

*Clerk to the Council: Mrs.V.Hartley
Beech House Dean's Row Gayton Northants NN73HA
(01604) 858360 email viv.hartley3@btinternet.com*

*Chair: Gill Morgan
10 Grove Road Brafield on the Green NN7 1BW
(01604) 891934 email gillmorgan121@aol.com*

*Village website
www.brafieldonthegreen.org.uk*

Bus Shelter Billing Road

Many of you will have noticed the sorry state of the current bus shelter on the Billing Road. Some of the concrete in the support pillars has degraded, panels have rotted and, sadly, it has been subjected to various bouts of vandalism, all of which have rendered it beyond economic repair.

A new hardwood bus shelter has been ordered from 'Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd' – the UK's leading manufacturer of wooden bus shelters. For those of you with access to the internet it is shown on their website as 'The Hassocks' design. This is now ready for installation and the Parish Council has finally received the 'Statutory Undertaking for Utilities' from Northants County Council to allow work to proceed. 'Littlethorpe' has the necessary 'Road & Street Works' licence, as well as 'Central Networks Authority' for working with a crane beneath 'Electricity Boards' unsheathed cables.

Littlethorpe has promised us that the new bus shelter will now be installed on Thursday 21st July. It will be placed on the same footprint as the existing bus shelter, but it will face the road and have a seat along its length. We have selected this design as it is of substantial construction and, in our opinion, suitable for a rural location. We do hope it will be respected by all.

Changes to Mobile Library Service

Changes to funding for Northamptonshire Library Service will mean changes to the Mobile Library Service. From August, Brafield will receive visits from the Mobile Library on the **third Friday of each month**, but we have been informed that it will **only stop at Green Road, Brafield**. The current service to Grove Road and Church Lane will cease. It will arrive at the Green Road stop at 1.30 pm and leave promptly at 2 pm. Visits for the coming months will be Friday August 19th.... Friday September 16th....Friday October 21st....etc.

For residents that are housebound (due to long term health problems or age etc.) and unable to access the mobile service or get to a fixed library site, Northamptonshire does offer a 'Library to You' scheme where a volunteer will collect your requested books from a local library and deliver them to your door. To register for 'Library to You', or to get further information, please contact Shirley Roche of Northamptonshire Libraries on **01933 446680**.

Do you go to a Northamptonshire Library? Could you collect books for a neighbour or resident in the Parish? If you would like to offer your services as a volunteer driver for the 'Library to You' service then N. Libraries would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Shirley Roche on the number above to discuss.

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

The Parish Council is keen to promote and support a Parish event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the beginning of June 2012.

At previous jubilees, various activities took place locally including a tea party, children's sporting events, barn dance, street parties etc.

If you are interested in joining a working group to help organise a Parish event for next year, please contact Gill Morgan (details at top of Newsletter).

Three Apprenticeships Available

'South Northants Homes' are offering three full Housing Apprenticeships. You will be learning new skills and gaining knowledge that will lead towards completion of the NVQ level 2 apprenticeship initially, followed by training to NVQ level 3. You will be working with an experienced team of Customer Service and Housing Officers covering a wide range of activities, from assessing applicants' housing needs, community development, to managing properties.

The role is office based but there will be some time spent away visiting tenants, attending meetings and inspecting buildings. You will learn about customer service and how to deal sensitively with a wide range of people, and come up with real solutions to their problems. These apprenticeships have a starting salary of £144.00 per week.

Interested? Please apply through www.apprenticeships.org.uk or contact Vik Vijen Training Advisor Moulton College Moulton Northampton NN3 7RR
Tel: 01604 491131 email vikas.vijen@moulton.ac.uk.

The closing date for applications is 5th August 2011.

Brafield on the Green Parish Council : Report on the Roads and Pavements July 2011

The main roads are in reasonable condition; a few potholes have been reported on some of the minor roads.

The tarmac-on-concrete finish on the roads throughout the estate on the Horton side of the village continues to deteriorate. The road surface is 'creeping' but is not yet at a stage where anything would be done by NCC.

The pavement outside 1 Mere Close is in very poor condition and has been reported; someone will be coming to inspect and will let us know what they intend to do – or not as the case may be.

A number of the footpaths need attention as the verges are beginning to overgrow the path: -

- The path across the field from the Church to Lower End is very overgrown in parts
- The path which cuts across the back of Taylor's Orchard has leaf mould and soil encroaching – could be quite slippery when wet
- Most of the length of Bridle Path could do with edging back
- The verge near the Billing Road bus shelter has narrowed the pavement. NCC has been asked how this can be dealt with.

A number of white lines need attention:-

- Junction Horton Road/leading to Elm Close
- Centre of Bedford Road at the junction of Bedford Road/Billing Road/Horton Road
- Junction of Billing Road/Long Acre
- Junction of Billing Road/Cares Orchard
- Junction Billing Road/Cares Orchard

Some of the white lines have needed attention for some time and have been reported on more than one occasion. NCC was asked to comment and said that lining work is still being carried out; the problem is that whilst it seems a really simple job to get done, it is actually one of the more difficult issues! NCC has to ensure they have enough work in an area to keep the contractors busy for at least a day to ensure they get best value for money for the authority and when you carry out lining on a busy road such as the A428 it will need quite a lot of traffic management to keep the gang safe which obviously increases the costs significantly.

Gill Ager Highways Rep

Dog Fouling : Green Road Garage Area

'South Northants Homes' has received a complaint about dog fouling on the piece of grass land by the garages off Green Road. They have inspected the area and agreed with the complaint, and will arrange a one off clearance and look to put up signs to deter future dog fouling. Please be considerate to other residents around our village and take responsibility for your own dog. Do not let it out to wander freely, clean up after it, and dispose of used dog poo bags in your own black wheelie bin.

Northampton / Olney / Bedford Bus Service

This service No 41 from Stagecoach has recently been reinstated and runs regularly during the day stopping outside the Red Lion on the Bedford Rd. The bus also stops at Denton Church and Yardley Hastings Post Office on its way to Olney, Lavendon, Turvey, Bromham, Biddenham and Bedford. Journey times are shown on the full timetable available from www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables or traveline 0871 200 22 33

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Brafield Parish Council still has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in making a valuable contribution to your community, and would like to find out more about what is involved please contact the Chair, Gill Morgan, for further information:

Tel: 891934 email: gillmorgan121@aol.com

Coffee Morning - 42 Bridle Path

Rosie and David Heath will be hosting a coffee morning on 3rd September from 11am - 1pm. Funds raised will contribute to the cost of flowers for the Flower Festival 2012. 'Please come and join us and help to make this as successful as it was last year when we had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Donations for tombola, raffle and a 'nearly new' stall will be appreciated'.

Next Parish Council Meeting:
Monday 19th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Sargeant Memorial Hall Brafield

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