

To contact the Council

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Bridge Parish Councillors

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Bridge Village web site

www.bridgevillage.org.uk

for Agendas & Minutes of Council meetings
and lots of other village information.

BRIDGE

Parish Council

Caring for the village

Parish Plan

Parish Plan progress report

The Committee were thrilled with the turnout for our open day in November, which proved popular with the villagers and gave added credibility to this work being carried out.

The Bridge Parish Plan is continuing to make excellent progress. At the moment we have the data being entered onto computer and the statistical analysis of that data will commence within the next few weeks.

The response to the questionnaire was magnificent with over 200 completed forms being returned for analysis. The results from the Plan can then be used by individuals, groups or indeed the Parish Council to show evidence of village need, as identified by the Villagers of Bridge themselves!

Ian McNeill
Secretary

Parish Plan Committee members:-

Chris Coshall, Pam Dobson, Joan Hill, John Hill, Ian McNeill (Secretary), Bill Oakey (Chairman), David Powell, Amanda Sparks (City Council), Ailsa Williamson Powell (Treasurer).

BRIDGE

Parish Council

Caring for the village

SPRING 2005 NEWSLETTER

You are invited to the
Annual Parish Meeting
Open to all in the village

7.30 pm Thursday 24th March 2005
Bridge Village Hall

There will be a talk by Jennifer Shaw,
Rural Housing Enabler, on
'Affordable houses for Bridge'

Also reports from Parish, City and
County Councillors and from
organisations in the village.

Refreshments provided after the
meeting, when you can meet your
Councillors and other parishioners.

Next Parish Council meeting

7.15 pm Planning Committee
7.30 pm Full Council

Thursday 10th March 2005
Bridge Village Hall - **All welcome**

**has moved!**

The Rural Streetrunner youth group has moved from the Mill Centre to the village hall. Our first session at the village hall was February 8th 2005.

We have a new start time of 7 pm, still finishing at 9 pm, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, in Bridge Village Hall.

If you are aged between 10 and 18 and haven't tried the Streetrunner group yet, why not give it a try? We have PS2, indoor sports games, a drum machine, art activities.....or just come along to chill out with your friends.

You need to fill in a registration form before you attend a session and then you're a member. It's free to join and attend so....call Ian McDonald at Canterbury City Council on 830325 or Pam Dobson at Bridge Parish Council on 832369 to get your registration form.

Christmas trees

We'd like to thank all those who had a tree on their house in the High Street – we had a record number of 48 - and those who helped us put them up and take them down.

Thanks go to Canterbury City Council and to SERCO, especially Loui. Without working under their auspices, we could not have the annual tree display.

Parish Council funding

Each year, around November, the Parish Council prepares a budget. The Council estimates its costs for the coming year (which starts in April); some of this is done by quotes, some by increasing the current year by a figure to allow for inflation and some by sheer guesswork.!

We also have to predict what projects we might want to undertake in the next year and what non-recurrent costs might pop up – for example, does it look like something is going to need replacing at some point between April 2005 and March 2006? Having prepared a budget, it is submitted for approval to the November Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council get its money from two main sources. One is the "precept". This is like a village tax – it goes directly to the Parish Council and can only be spent on items in the budget identified as Precept items.

The second source is Canterbury City Council and is called "Concurrent Function Funding". The Parish Council also get a small income from bank interest.

Normally, the Parish Council cannot spend money that has not been allocated in the budget. There are some special situations where extra money can be spent, but there is a limit. So, please, if you feel the Parish Council should be spending money on something, raise it with a councillor before the budget is prepared.

Traffic calming & parking

The Parish Council has spent a long time discussing traffic issues with Canterbury City Council. The two main concerns are parking and speeding. Several ideas have been suggested and the Parish Council was asked by the City Council to prioritise some of the more important ones. We agreed to the following order:

Traffic Calming on Bridge Hill. Before deciding on what measures to request, we have asked the City Council to monitor the speed of traffic both down and up the hill, to ensure we are tackling the right problem. We have requested flashing speed signs, but may not get them.

Pavement Extensions. These will jut out into the road on the High Street at the junctions with Aunt Betsy's Hill, Union Road, Western Avenue and Brewery Lane. They will physically prevent cars parking right on the corner, aid visibility and increase the amount of parking available by removing some yellow lines

Parking outside the shops. We are investigating the possibility of having "nose-in" parking instead of the lay-by arrangement. This will increase the number of cars that can park there. We are also looking into marking out parking spaces on the tarmac area in Western Avenue.

Bus stops. We have asked for a pavement extension by the bus stop on the bridge.

Speed limit on Patricbourne Road. It was felt that bringing the 30 mph limit nearer the village will help reduce the speed of traffic coming into Bridge from Patricbourne.

We get a lot of comments asking us to do something about people speeding down the High Street, yet also asking to stop people parking there so they can get through quicker. We feel that people parking on the High Street is one of the most effective traffic calming measures there is.