

Brinklow Parish Plan

**Results of Consultation with Residents
Summer 2006**

Consultation with Residents



Introduction

We are grateful to all the people who have worked hard to complete this valuable piece of work. The Parish Council will be able to act on some of the suggestions made, but others are not within our powers. We will use the results of the Parish Plan to add weight to our negotiations with those who control action on issues of concern to the village.

Too often we feel that planning is something imposed on us by planning authorities.

This Parish Plan will demonstrate to the authorities the considered opinion of Brinklow residents, the majority of whom contributed to the debates.
Chair of Parish Council

This parish plan has been created by a working group of Brinklow residents and businesses. It follows on from the Village Design Statement that was completed in 2005.

The questionnaire was designed to assist the Parish Council in meeting the aim of the village plan: *'...to obtain the views of the people of Brinklow about how the village should develop in order to enhance village life'*.

Using the results of the questionnaire distributed to all residents in the parish boundary in the summer of 2006 the Parish Plan has been created.

This report and the action plan created by the Parish Council lists problems and concerns highlighted by the residents in the questionnaire results and consequently the parish council will be obliged to work with other partners e.g. Rugby Borough Council, Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council and Youth Services to manage progress and change.

Both the action and parish plan will be held by the Parish Council and will be monitored and worked on with an aim to review the documents in 3 years time.



Brinklow Fire station—Heath Lane

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Parish Plan Working Group:

Colin Cook	Jane Whitehead	Jennie Boonham
Anne Tritton	Bev Francioso	Janet Sykes
Helen Brittain	Heather Page	Jeanette Lomas
Carol Tipper	Hamish Brown	Catharine Brown

We would like to thank:

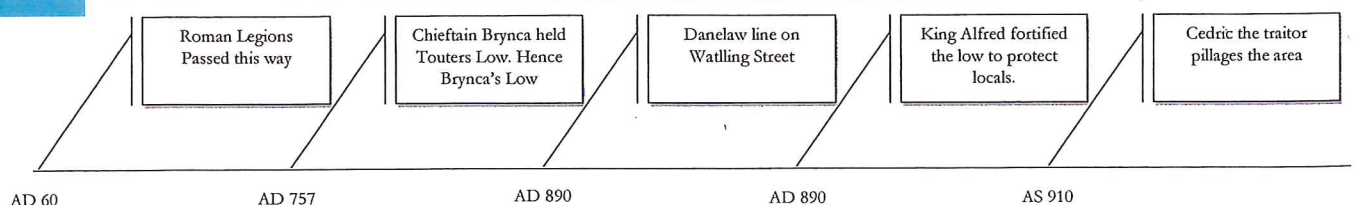
The band of volunteers who kindly helped distribute & collect the finished questionnaires—we are really grateful for your help. It couldn't have been done without you.

The Parish Council, for the instigation of the project

The Countryside Agency, for funding the project.

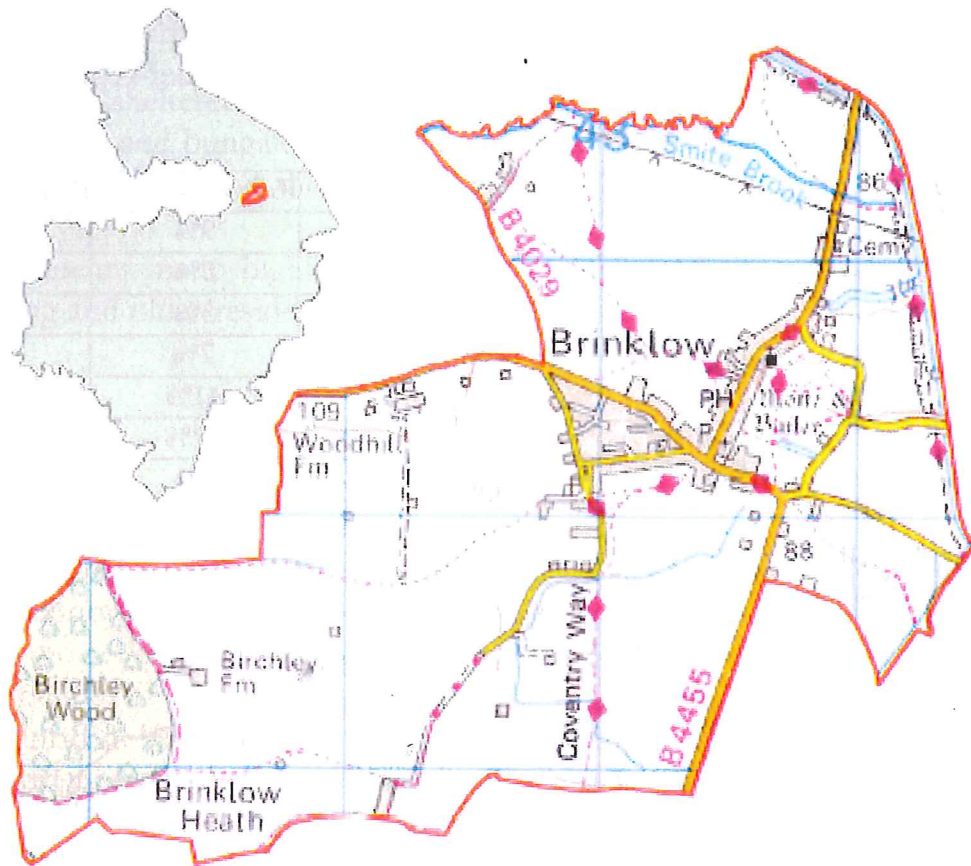
Linda Ridgley, Senior Field Officer, Warwickshire Rural Community Council

David Gardiner, Research Assistant, Warwickshire County Council



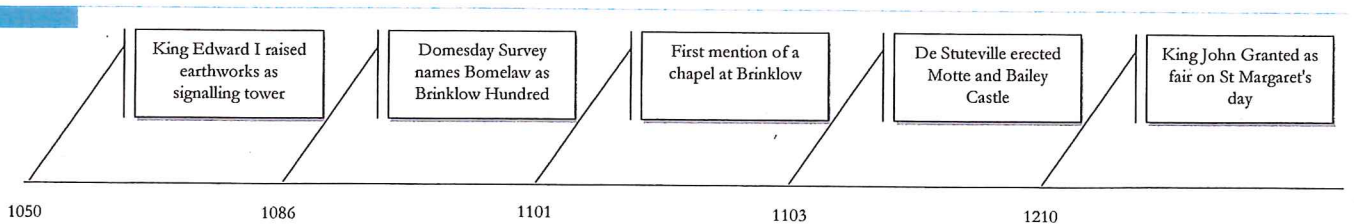
The Village of Brinklow

The village of Brinklow lies in the Borough of Rugby approximately 6 miles to the east of Coventry and 7 miles to the west of Rugby. The parish of Brinklow has approximately 450 resident households with a population of just over 1,000 residents.



"We love Brinklow as a small village...."
 "It is a privilege to live here"
 "We would suggest increasing the size by building on Coventry Road"

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Demographics

The questionnaire was sent to all 453 households in Brinklow; 285 completed responses were received, representing a 63% response rate. The table Below shows that the age breakdown of the population is similar to the profile of respondents to the questionnaire.

The older age groups are slightly over-represented and the younger and middle-age groups adults are slightly under-represented by the questionnaires returned.

Age group	Respondents	Brinklow Population
Under 10	9%	9%
11–15	5%	8%
16–18	3%	2%
19–29	7%	9%
30–59	41%	44%
60–79	27%	23%
80 and over	8%	5%

“More facilities needed for young people”

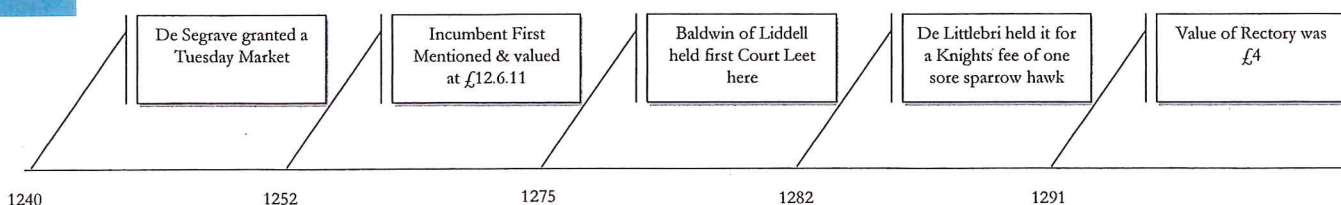
“The village lacks something for girls to do especially if they are not interested in football”

Respondents to the questionnaire appear to have lived in Brinklow for a considerable amount of time, only 4% of respondents have moved to the village in the last 2 years.

Furthermore, 48% of respondents have lived in Brinklow for over 20 years, including 14% of respondents who have lived in Brinklow for 50 years or more.

Of the adults who responded to the survey, nearly one-half (45%) are in full-time work, whilst more than one-third (35%) are retired:

- Full-time work 45%
- Part-time work 13%
- Full-time education 3%
- Retired 35%
- Not working 4%
- Part-time education 0%



Housing Results

Two out of five people indicated that they did not want to see any further housing developments in the area.

Of those who do want additional housing in the village 60% nominated starter homes. This was followed by nominations for sheltered accommodation, family homes and bungalows, with flats coming at the bottom of the list.



The Outskirts of Brinklow

Comments made highlighted the need to have housing that helped the young and older residents remain in Brinklow.

Health Facilities

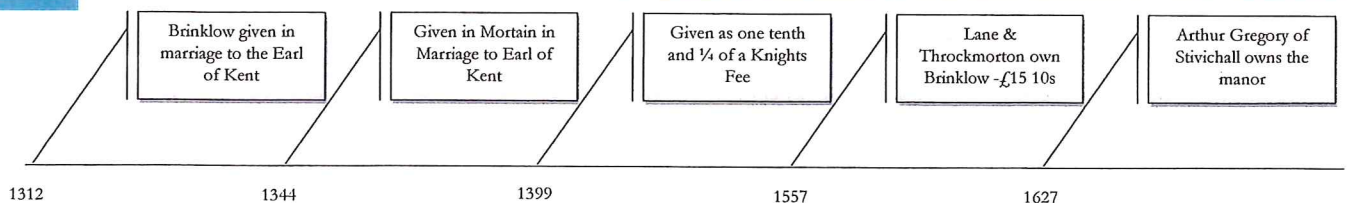
“Health Fair in URL/Church Room with representatives from Health and Social Services for different age groups”

9% of respondents reported that they have no transport for accessing healthcare locally. Those who struggle with transport are relying on family & friends (67%) or public transport (51%) to attend appointments.

Respondents were asked if they receive visits from a selection of organisations, 16 said that they had visits from a ‘social care worker’, four from ‘home help’, four from a ‘Voluntary Agency’ & one from ‘meals on wheels’.

Nineteen respondents reported that a member of their household has special health needs or treatments that it is difficult to provide for. The most frequent problems encountered include ‘accessing healthcare facilities and medication’ and ‘mobility issues in and around their home’.

16 households have a main carer for a person with a long-term health problem, however it was not felt that a local support group would be beneficial.



Environmental Services

The results of the Environmental Services section show Brinklow households are very interested in recycling, which is encouraging as a village community.

Almost all respondents, 99%, are happy that they have the correct facilities for recycling general waste. 96% have the green bin for garden waste and 88% have the two red bins for newspapers and glass/tins. In addition to green bins two out of five (40%) have their own compost heap for their kitchen / garden waste.

Most of the households in Brinklow recycle, 95% use their green bins, 79% recycle glassware and 67% tins.

The dedication to recycle is mirrored in what respondents would be prepared to recycle if the opportunity was available within the village itself. The list below shows the suggested items requiring village collection facilities. There was also an interest shown for a used battery recycling facility.

Plastic 81% Cardboard 70% Clothing / shoes 61%

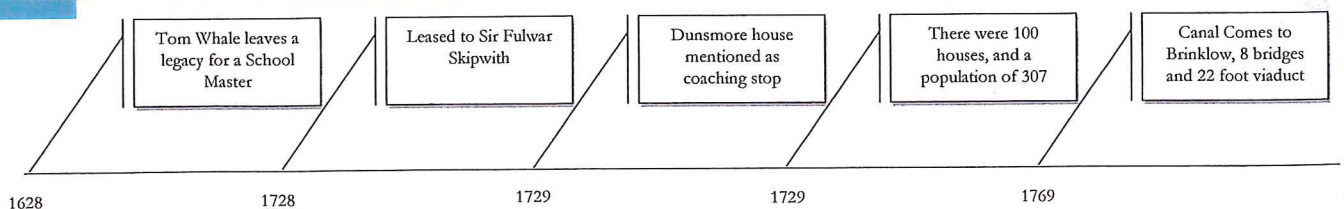
Households were asked if they were satisfied with the current level of service they receive relating to a number of aspects of village life. The Table below shows the results. For further information phone 01788 533533

Issue	%
Emptying litter and refuse bins	93%
Street lighting	84%
Maintenance of rights of way (footpaths)	71%
Maintenance of roads	66%
Street and Pavement cleaning	65%
Maintenance of pavements and grass verges.	52%

“I would love some information on solar panels”
 “Hate sodium lights and would prefer something less polluting”

Energy saving

Almost all residents appear to use some form of energy saving, most households having double glazing and loft insulation, closely followed by low energy light bulbs, cavity wall insulation and water saving devices. Solar panels, as a way of saving energy were shown to be almost non-existent in Brinklow. However there was interest from a number of people in solar panels.



Transport and Parking

Over 25% of respondents reported that they have car parking problems on a weekly basis when parking at home, but around 70% stated that they rarely have any problems with parking, either at home or in the village centre. Diagonal parking on Broad Street was suggested as potential solution.



Easy Access Bus Collecting Passengers on Broad Street

Approximately 31% of respondents stated that they use local bus services, with around 51% of these using the service either monthly or less often. 17% of respondents reported that they use the service on a daily basis. Most respondents reported taking the bus to Coventry or Rugby, whilst a few took the bus to Nuneaton, Monks Kirby or their local hospital. The main purpose for bus journeys was for shopping (79%) or for social reasons (41%), with fewer respondents using the bus to travel to school (13%) or work (10%). Time tables are available at the Post Office.

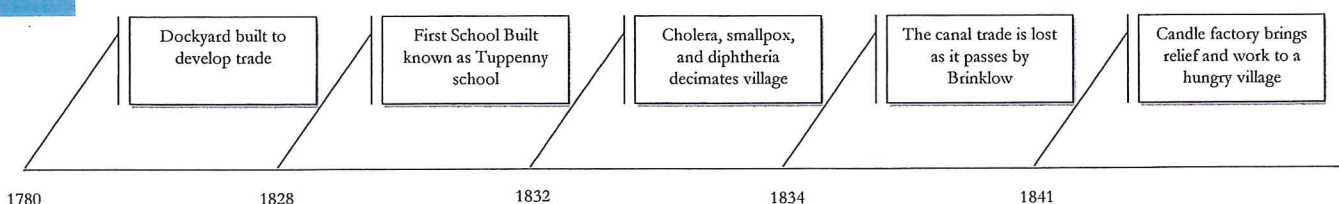
Approximately one in five respondents would like to see more bus shelters in Brinklow, particularly in Broad Street, Coventry Road, Great Balance or Lutterworth Road. Only 44% of respondents were aware of the Village Link bus service that operates in Brinklow.

The results of the questionnaire showed that 11% of households have no access to a car, 39% have access to one car, and 50% access to two or more cars.

The average number of miles travelled by each vehicle in Brinklow is 31 miles per day. The purpose of the journeys for each of the vehicles was assessed as:

Purpose	Vehicle 1	Vehicle 2	Vehicle 3	Overall
Work	64%	76%	50%	67%
School	12%	15%	8%	13%
Shopping	72%	54%	25%	63%
Social	75%	68%	92%	74%

“Buses that run later in the evenings”
 “45 degree parking in Broad Street”



Village Facilities

All members of the household who chose to fill in the questionnaire were asked how often they used a number of facilities.

The numerical results are difficult to interpret, as they depend on the actual number of people who filled in an answer for each item, rather than the number of questionnaires returned.



The results show that most people used the village shop and Post Office in the shop on a very regular basis.

The next most used items were the village playing field and the pubs, with at least one third of the replies saying they were used weekly.

The two take-away food outlets were also used by about one third but less often.

Of the rest, not unexpectedly, the other facilities were used by smaller numbers (chapel rooms, hairdresser, mobile library, village hall, allotments, tennis court).

The one service we are all proud of (but would least like to need!) is the village fire station.

Communications

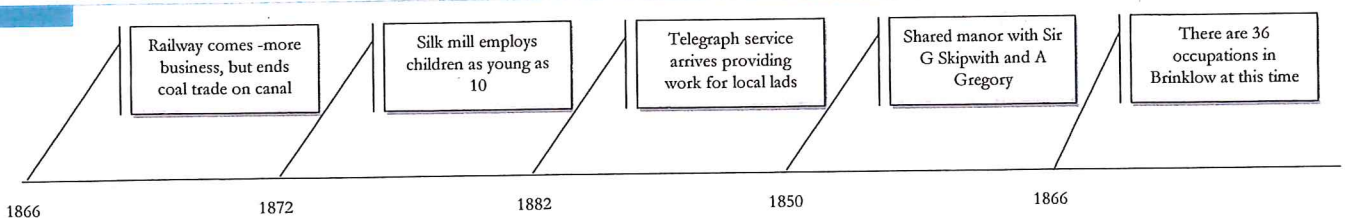
Within the village, almost all the respondents used 'Round the Revel' for local information. In addition, one third used notice boards and posters for social gatherings, whilst two thirds also used newsletters delivered to households. These are more likely to be infrequent and dealing with some specific issue.

A majority knew they could attend Parish Council meetings. They are held in the seminar room at the fire station on the second Monday of the month at 7.15pm.

Other sources are the Internet (with two thirds having access to this) though only a quarter of the respondents knew about the village website.

Most people also receive free local newspapers.

“A swimming pool would be appreciated”
 “Changing rooms”
 “How do I apply for an allotment?”
 “Better mobile phone network coverage”
 “Cable provision”



Recreational Education & Training

The course that received the most interest was the leisure and craft course with 129 people expressing an interest. The computer-training course was also popular with 125 people being interested. 101 people are interested in language courses and 82 people are interested in first aid training. 53 people are interested in having Internet facilities available for them to use and 27 people are interested in being able to access advice on keeping accounts.



Three-quarters of respondents (75%) would prefer to have the education and training facilities run in the evening, with the remaining one-quarter (25%) preferring daytime courses.

A small number of respondents mentioned further courses that they would like to see offered in the village, the most popular were a youth club, dance lessons, art classes and family / local history classes.

“Village copper on foot patrol a.m. and p.m, not just at election times or prior to the Budget”

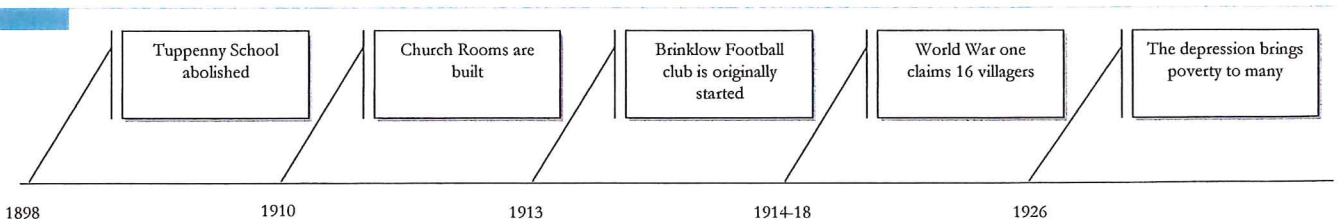
“The right to deal with troublesome youths personally”

Neighbourhood Watch & Policing

Two out of three people rated Policing as 'poor' and only a tiny number reported it as 'good'.

When asked about your real concerns for the village anti social behaviour and policing levels were seen as key areas to be addressed.

Responses to questions about the Neighbourhood Watch scheme suggested that not many people were aware of its existence; that there would be some interest in finding out more and becoming involved, or at least attending a meeting about it.



General Results

Respondents were invited to state if there was anything else that would enhance their day-to-day living; three main themes were highlighted :

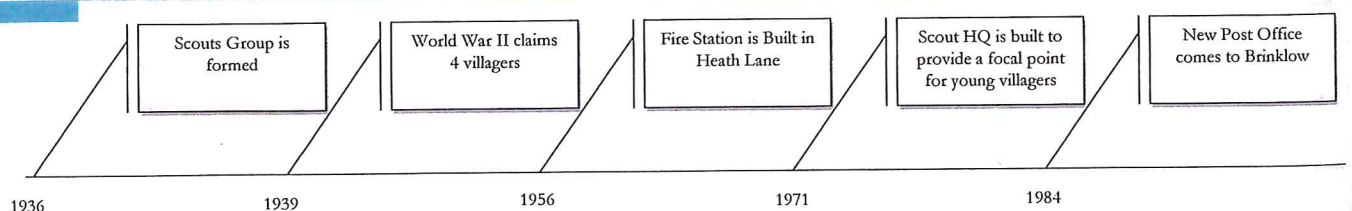
- **Traffic control** – including less heavy traffic in the village centre, more speed restrictions and junction improvements.
- **Better policing** – including increased police presence, village policeman and reinstatement of Brinklow Police Station.
- **Sports facilities** – including a gym and winter sports facility.

Respondents were also asked to describe anything else that they have concerns about in Brinklow. This question received a much higher response with seven key themes being identified:

- **Traffic**—including volume of traffic, speed of traffic & number of heavy vehicles.
- **Crime** – including instances of vandalism, drug use and lack of police presence.
- **Youths with nothing to do** – including young people just hanging about and the absence of a youth club facility.
- **Expansion of Brinklow** – including worries that Brinklow will become a small town rather than a village.
- **Dog fouling** – including owners not cleaning up after their dogs especially in areas where children play.
- **Litter** – including litter in and on approaches to the village and fly-tipping.
- **Increased aircraft** – including the expansion of Coventry airport and the associated increased noise levels.

“Speed through the village – get road humps like Pailton, Wolston etc.”

“Good village store with fresh fruit and vegetables”



What you said.....

“We value living in a village where people are friendly and help each other. The play facilities have been a great asset for a young child. We value excellent pre-school and local school and God willing hope to live here for many years and feel privileged to share such a village with others. We particularly enjoy walking up and around the Tump – it wears young children out”



“Should the youngsters of the village be made to pay (via the Football Club) for the use of the playing field when this was purchased by villagers for the use of the village in perpetuity”

View of St John the Baptist from the Tump

“Dirty old man with clean habits please”

“We consider that dogs should be excluded from the playing field – large numbers of dogs are using the field. Many are brought by car. This is very hazardous to the health of users many of which are children”

“Stopping vehicles parking on pavements forcing pedestrians and women with children and prams and disabled people to walk in the road where a lot of traffic has no respect for speeding restrictions or limits”

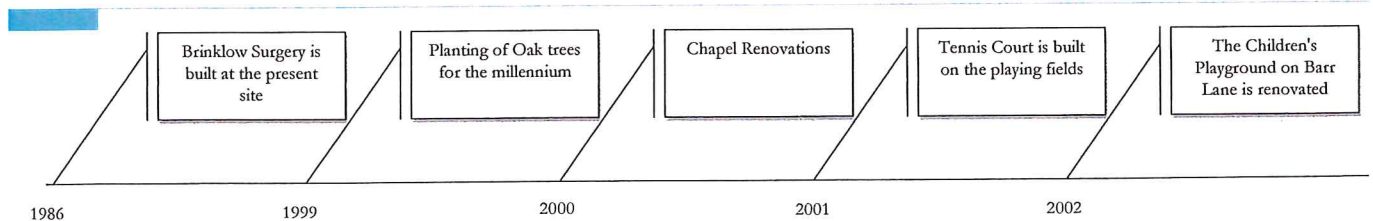
“Brinklow should hold an open garden weekend”

“The air sometimes smells in the summer”

“Footpath from village to Abbey”

“Sports facilities in bad weather”

“General upkeep of village greens, trees and hedges needs to be more frequent”



Summary of Action Plan

Actions for Brinklow Parish Council

These actions have been produced by the Parish Council as the key areas that they are able to work on in future years

- Contact Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to investigate the feasibility of 45 degree parking in Broad Street
- Review sites for bus shelters and negotiate with WCC for 2 additional shelters
- Apply for funding for changing facilities for the Playing Field
- Review possible sites for 3 more benches in village and find funding to provide them
- Set up working group consider enhancing floral aspects of the village eg. to fund, install and maintain troughs of flowers at entrances to village.
- To enhance communication through use of newsletters, 'Round the Revel', and the Brinklow website
- Remind police to write in 'Round the Revel' so that villagers are kept informed
- Review coverage of Neighborhood Watch and seek coordinators
- To investigate information on heat/water saving and inform village of that which is available
- To ensure that village is informed about Rugby Borough Council (RBC) recycling plans
- To maintain pressure on RBC and WCC to maintain roads and pavements in good condition
- Review speed restrictions and any possibilities for upgrades