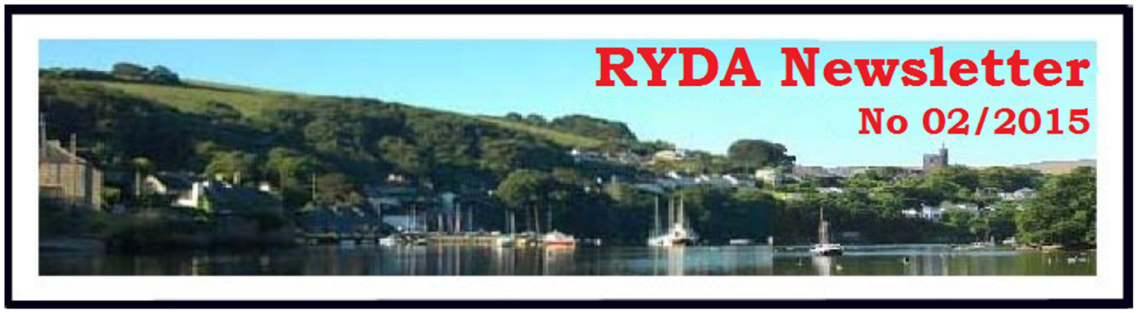


Annual General Meeting

A final reminder to members that the Association Annual General Meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th April in the WI Community Hall. This is your opportunity to pick up your free 2015 edition of the Village Telephone Directory.

Local Bus Service

A proposed economy measures in the present round of Devon County Council cuts is our local No 94 daily bus service to Plymouth. As you will know, this service operates 5 journeys a day (excluding Sunday) plus one additional service via Holberton. In future it is intended to run only 3 services a day. This reduction is likely to save in the order of £13.5K per year (which we calculate to work out at about £10 per one way trip!). The proponents of this reduction claim that no one will be disadvantaged as a result! However, as far as we can tell no one in Newton or Noss has been lobbied during the consultation period. If you believe that, as a result of these cuts you will find yourself seriously disadvantaged then we would be interested to hear from you. You may find full details of all proposed economy measures to be taken in the County by going to:

https://www.devonnewscentre.info/still-time-to-take-part-in-public-transport-consultation/

Election Time

District Council. In our last Newsletter we gave our opinion of the importance of having the right District Councillor to represent us in Follaton House. In light of the redrawing of ward boundaries throughout South Hams and the consequential significant reduction in the number of District Councillors, we asked you to consider this carefully when casting your vote. Maybe you have thought about it and come to the conclusion that you might be the right person! If this is the case then you should know that you only have until 9th April to register for selection. You therefore need to act quickly and contact darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk for full details.

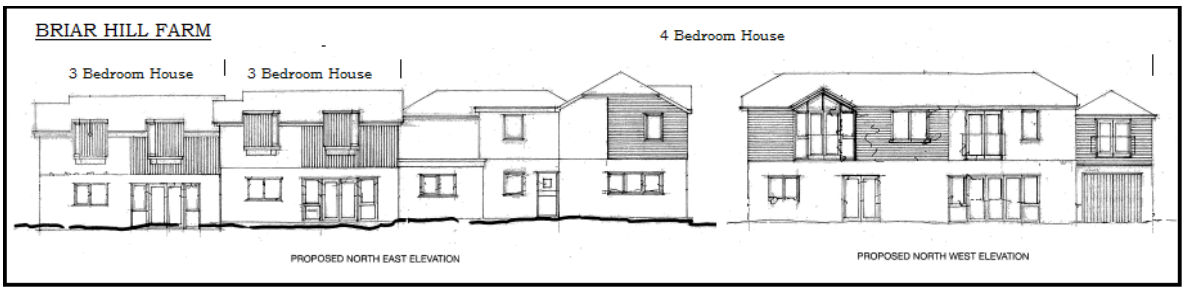
Parish Council. If you feel that your services to the community are better utilised closer to home, you may wish to consider running for the Parish Council. In this case you should contact the Parish Clerk for details. newtonnossclerk@aol.com She will be very pleased to hear from you.

Central Government. All prospective candidates to be our local Member of Parliament have been invited to address us and answer questions. A meeting, which is being organised by the Parish Council and sponsored by the RYDA, is to take place in the WI Community Hall on Friday 10 April 2015 commencing at 7pm. You are encouraged to be there.

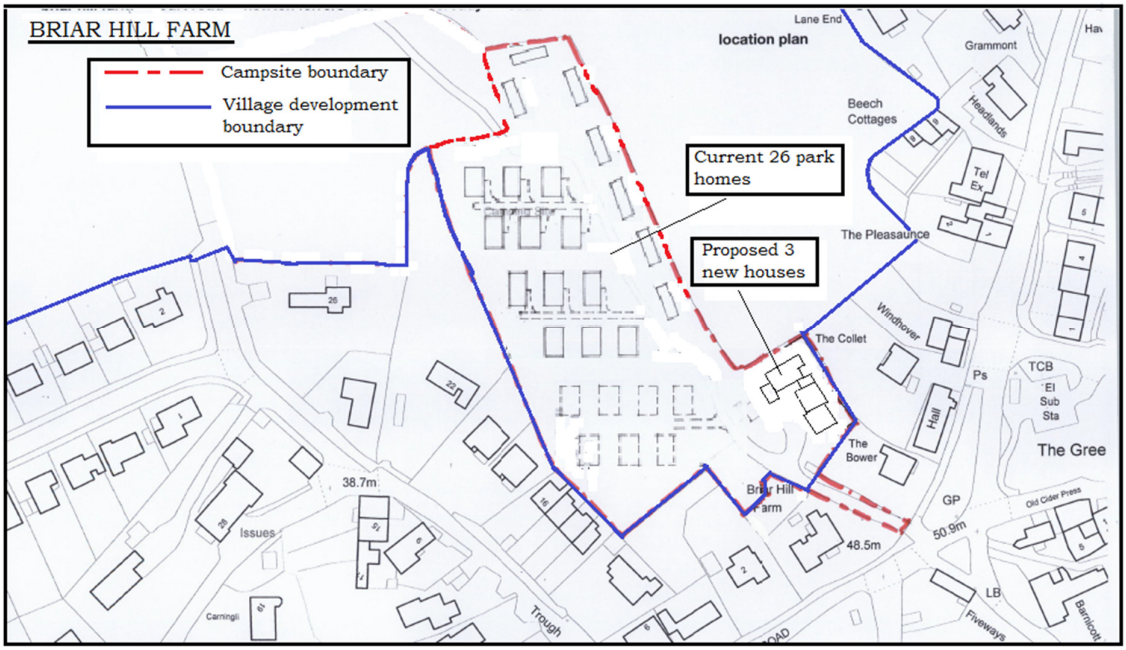
Planning Application: Briar Hill Farm

In the last edition we reported on a planning application for 3 houses to be built on Briar Hill Camp Site which lies adjacent to but outside the village development boundary. We were unable to give

any details at the time. However since then we have visited the site and talked to the owner about the application. Here are some facts.



The site currently has a licence for 33 static caravans/park homes granted some 40 years ago to a previous owner. Of these, 26 have been built to date. The current full planning application, although on the same site, is not associated with the camping licence. It is for two holiday letting terraced houses (each of 3 bedrooms), an adjoining owners 4 bedroom house, an adjoining single garage with one of the 4 bedrooms above it and an adjoining workshop/store. All of this will be located where a group of agricultural buildings currently stand just outside the village development boundary.



The issues that we have considered in this matter are threefold:

- The houses will lie within the AONB. In 2011 an almost identical application was made but it included an additional 12 or 15 static caravans/park homes in an adjoining field. Members lodged a considerable number of objections at the time, mainly on the grounds that the proposal would damage the AONB. However we have now come to the conclusion that it would be less appropriate to do so today. We feel that the AONB might benefit from the removal of the barns and of course the erection of 26 other buildings has already greatly altered the landscape in that area.
- We have considered the consequences of increasing the allowable number of holiday units in this small area from 33 to 35 and the effect that it may have on the surrounding area. Opinions are divided on this point but it must be recognised that incrementally an increase of 2 may make little difference. Also we believe that any detrimental effect is going to be very much

less if sub-letting the 33 park homes is prohibited under the terms of the owners' agreements. Unfortunately to date we have not been able to establish if this is the case.

- The village development boundary has always been considered sacrosanct in the planning world. However this is being changed under the Localism Act and a much more liberal attitude is being taken by the authorities towards building almost anywhere. Nonetheless this should not be happening now because the existing legislation should still remain in force until Districts and Parishes have put in place their new Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. In our Parish neither of these documents has yet been completed. Therefore the rules that apply to development boundaries still apply.

In summary, we have concluded that the third reason for objecting to the application is the most relevant one. However we would very much appreciate any views that members might have before we decide whether to make representations.

If you wish to see the full plans yourself or raise your own comment to SHDC you should go to:

http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/planningsearch/default.aspx?shortid=37/0518/15/F

You have only until Friday 3rd April to make any representations.