



the Brandeston

Housing fear as planners seek space

Protests against housing development in Trimley could rebound on Brandeston, claim parish plan experts.

Suffolk Coastal district council is required to find space for 50,000 new homes by 2021.

They plan to focus the building on the Ipswich, Trimley and Felixstowe areas. But protests among residents' groups there are gaining momentum.

If planners are scared off by

the scale of dissent there, they will have to look elsewhere.

Nick Hayward has worked closely on the Brandeston parish plan, whose questionnaires were distributed round the village last week.

He points out that the number of houses to be built in Suffolk Coastal's area is cast in stone (or possibly some other local material).

'Suffolk Coastal council is in a major mess because it is un-

der unyielding Government pressure and huge opposition from the people, whilst having too few staff to handle the problem,' he explains.

'Developers have strong, well funded legal representation, and SCDC does not. So clearly expediency will out.'

He urges the parish council to become involved in the regional planning process, because a lack of response will be taken as acquiescence to any proposals put forward.

The basis of any action by the parish council, however, must rest upon a vigorous and informed response from the village via the questionnaires.

A strong view voiced by the village will provide the means to counter any adverse schemes, and will no doubt provide debate at the annual parish meeting on 14 May.

The questionnaires will be collected over the next two weeks, providing a coherent picture of village opinion.



Nick Hayward: 'Expediency will out'

CASE STUDY: RIP Red House Barn—destroyed by planners' incompetence

The grotesque and legendary incompetence of Suffolk Coastal's planners finds another victim.

Look no further for evidence of their ineptitude than the demise of an old friend.

RIP Red House Barn, the pride of Brandeston and a once majestic building with the soaring contours of a cathedral.



Now, all that is left is a tangle of timbers on their way to demolition.

The builder was allowed to remove the roof and so the timbers rotted. Fancy that.

But in spite of being told of the danger the planners, with their usual incompetence, stood by and let it happen.

Brandeston's fete ale attraction

This year's Brandeston village fete will be held for the first time in the grounds of the pub, to coincide with the first ever beer festival at the Queen's Head throughout the same weekend.

The fete itself will be held on Saturday 21 June, and the grounds of the Queen are available for whatever fete organizers may wish. There are also other plans afoot which could mean Brandeston playing host to music and perhaps poetry and drama.

The fete's move to the pub has been given the green light by both the village hall committee and the parochial church council, who between them manage the fete and share the proceeds.

An open meeting for those interested in taking an active part (in the fete that is, not the beer festival) will be held at the Queen on Monday 7 April.

'Babes on bikes': fear for safety of Kenya school

Recent violence in Kenya has meant more to some in the village than just TV violence.

The Brandeston 'babes on bikes' raised money for the Kariandusi school in Kenya and were based in the Rift Valley in Kenya, site of much of the violence.

Kathy Churchill, Marian Hutson and Karren Piper cycled 280 kilometres across rough terrain to raise £10,000 for the charity.

Those people they met on their travels seem safe, as far as they can tell, though 3000 acres of pasture nearby has been lost to arson attacks.



'Young Brandeston' web page looks set to take on Facebook

The Brandeston website is to have a page especially for the younger residents.

The idea is the brainchild of Hayley Edhouse of Friday Street, who came up with the plan after finding there were no aardvark flavoured crisps at the pub. (Don't ask.)

She has been working closely with Laura Butler of Ponds Piece and webmaster Darryl Morgan.

Hayley and Laura are both 12.

The web page is called *Young Brandeston*, and it should be

live by the end of the month.

The site features puzzles, cooking (this is foodie Brandeston after all), pets and their stories, holidays, pictures, a wildlife watch and a hall of fame.

But the success of the Young Brandeston page depends on contributions from other young Brandies.

There are said to be more than 60 in the village under the age of 16,

and they are probably more computer literate than their elders.

So those interested in taking part are urged to email the site at: young@brandeston.net.



Laura Butler and Hayley Edhouse

A warm welcome to our new neighbours

We have new neighbours at Oak Farm. Lydia Harvey has moved here from Tannington with her partner Charles Freeman.

They are working hard on the house and grounds. Lydia is a keen gardener and is looking for-

ward to transforming the area round the house.

Charles is a historian and author. He contributes to the *Blue Guides* and at the time Lydia showed us round he was in the United States, lecturing on early European politics.



New dates for your diary

11 April—**Cinema club: 'The Third Man'**

2 May—**Wine society**

9 May—**Cinema club: 'Perfume—the Story of a Murderer'**

14 May—**Annual parish meeting**

At the pub...

23 March—**Easter egg hunt**

31 March—**Brandeston Pickles jazz band**

And the regular events at the hall...

Ball room dancing—first Thursday of the month, 8-10

Tap dancing—every other Monday, 7.30-8.30

Cinema club—second Friday of the month, 7.30

Table tennis—every Wednesday, 7-9

Pilates—every Monday 9-11 and Thursday 2-4.30

Toddler group—every Friday 9-12

Coffee morning—every Thursday 10-12

The Brandeston lunches—every second Tuesday at 12

100+ Club draw—first Thursday of the month at the coffee morning at 11

Yoga—every Tuesday 7.30-9

Wine society—occasional Fridays, about bi-monthly

Whist drive—last Friday of the month at 7.30

Look out for camel racing, The Brandeston Murders, the Friends of the Brandeston Light Railway, tree hugging, dirty dancing, a photography competition, drama, quite a lot to do with booze, anything to do with getting the planners and lots of events just invented to fill up space in this newsletter.

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

There are plans to replace all of the crockery, glasses and cutlery at the hall...

Fred Mugleston will shortly be looking for volunteers for a working party to tidy up the area around the hall after the winter. Call him on 685661 to offer support...

The Sterns have submitted plans to convert some of the outbuildings at Westhill farm into holiday lets...

A little egret has been seen in the village, on the river by the



ford. It's a small white heron and until a few years ago it nested no closer than northern France. But recently it has begun to colonize rivers in East Anglia. It can be seen

at dusk, flying along the river towards Creetingham where it is believed to roost...

Shooting around houses after dark may be legal but it's still dangerous and spectacularly inconsiderate. Times have changed since the tenantry knew their place and wouldn't dream of complaining at the noise. If anyone knows who is responsible for the after-dark shooting in the village recently, the Brandeston will be pleased to feature the miscreant in the next edition...



Sue Thurlow savours the exquisite delights of the Brandeston, seemingly unaware that it won't appear again until May