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Village website
www.brafieldonthegreen.org.uk

Police Matters

Safer Community Teams As part of the restructuring of the Northamptonshire Police Force on 29th November there will be changes to the Safer Community Teams (SCT's). In South Northamptonshire the current four teams will be merged into two, and Brafield will become part of the Towcester Town and Rural SCT based at Towcester Police Station. Members of the team will remain the same with no reduction in SCT staff. However, teams will now be aligned to local ward boundaries rather than police beat codes as previously. Brafield and Yardley Ward (Brafield, Castle Ashby, Cogenhoe, Chadstone, Whiston, Denton, Little Houghton and Yardley Hastings) will continue to be served by PC Andy Scott and PCSO Charlotte Johnson.

Cold Calling Police are reminding people NOT to give out personal information to companies that have cold called them. The Force has received a number of calls from members of the public who have been contacted by people claiming to be from their bank who have asked for personal details. NEVER share personal information unless you are entirely confident you know who you are dealing with. BBC Radio 4 has recently highlighted instances where elderly residents have been contacted about winter fuel payments and asked to confirm their bank details to ensure that the payments can be processed correctly. The callers sound very pleasant and plausible, but do not be deceived: this is a SCAM! Similarly, be wary of responding to emails requesting personal information about you. If you are concerned about a caller at your door, or suspect that distraction burglars or rogue traders are operating in your community, call Doorstep Action Network (see below). 'If you're not sure, don't open the door'

Contact Northamptonshire Police Emergency (crime in progress): **999**
 Northamptonshire Police switch board: **03000 111 222** Doorstep Action Network (DAN): **0345 2307 702**
 Dedicated Neighbourhood Watch Line: **01604 432436** CrimeStoppers (remain anonymous): **0800 555 111**

South Northants Homes : External Works

Residents in Elm Close should be aware that 'Crispin & Borst' will be carrying out a programme of work for 'South Northants Homes' during November and December this year.

Water Tower

The Parish Council is aware that the lights on the Water Tower remain on. This has been reported to 'Anglian Water' on more than one occasion, and we are still awaiting action!

Money Advice Service

Do you need help with money concerns?
 Do you need practical money advice?

This is a service provided by South Northamptonshire Council in partnership with South Northants Homes. It aims to help residents and those working in South Northamptonshire with

- Debt Advice
- Money Management
- Benefits and Welfare Advice
- Practical Assistance (form completion etc.)

For further information contact Bob Wingerath, Money Advisor on 01327 322 393 or email: bob.wingerath@southnorthants.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings 2011

Monday 17th January 7.30 pm
 Monday 21st March 7.30 pm
 Monday 16th May **7.00 pm**
 (Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council meeting)
 Monday 18th July 7.30 pm
 Monday 19th September 7.30 pm
 Monday 21st November 7.30 pm

Wondering what to do or where to go around Christmas? Check the village website for a list of events both near and not quite so near : www.brafieldonthegreen.org.uk - just follow the link on the Home Page

The Chairman and Councillors of Brafield on the Green Parish Council send their best wishes to all residents this Christmas and throughout 2011

Next Parish Council Meeting:
 Monday 17th January at 7.30 p.m. in the Sargeant Memorial Hall Brafield

Development of South Northamptonshire : Strategic planning update

Your Parish Councillors, with other members of the Nene Ridge Parishes Group (which was created last year to resist the strategic planning proposals for massive growth affecting our area), have now met with Roy Boulton, Senior Planning Officer for Northamptonshire County Council, to try to get a clearer view about future strategic planning.

What is *clear* is that much remains, for now at least, relatively uncertain! The new Coalition Government has published a manifesto containing many commitments to radical reform of the present planning system. In short these involve the simplification of the present system and the replacement of central government control with *local* strategic planning. The new local planning will be based on the 'natural' housing growth required specifically for each local area. It will also be strongly 'participative', involving the public in their *local* communities in shaping the future of their own 'neighbourhoods'. 'Localism' will be a word we hear much about from Government and in the media in the near future. Much of this new approach is based on the Conservative Party's Green Paper '*Open Source planning*'. New legislation and guidance is required to effect the reform, and that will take time. For now, there is something of a vacuum. So what change/s can we be reasonably certain about?

The following have certainly been abolished – the Regional Spatial Strategy and its Government imposed housing 'Growth' targets and the so-called Northampton Implementation Area. Most of the Milton Keynes South Midlands Growth Area structure has been dismantled. The local targets for Growth – new housing numbers anticipated to meet projected population needs – will be 'significantly' reduced and we are reasonably assured that massive growth 'on our doorstep' will **not** be proposed in the revised draft 'Core Strategy' which is to be published in January 2011. We are fairly sure that the 'proposal' for an A45/M1 link road is now dead. In general, the weakness and failings of the Emergent Core Strategy to which we made our detailed response are now accepted. We see no reason to believe that our own local District Council (South Northants) will plan to develop and expand our village now that it is resuming control of local planning.

The Group remains concerned that many of the County and District Officers involved in strategic planning are still very much in denial about the reform to which the new Government is committed, and the new working culture that will require, and this is increasing the general uncertainty. There is a continuing concern about the chronic wish and will of Northampton Borough to expand beyond its boundaries despite having a 'large' land bank for development within its own area.

Your Councillors will continue to work with the Group and be vigilant in monitoring developments. We hope that this update is useful to you all and we will keep you informed of the changing picture for local planning.

Winter Weather : Guidance on Clearing Snow Yourself

'Directgov' has issued the following guidance: There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves. **Clear the snow or ice early in the day before it becomes compacted. Then use salt to keep it clear - not hot water. Sand or ash will also provide some grip. Take care where you move the snow. Offer to clear your neighbours' paths.** Please check on elderly / disabled neighbours in the cold weather. The www.direct.gov.uk website gives further information.

Remember that the salt in the bins around the village is only for use on public roads and footpaths, not private properties.

Alley Gardens Play Area Repairs

In addition to the repairs to the 'Elephant Springer' reported in the last Newsletter, 'Solutions 4 Playgrounds' have carried out further urgent safety repairs in the Play Area on our behalf, mainly to the wooden climbing frame and the entrance fence, at an additional cost of £775. The Parish Council is aware that further work will need to be done in the near future to continue to maintain the equipment in good order, and, at some time, consideration will need to be given to the replacement of the existing ageing climbing frame. We will then be looking at grants and other funding options. The Parish Council organises and records a weekly safety check of all the play equipment, and daily checks are conducted in that area for litter, glass etc. If you have any concerns, please contact a member of the Parish Council.

Andrea Leadsom Your South Northamptonshire M.P.

Andrea Leadsom is holding an advice centre (by appointment only) on 10th December at the Wootton Community & Sports Centre, Curtlee Hill, Wootton Northampton NN4 6ED from 4 – 6 pm. Please call 01604 859721 to book an appointment.

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