelled because the principal dancer broke her leg and the caterer pulled out. It will be rearranged for a new date in the autumn or winter...

Now John King wants to rename the road past The Old Vicarage as Hangman's Stretch.

There have been complaints about the number of events notices posted around the village...

The feature on our new neighbours has once again been held over because we don't have any. However, in a blatant attempt to fill space,



Madonna: not moving in?

the Brandeston can exclusively reveal there are absolutely no rumours that

Madonna is to buy a house here. (She probably couldn't afford it.)

Watch out in the next edition for more of this popular new feature: 'famous people not

moving into Brandeston'...

The new terrace furniture will arrive next week and be ready for the disco. Steve Williams is talking of holding a weekly village barbecue there on Friday evenings through the summer...

The editor wishes to apologize for the lack of news this month, and blames you for it. The next newsletter will be in September...