

BRIXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Five year strategy 2009 to 2014



Document Review History

Reviewed 21st October 2010, May 2011, May 2012, May 2013.

INTRODUCTION

Brixham Town Council has developed this strategy to provide clear direction for the five year period from 2009 to 2014. Created in 2007 in 2009 Brixham Town Council became a Quality Council. A number of significant changes are expected to have an impact upon the Town and the Town Council during the strategy period:

1. The regeneration of key sites in the Town, working in conjunction with Brixham 21.
2. The possible acquisition of assets and an increase in allotments managed.
3. Meeting the prescribed conditions to become eligible to use the Parish Councils (Power to Promote Well-being) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2008.
4. The Mayor's vision
5. A new Local Development Framework adopted by Torbay Council.
6. The creation and adoption of a parish plan.

Brixham Town Council has four main committees, two with delegated powers and so this strategy is broken down into four sections covered by those committees.

Planning

Regeneration

Finance and General Purposes (F&GP)

Community Services

The aim of the Town Council is to offer leadership to ensure that Brixham develops into a sustainable, thriving town and to promote the well being of residents.

Brixham Town Council will review progress against these strategic objectives each year and will undertake an interim review in 2011 and a full review and implementation of a new strategy in 2014.

Planning Committee

To further develop the good relationship with Torbay's Planning Department

To undertake training of the Planning Committee

To develop a relationship with Torbay's Highways Department in order to improve the road infrastructure in and around Brixham

To identify empty housing in Brixham Town Centre with a view to maximising utilisation of such properties

To monitor and seek input to the development of the Local Development Framework.

Regeneration

Aim to minimise the collateral damage caused to the economy by the regeneration works.
To give an overall determination of regeneration in co operation with Stakeholders.
To try to ensure a sympathetic regeneration to ensure the character of the town is not lost.
To respond to consultation documents and to work with the Planning Committee to respond to the Local Development Framework proposals.
To influence the direction of regeneration taking into account the public view.
To respond to any Torbay Vision.
To work towards providing Burial Facilities in Brixham

F&GP Committee

To ensure that allotments break even
To maximise income from the Town Centre
To seek positive income streams from any real estate assets.
To aim to increase the precept year on year by no less than the rate of inflation RPI.
To maintain an overview of all Council activity to avoid double taxation
To maintain the overall level of support for events and festivities to maximise benefit to the whole community.
To ensure that a suitable reserve be held in a high interest account.
To create and manage a Brixham Emergency protocol.

Community Services Committee

Christmas lights

Continue to build annually on the current display, working towards a large Christmas lights display that will attract many visitors to the area. Improve light infrastructure along side increased display.
Find a building locally to rent / buy that will be suitable for storing all Christmas lights for ease of access.

Christmas Week

Aid the development of a week long festival and work towards creating a group to oversee the running of this annual event.

Christmas Market

Help the development of a Christmas market to be held for one week during Nov / Dec.

Civic Awards

Present civic awards to people who live in the parish and who have shown extraordinary commitment, dedication, energy and effort towards achieving a particular goal. (At annual parish meeting)

Heritage Walks

Create, or work with other groups to create leaflet/s outlining different trails around the town, which follows various points of interest. For example a Blue Plaque Trail, a Town Trail, Sculptures / public realm / art trail.

Civic Pride

Improve the town so that residents' perception of it improves, making them feel proud of their town, by -

Street Names signage replacements

Some street name signs are looking very poor and do not create an impression of a "loved" town. By replacements the signs, BTC can work towards changing the impression of the Town.

Civic Amenities

To replace street benches, info boards, street furniture etc. to improve the impression of the town.

Notice boards

Purchase, install and maintain new notice boards.

Town Centre Management

Move to increasing BTC role with better town management facilities including liaising and encouraging potential business to the town. Presently, BTC are responsible for leasing out sites for banners and advertising campaigns in Fore Street only.

Dog Poop

Campaign for less dog poop, working towards a cleaner town. Encourage locals to grab it, bag it, bin it. Employ a Dog Warden. Have biodegradable poop bags for the town

Civic Centre

Work towards having a purpose build civic centre, which would house the town council offices, museum, cinema and theatre for example.

Museum

Helping to ensure a secure future. Working to improve their facilities. Relocate them within civic centre building.

Town Plan

The results have been returned from the questionnaire. Promote the building and creation of a Town Plan by the community.

Improved profile of Brixham

Work with local groups to promote and increase the profile of the town.

Technology & Communications

Setup a BTC specific network. Create a BTC specific website, Blog and Facebook. Set up Skype and Twitter accounts. As part of the BTC Communications Policy.

Newsletter

Improve newsletter, increase advertising take up, make it a focal point for the community, particularly with 'what's on'. Possible increase in number of publications per year with increased revenue.