

# What can Brinsworth Parish Council Do?

It aims to represent the views of all residents within the parish. It holds three meetings per month and these are all open to members of the public who might want to express their concerns or seek advice on local issues. It has a wide range of powers and is involved in providing community halls and recreational facilities, maintaining open spaces and play areas, and dealing with other 'quality of life' issues.

It has the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, other organisations that make key decisions (such as Rotherham MBC, Police, Health Authority, Highways Agency etc). In this respect the Parish Council is extremely powerful since the organisations that make the final decisions know that it will closely reflect how people in Brinsworth feel about something.

The Parish Council works hard to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies. It is notified of all planning and licensing applications within the

parish boundary and can make its views known. Quite often these are taken into account, although the final decision on such applications remains with Rotherham MBC.

Small projects, such as providing seats, clearing footpaths, planting and landscaping work can be done directly by the Parish Council. In the case of bigger projects, such as sports facilities and children's play areas, these can often only get off the ground if the Parish Council contributes some money to start with, which can then be used to possibly unlock grants from other organisations outside the parish. It can support residents in many ways and even if it cannot control an issue it will strive to help achieve what is best for the community of Brinsworth.

The Government sees a major role for Parish and Town Councils in reviving democracy, and modernising communities by putting more power into the hands of local people. It is looking at ways of devolving more powers to parishes from central and local government.



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