Breaston Parish Council
Environment Committee
The Environment Committee of Breaston Parish Council meet every first Wednesday of each month. The Committee's Agenda addresses the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment of Breaston Village.
Planning Applications
Our local planning authority, Erewash Borough Council continues to consult the Parish Council, as a statutory consultee, on applications that affect the village. Each one is considered by the Committee, endorsed by the Full Council and an appropriate response is supplied within twenty-one days. Whilst our judgements and comments are generally based on the Government's 'Material Planning Considerations' guidelines, we also consider the broader picture in preserving the character of the village, particularly in protecting the Conservation Area and our Green Belt. We also support and encourage improvement where possible. Our views and those passed to us by residents, can be taken into consideration when Erewash Borough Council are making their decisions.
Over the last year we have considered thirty-eight Erewash Borough Council Planning Applications, approving the majority and objecting to four. We may approve some applications in principal but may make recommendations or express concerns. There have been some significant applications where houses are being redeveloped. Plans are scrutinised by the Committee to ensure they do not significantly affect their neighbours' amenities and are in keeping with the street scene.
Another major development has been the Severn Trent Building on Sawley Road. Although in our Green Belt, they are funded by the Government and deemed to be 'Permitted Development" to ensure the future supply of clean water to our area.
Erewash Core Strategy Consultation: The consultation period for responding to the changes being made to the Erewash Core Strategy ended on the 19th of May. The Parish Council has responded with objections. No feedback on the results has been published as yet.
All pending, approved and rejected planning applications can be viewed on the Erewash Borough Council website.
Enforcement Issues
One of our duties is to respond to structures, structural developments to properties, flowerbeds and changes to trees that may have been introduced without the appropriate planning approval. These are passed on to the Erewash Borough Council Enforcement Officer to take the appropriate action. There is a free advice service at the Erewash Borough Council Planning Department.
Village Improvement Programme
Over the years eighty-six problem areas have been identified in the village, which have needed some attention. Recently the last outstanding area for improvement, No. 85, the Post Box alongside The Crescent, was cleaned and painted.
Flooding
With Breaston being situated in the Trent Valley, surface rainwater flows from the higher ground in the North through a network of the village's brooks, ditches, culverts, and drains to West Park and into the River Trent via the Erewash Canal. With Storm Henk and a particularly wet 2024, the exceptional rainfall exposed every slight blockage in its path, flooding some roads, gardens, and some houses in several areas around Breaston. There was once a canal that protected us from any severe flooding. Hopefully one day it can be restored, however until then all agencies and those with 'riparian' responsibilities need to keep the water courses clear.

Flood Alleviation

For the Parish Council, Flood Alleviation is a priority. Working with the Environment Agency, Erewash Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Sustrans, Farmers, Landowners, and residents, we have made some improvement. However, we continue to lobby those responsible for maintaining our waterways and have enlisted the support of our local MP Adam Thompson. In 2022 the Environment Agency introduced Flood Alert Monitors in the Golden Brook and now offer residents an alert to any impending floods in their area. Please see the Breaston Parish Council website for details on how to register and for other useful information and contact numbers regarding flooding.

Climate Change

The Parish Council has continued to take action to respond to Climate Change. Following an Energy Efficiency Audit of all Parish Council property by the Marches Energy Agency in 2023, an Action Plan was instigated and is now mostly complete. This included more efficient heating and insulation, LED lighting and solar panels fitted to the Parish Council Rooms and energy efficient lights fitted to the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) on Perks Park. We continue to work on other initiatives such as the planting and maintaining of trees and plants with the assistance of the Breaston in Bloom Group and others. A new ‘Village Footpath Map’ has been installed in the Green to encourage walking and reduce motor traffic and we continue to investigate the provision of an Electric Vehicle Charging Point for the village.

Biodiversity Net Gain

In January 2024, in response to a UK Government directive (Environment Act 2021) the Parish Council created an Action Plan to achieve ’10% Biodiversity Net Gain’. This is currently being implemented with progress being reviewed every six months. This involves managing our ‘green spaces’ to improve biodiversity, encouraging wildlife, carefully considering the products we use inside as well as outside, reducing the use of energy and water, recycling and reusing where possible, purchasing from local suppliers, and improving how we manage our buildings. The Biodiversity Action Plan, policies, a comprehensive list of what can be recycled and where and information about Electric Vehicle charging is available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Catherine Salt
Chair
Environment Committee