



BROMESWELL PARISH PLAN 2016-2020

**BROMESWELL PARISH: GATEWAY TO 'THE SUFFOLK
COASTS AND HEATHS' AREA OF OUTSTANDING
NATURAL BEAUTY.**

Consultation Process

This Parish Plan is a community-driven document produced by Bromeswell Parish Council following full consultation with, and feedback from, residents. It is the successor to previous Parish Council documents:

- 2006 Parish Plan;
- March 2007 response to the LDF consultation;
- 2012 Parish Plan.

The 2016 Parish Plan reflects the up-to-date opinions and aspirations of the Bromeswell community. These opinions are the result of a comprehensive consultation process to identify the features of Bromeswell that the community wish to protect and those that need development. The residents of Bromeswell were invited to submit their views individually or at a community workshop. The methodology and outcomes of this consultation are included in the report's annexe.

Following this latest consultation the Bromeswell community has confirmed a common theme running through the previous Parish Council documents. The community values Bromeswell as a Rural Deben Estuary Parish; one that is protected within an AONB and its Setting and that Bromeswell is part of the nationally recognised district known as 'The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths'.

Outline of Bromeswell Parish: Gateway to ‘The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths’ Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The parish of Bromeswell is located on the tidal Estuary of the River Deben, which is a designated Special Protection Area. Bromeswell is also within the district known as the Deben Peninsula and Natural England’s recognised Natural Character Area No. 82 and has several different EU protected wildlife habitats

Within Bromeswell there are many important natural assets: a Local Nature Reserve [LNR] managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, a Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI], a Wetland of International Importance [RAMSAR], a Special Protection Area, Conservation Area and a Grade One Listed Parish Church within designated Open Access Land of Suffolk Sandlings character.

The parish covers an area of around six square kilometres and despite its small spread-out population and marked lack of infrastructure (no mains drainage, street lighting, pavements, shops or school) there is a lively community spirit, which largely revolves around the Parish Church of St Edmund and well-maintained Village Hall.

The church of St Edmund dates back to Saxon times and is of historical importance. It also marks the heart of a Conservation Area as approved by Suffolk Coastal District Council in September 2016. This Conservation Area is unique in SCDC in that it is designed to protect the historic core of a dispersed heathland community. The application for Conservation Area status recognised “Bromeswell is unusual amongst east Suffolk villages in that its wooded slopes and high hedges give the village a distinctive enclosed intimate atmosphere with few long views over the surrounding landscape.”

Although just a few miles East of Woodbridge and the A12, when you enter this parish you have crossed over the natural dividing line formed by the River Deben. There is now a marked change in landscape and settlement character, which is objectively recognised by the official designations: AONB and its protected “Setting” which itself is a designated Special Landscape Area. You are now within the environmentally sensitive district known as The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths.

This Parish is crisscrossed by many well used public footpaths and other public rights of way including the Sandlings Path; Bromeswell’s winding narrow sunken lanes are very popular with ramblers, cyclists, horse riders and runners who use them all as access points to explore the wider AONB.

The parish is very close to the protected Heritage Coast and is within easy walking distance of the World Heritage Site of Sutton Hoo with the ancient Burial Ship of the Saxon King Raedwald. The parish is also close to Snape Maltings and Aldeburgh, important cultural centres for the performing Arts.

Those of us privileged to live in Bromeswell recognise and vigorously protect this beautiful and important part of Suffolk, not just for our own benefit but also in the wider interests of the public as a whole.

Parish Planning Priorities

The 2016 community consultation exercise that is the basis for this Parish Plan identified eight objectives for the Parish Council during 2016-2020. The eight objectives, in order of priority as voted for by Bromeswell residents, are:

1. Preserve the rural nature and tranquil setting of Bromeswell
2. Improve road safety in Bromeswell
3. Improve communication technology across Bromeswell
4. Improving and increasing footpaths
5. Movement of the Bromeswell war memorial
6. Improve water drainage on School Lane
7. Improve Bromeswell's recreation facilities
8. Improve access to Bromeswell by bicycle and bus.

Bromeswell's residents identified objectives 1 (Preserve the rural nature and tranquil setting of Bromeswell) and 2 (Improve road safety in Bromeswell) as having the highest priority and impact for the village. As a result the Parish Council will treat these as their primary objectives for 2016-2020 and will focus resources on these two priority areas.

Objectives 3 to 8 were identified as important to residents but with lower priority and impact than the primary objectives. Consequently, they will be treated as secondary objectives. The Parish Council will engage with appropriate stakeholders and promote the need for improvement as opportunities arise.

Primary Objectives

1. Preserve the rural nature and tranquil setting of Bromeswell

A desire by Bromeswell's community to preserve the village's rural nature and tranquil setting was the main message from the 2016 consultation exercise and will be the Parish Council's primary objective in 2016-2020. This priority is an on-going wish of the Bromeswell community and reflects both the views submitted to the 2012 Parish Plan and the undermining context of the Conservation Area as approved by SCDC in September 2016.

To implement this priority the Parish Council will respond to planning applications using recommendations underpinned by the following, or succeeding, documents that should be used by the Local Planning Authority as material considerations:

- Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan 2013¹
- Deben Estuary Plan 2015

In this way the Parish Council aims to continue Bromeswell's place as a parish where people like to live, which makes a contribution to the local economy and which cares for others and the environment. This Parish Plan supports the National Planning Framework 2012 core principles that planning should "*be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surrounding*" and "*plans should be kept up to date*".

Objective 1 is an overarching category that includes:

a) Environmental protection

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 11, Strategic Policies SP14 and SP15 and Development Management Policy DM27]: to maintain and enhance the rural atmosphere of Bromeswell and to promote its Environmental Protection status as:

- i. Part of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its Setting
- ii. Part of a designated Special Landscape Area
- iii. A Deben Estuary Village
- iv. A Deben Peninsular Village
- v. A Sandlings Village within the designated Natural England Natural Character Area No. 82.
- vi. A parish within which is located
 - A Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI]
 - A Special Protection Area for Birds [SPA]
 - A Wetland of International importance [RAMSAR]
 - A SWT maintained Local Nature Reserve [LNR]

¹ In accordance with paragraph 1.03 of the SCDC Local Plan, the 2016-2020 Parish Plan should be used "*in the determination of development proposals*"

b) Protection of wildlife

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 11, Strategic Policies SP14 and SP15 and Development Management Policy DM27]: to conserve and protect wildlife habitats and the natural environment of the parish and support the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in the sensitive maintenance of the Bromeswell Common Nature Reserve and other protected Open Access Areas in the interests of all Stakeholders.

c) Settlement hierarchy

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 11, Strategic Policies SP19, SP28, SP29] and the Settlement Hierarchy in which this parish was designated "Other Villages" where the policy relating to Countryside should be applied, and the fact that within the parish landscape is designated as AONB and its protected setting and Special Landscape Area: to promote a policy of zero tolerance towards "Garden Grabbing" "Development Creep" and "planning by stealth", and to promote only the restrained and sensitive alteration to existing housing.

d) Support the local economy

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 5]: To support the local rural economy including the small-scale residential and home-office/workshop use of existing properties as an environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative to executive style dormitory accommodation. Subject always to the environmental and residential impact and to the proviso [as per SCDC LP Objective 5 para 3.84] that benefits of rural development must not be "outweighed by the potential dis-benefits of impact on the environment and local residents, particularly by inappropriate traffic movements." It must always be demonstrated that the local road network is adequate, that the proposal does not compromise road safety or the free flow of traffic.

e) Avoidance of light pollution

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 11 and Development Management Policy DM26]: To comply with the need to avoid non-essential light-pollution especially in a rural landscape.

f) Maintain a sustainable community

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 1]: To maintain a sustainable community by discouraging the use of properties as second homes.

g) Promote and maintain footpaths and bridleways

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Introduction section (paragraph 2.34), Transport Profile, Objectives 6, 8 and 14 and Development Management Policy DM26]: To promote the maintenance of parish lanes, footpaths and bridleways and to retain them in their natural unlit state. And to promote a policy of the preservation of verges and banks of parish lanes and that their roadsides should not be treated as an extension of the highway, but protected for their own sake as important features of the Countryside as well as being essential wildlife havens and Green Corridors.

- h) Protect the rural landscape**
In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 11 and Strategic Policies SP15 and SP29]: To maintain and protect the general atmosphere of Open Space, gaps, spaces and views which dominate and characterise the rural landscape within a designated Special Landscape Area
- i) Welcome visitors**
In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 6 and Strategic Policy 8]: To welcome visitors to the parish whilst ensuring the protection of the environment tourists wish to see.

2. Improve road safety in Bromeswell

The Bromeswell community expressed a strong desire for improved road safety in terms of slower traffic, highway maintenance and improved visibility. The Parish Council will engage with stakeholders to uphold Bromeswell's concerns and promote mitigating measures for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

In accordance with the Suffolk Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 and SCDC's Local Plan [Objective 5 (Para 3.84) and Development Management Policies 13(c), 14(a), 15(B), 17(c), 18(a) and 20(c iii)] the Parish Council will:

- a) Traffic speed**
Engage with Suffolk County Council Highways Department and the Suffolk Police to promote road safety within the parish in terms of discouraging driving at unsafe speeds and, where possible, reducing speed limits in areas identified as being of particular hazard.
- b) Road use**
Discourage the inappropriate use of unclassified parish lanes by HGVs and promoting a policy of diverting such "inappropriate traffic movements" to routes along appropriate classified A and B roads
- c) Highway repairs**
Engage with Suffolk County Council Highways Department to promote road safety through effective and timely highway repairs.
- d) Hedgerow maintenance**
Engage with landowners to ensure hedgerows do not encroach over the highway or impede the visibility of road junctions and/or signs.

Secondary Objectives

For the benefit of residents and visitors Bromeswell Parish Council will engage with stakeholders to:

3. Improve communication technology across Bromeswell

To promote residents' need to exploit current and future advances in technology for domestic and commercial use through improved:

- a) Internet broadband speeds
- b) Mobile phone coverage.

4. Improve and extend footpaths

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objectives 6 and 14, Strategic Policy SP8 and paragraph 2.34]: For the benefit of residents and visitors alike and in the interests of the environment and the local tourism economy, to promote and maintain the parish rights of way in the form of footpaths, bridleways, and 'Quiet Lanes'.

5. Move the Bromeswell war memorial

To promote the memory of Bromeswell's history the Parish Council will explore options to move the Bromeswell war memorial cross (currently situated behind the bus stop) to a more visible and accessible location.

6. Improve water drainage on School Lane and Common Lane

To promote the need to improve rainwater drainage from School Lane and Common Lane to ensure villagers and visitors can pass unhindered and help protect the road surface.

7. Improve Bromeswell's recreation facilities

To support appropriate measures for maintaining and enhancing the recreational facilities for Bromeswell's residents and visitors, working in partnership with the Bromeswell Village Hall Committee and other stakeholders.

8. Improve access to Bromeswell by bicycle and bus.

In accordance with SCDC's Local Plan [Objectives 6 and 8, Strategic Policy SP8 and paragraph 2.34]: To promote cycle ways beside the roads known as A1152 and B1084 and the provision of bus routes to serve the community needs.

ANNEXE: Methodology and results of the Bromeswell Consultation Process held on 19th October 2016.

Methodology

In order to generate ideas for the 2016-2020 Parish Plan, parishioners were invited to attend a consultation meeting at Bromeswell Village Hall on 19th October 2016. Attendees were split into three groups and asked to discuss:

- The strengths of Bromeswell they wished to protect
- The weaknesses of Bromeswell that they felt would benefit from change

The ideas generated were clustered into common themes and the parishioners were asked to cast:

- Three votes on the themes they felt the Parish Council should treat with the highest priority
- Three votes on the themes they felt would have the greatest impact on the village.

Results

The combined input from the parishioners resulted in the identity of 90 ideas concerning concerning strengths and weaknesses. These ideas were clustered into 14 main themes with the following votes for priority and impact:

Theme	Highest Priority	Greatest Impact
A) Maintain Bromeswell's "Other Village" status	15	13
B) Improving road safety through speed control, road maintenance, road junction design	11	11
C) Managed housing development on a small scale	11	3
D) Maintaining hedgerows and the visual appearance of the village	6	7
E) Increased broadband speed	5	5
F) Maintain "Quiet Lanes"	3	3
G) Improving and increasing footpaths	2	3
H) Limit light pollution	1	1
I) Protection of wildlife	0	2
J) Larger village required through housing development	0	2
K) Improved mobile phone reception	1	0
L) Move the war memorial	0	1
M) Earlier notification of escapees from HMP Hollesley Bay	0	0
N) No more holiday accommodation required	0	0

A review of the ideas generated after the consultation meeting highlighted an additional three themes. Although these were not voted on they have been included in this Parish Plan for transparency:

- Drainage – especially regarding School Lane and Common Lane.
- Recreation facilities – a range of ideas were presented. Some said the facilities in place were a strength whilst others requested more.
- Transport – including comments on cycle lanes and bus services.

To allow the results to be read in context the clustered themes are listed below in **bold**. Transcripts of the underlying ideas against each theme are shown as bullet points. Ideas in *italics* are duplicated in another theme.

Maintain Bromeswell's "Other Village" status

- Maintain our status as 'Other Village'
- Strength: Love the designation "Other Village"
- Strength: Like Conservation Area for centre of village
- Maintain our status as Quiet Village
- *Keep rural feel of village (versus suburbia) in the nature of the landscape. Protect nature reserve areas.*
- *Protect open spaces and countryside*
- Rural feel – keep
- Strength: Keep the village envelope as it is – don't make it larger
- Weakness: Ongoing potential for vineyard/fields to be developed

Improving road safety through speed control, road maintenance, road junction design

- "Safer Roads" – speeding; being able to walk from rugby club to bus stop
- A 40mph speed limit on the Orford Road from the mini roundabout to up past the rugby club
- Road safely merging onto A1152 from School Lane & Common Lane. Perhaps reduce speed limit of A1152
- Traffic Speeding: Still an issue. Quiet Lanes; some have worked but needs to be reinforced
- Pot holes – issue for road
- Need to slow down traffic on A1152
- Weakness: Difficult merging onto A1152 road off School Lane
- Weakness: No traffic calming at present
- Location of speed limit signs. Need to be changed to the entrance of each single track lane coming into the village
i.e. Top of Common Lane not half way up. Entrance to Church Lane from Eyke Road. Entrance of School Lane from Orford Road. Entrance to 10 Acre Lane from Ufford Road.
- People to drive slower through the village plus 40 speed limit on main road
- Road Safety – 20mph, speed bumps/other traffic calming in centre of village
- Could we try yet again to get the speed limit – in the village – reduced to 20mph?
- 20mph speed limit in centre of village and 30mph speed limit on the Orford Road
- A lighter and brighter improved entrance to the village on School Lane with fewer or lower leylandii hedges
- Weakness: Common Lane dangerous re visibility (hedges) and potholes
- Need to maintain state of lanes; mud, hedges, visibility at junctions
- Improving safety on the School Lane and Common Lane main road junctions
- Road maintenance of Common Lane – potholes
- Weakness: No slowing of traffic at A1152 and School Lane
- Weakness: Current high speed limit of 60 on the A1152

Managed housing development on a small scale

- Our small lanes and limited facilities cannot support more development in the heart of the village
- Preserve the unique qualities of the village, e.g. size, variety of housing, quietness, tranquillity, feel of the countryside
- No development outside village envelope
- Strength: No infill development in conservation zone
- No infilling / no building in gardens
- Discourage infill building in village centre
- Restrict business development to office in residences over retail/commercial

- Find a solution to Vineyard and field development continually threatened. Prefer no development

Maintaining hedgerows and the visual appearance of the village

- Keep verges on lanes cut – safety issue for road users; drivers & pedestrians
- Can we do anything about the visual appearance of certain properties in the village. Coming into Bromeswell from Eyke at the corner is a real eyesore
- Keep hedges trimmed on lanes – each house responsible
- Villagers to keep hedges trimmed
- Visual appearance of Foskett farmlands off Common Lane
- Boundary control. Manage the hedgerows, keep verge clean/cut.
- *Weakness: Common Lane dangerous re visibility (hedges) and potholes*

Increased broadband speed

- Weak/slow broadband speeds
- Broadband speeds
- Slow broadband speed
- Improved broadband speed & reliability – fibre optic (ha!)
- Faster broadband – cable my street
- Better broadband for those living and working in the village. If not BT then a neighbourhood wireless network

Maintain “Quiet Lanes”

- Strengths: Love the “Quiet Lanes”
- Maintain the small quiet country lanes in the village centre
- *Traffic Speeding: Still an issue. Quiet Lanes; some have worked but needs to be reinforced.*

Improving and increasing footpaths

- Connecting village with better paths
- The permissive footpath across the heath to be reopened
- Protect the RUPPs [Road Used as a Public Path]
- Footpath passable to the Unruly Pig
- An improved footpath to the Unruly Pig

Limit light pollution

- Keep light pollution at a minimum
- Light pollution

Protection of wildlife

- Strength: Love nature reserve off Common Lane
- Strength: Bromeswell as countryside
- Keep rural feel of village (versus suburbia) in the nature of the landscape. Protect nature reserve areas.
- Protect open spaces and countryside
- The natural habitat and hedgerows should be protected
- Protection for toads; mainly on Common Lane and School Lane near village hall. How?
- Make the village more wildlife friendly
- Be part of the initiative to plant wild flower meadows
- Have a village orchard
- Develop further Bromeswell Common

Larger village required through housing development

- A larger village with more dwellings. Development to be considered beneficial and planned sensitively to minimise impact on existing properties
- Are we against in-fill development?

- Homes for local needs [for] down sizing & stay in area would be supported. No more executive homes
- *An improved/new village hall. Ideally with more internal space so multiple activities can be held and with more car parking space. Perhaps the existing plot should be sold and redeveloped and the sum raised used for a new hall elsewhere in the village.*

Improved mobile phone reception

- Better mobile phone coverage
- Mobile phones signal

Move the War Memorial

- Move the war memorial to somewhere appropriate, i.e. village hall vicinity

Earlier notification of escapees from HMP Hollesley Bay

- Escapees from colony – delay in notifying residents

No more holiday accommodation required

- Restriction on holiday accommodation
- No holiday accommodation within the whole village
- Restrict building of purpose built holiday cottages
- Strength: Tourism housing limited as at present, especially for centre of village

The following three themes were identified after the meeting closed so were not voted on by the attendees

Drainage

- Improved drainage along School Lane and Common Lane
- Improved drainage on School Lane where it floods in heavy rain
- Weakness: Can we get mains drainage and gas supply?

Recreation facilities

- Strength: Village hall facilities
- Strength: Great sporting facilities; golf club, rugby club, fishingx2, Petanque
- *An improved/new village hall. Ideally with more internal space so multiple activities can be held and with more car parking space. Perhaps the existing plot should be sold and redeveloped and the sum raised used for a new hall elsewhere in the village.*
- No off road parking. Could we leave open the village hall car park?
- Village amenities for children – play area
- A multi-age playground, ideally extensive enough to hold a tennis court

Transport

- Cycle lanes to Woodbridge
- Weakness: Reliance on Wilford Bridge
- An improved bus service between Bromeswell and Woodbridge
- Strength: Suffolk Link for Bromeswell users