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The Village Information Booklet at last!

With this Newsletter you will have received a copy of the village Information Booklet – it may have been a long time coming but we hope you will find it useful. It has been produced by the Parish Council for the benefit of everyone in the village, but particularly for new residents to whom we offer a warm welcome. It gives information about activities and services in Brafield as well as including details of the nearest facilities if they are not available in the village. We have also included a map in the centre-fold of the booklet.

Although we have done our best to check and recheck the information to ensure it was accurate when it went to print last month, it will obviously change over time. We will try to keep you informed of any amendments or additions through our Parish Council Newsletter. Alternatively look on the Village Website www.brafieldonthegreen.org.uk where information is updated regularly.

If you have any corrections, comments or suggestions about the booklet, or think there is something else that should be included next time we go to print, then please contact Helen Barnell on 890373, email barnell@globalnet.co.uk or use the 'contact us' facility on the website.

Together with the website and our regular Newsletter, we hope to keep you in touch with what is happening locally and hope this will encourage you to share in the life of our community and feel part of it.

If you hear of any new residents moving to the village, do please contact a member of the Parish Council so that we can ensure they receive the booklet to help them settle in.

If you know of anyone who may need to receive this information in a larger print size, please let us know.

Amendments: (yes already!) Since going to print we have learned that Madeleine Donald Tel: 899477 has replaced Hilary Dolan as one of the two Churchwardens (page 11), and that Hilary is no longer the contact for the Benefice Choir for adults (page 12).

Both the **Miami** unit and **Nenedoc** (page 38) are now located at the 'Highfield Clinical Care Centre' Cliftonville Road Northampton NN1 5DN. The telephone number for Nenedoc remains the same.

Nene Ridge Parishes Group Meeting

'The Nene Ridge Parishes Group', which includes Brafield and all surrounding villages, has been holding regular meetings since the Emergent Joint Core Strategy (EJCS) was first published. A meeting was held at Little Houghton on February 8th to discuss recent developments and share information. Brafield Parish Council was represented there.

There was much discussion about the proposed SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) sites, mentioned in the last Newsletter, and each village represented at the meeting has now submitted responses to those sites in their area where valid 'technical' planning comments could be made.

Some of the Group have been preparing a detailed, evidenced, statistical analysis into the EJCS's *proposed* housing figures against *actual* housing requirements, and there appears to be quite some discrepancy between the two. It was agreed that now, whilst the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit is still immersed in dealing with all of the comments submitted on their Joint Core Strategy, was the time to increase the pressure and release this information to the JPU and the JPU Committee with questions requiring answers.

A member of the Group is to attend a major meeting of the Environment Agency to challenge their plans.

Another member attended the East Midlands Regional Assembly's Regional Housing Planning and Transportation Board meeting in January. The Board stated that they would not be producing a policy beyond 2026 because it was 'beyond the scope of the Regional Transport Policy'. This may have major implications for the proposed A45 / M1 link road.

It was generally agreed that the Group should now be more proactive in challenging, questioning, seeking explanations etc. on the issues emerging from the proposed developments; as well as lobbying various bodies for more support. In this connection it was agreed to try to arrange a meeting of the prospective general election candidates from all parties, to hear their views on the development of Northampton South East, and make local feelings clear in return.

**Next Meeting: Monday 17th May : Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m.
Sargeant Memorial Hall Brafield**

Salt Bins / Road Salt

Three new salt bins have been installed so now we hope that each area of the village is adequately served.

However, road salt became an important issue during the "big freeze" in December through to February this year when many roads and pavements were covered in snow and compacted ice.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED: Salt bins are placed at the side of the road for people to use on the public highway (including footpaths) on a self-help basis, but this salt is not provided for use on private properties.

Only small amounts of grit and salt are needed to be effective so please show consideration for others when using salt bins.

Within hours of a few millimetres of snow falling on the 18th February, and with up to a further 10cm forecast for the weekend, our grit supplies in at least two of the bins were emptied despite having been checked by the Parish Council less than 24 hours previously. Please remember the County Council supplies are low due to the extended bad weather and it is probable that Parish bins will not be re-filled again this winter/spring. Please be responsible - do continue to use salt for clearing footpaths and the highways but please DO NOT remove bucket loads for use on private driveways. Local DIY stores supply rock salt and grit for this purpose.

Parish Paths Wardens

We are pleased that we now have two new sets of people who have volunteered to undertake this role as replacements for Helen Frostwick who 'retired' in May 2009.

The Parish Paths Wardens are volunteers who support the County Council on our behalf by acting as local 'eyes and ears' reporting any problems with the paths - obstructions, overgrown paths, surfaces or structures needing repair or replacement - and can help in encouraging their use through local maintenance work, way-marking and, perhaps, leading walks.

You, too, can help by reporting any problems you find to our new local wardens:

John Campion
Tel: 890305 djmcampion@tiscali.co.uk
Richard and Jean Sheward
Tel: 899363 richshew@btinternet.com

You can also help to keep the routes in good order by dealing with litter, cleaning up after your dog, trimming back your hedges if they overhang public footpaths and being considerate about where you park your car.

**Let's Keep Brafield Clean.
Views of a Parish Councillor**

Litter is an unfortunate feature of our lovely countryside and it is such a shame to see cans, bottles and paper etc. strewn on our paths and in our fields, hedgerows and ditches. As a new dog owner in the village, I have started to collect litter on my walks and, through the Newsletter, I will be reporting to you how much I have gathered. To give you an example over the last three weeks I have collected over 50 beer and soft drink cans, 8 bottles, as well as plastic bags, paper and sweet wrappings.

Litter not only spoils the countryside, but is also a danger to our wildlife and grazing herds. Please help to look after our village and join the Brafield on the Green Spring Spring Clean in April.

Village Spring Clean - reminder

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Brafield is holding another Village Spring Clean to help clear accumulated rubbish from in and around the village and we would welcome your help. We will be meeting on the **Village Green on Saturday 10th April at 10 a.m.** If you would like to give a hand please come along! Rubbish sacks and gloves will be provided. Please contact Dawn Allingham 899083 or Gill Ager on 891488 for further details.

Attention Billing Road Residents

On the morning of **Sunday April 18th** an **abnormal load** will be passing along the Billing Road through Brafield towards Cogenhoe with a police escort. The load is an electrical transformer on its way to the Grendon Electricity Sub Station. It is vital that Billing Road is kept free of parked vehicles during this morning. The load is 5.02 metres wide, 66 metres long and weighs 220 tons!

Dog Fouling

The Parish Council has had a number of complaints recently about the increase in dog fouling – especially along the Bridle Path and in front of the Red Lion.

Failing to clear up after your dog is an offence for which you could be subject to a fine of up to £1000. Failing to clean up is also offensive for other people in the village. Anyone who comes into contact with dog faeces could become infected with Toxocara Canis. This unpleasant disease can lie dormant in the soil for up to three years. With spring approaching more people will be out and about and we all want to enjoy our village so PLEASE if you have a dog – clean up after it!

**Members of the public are most welcome to attend any meeting
At the start of the Parish Council meeting, time is set aside for public enquiries**