

## **BRIDFORD PARISH PLAN - UPDATED OCTOBER 2015**

### Introduction

Bridford's first Parish Plan was published in February 2005. It was developed and based on the responses to the questionnaire issued to all households in Bridford Parish in 2004 which provided the Parish Council with a lot of helpful information including a profile of its residents and issues of concern or interest to the over 70% that responded to it.

The then Parish Council felt strongly that it was vital to obtain support from the community in this way. Although the Parish Council took the initiative in preparing the early drafts of the Plan, the final version also included suggestions and proposals from representatives of the various organisations in the village. The Parish Council was very aware that success would only come through the involvement of individuals as well as the various organisations in the Parish. It was a Plan by the community for the community and reflected its aspirations both for the short and longer terms and the substantial progress made since then bears this out.

It was important to ensure that the Plan, developed as a follow up to the questionnaire, contained those matters that were realistically achievable as well as those that were more in the nature of a "wish list". In addition, it was important to prioritise the issues and the action to be taken, in order to ensure effort was concentrated on a few issues at a time to achieve solid progress. In a recent review of the matters then listed, of which many have either been or are in the course of being addressed, Councillors decided it was appropriate to update the Plan with new time horizons and reissue it.

The updated Plan that follows sets out, within appropriate headings, the various matters that the present Parish Councillors feel should be addressed. As was the case before not everyone will agree with all the proposals and suggested solutions but every effort has been made to ensure that the issues listed command majority support. These matters have been given a timeframe for action, by whom, where funding is required, it's possible source

and prioritised. This will now be affected by the austerity measures being considered by central and local government.

A copy of this updated Plan can be obtained from the Clerk to the Parish Council and can be seen on the Bridford website [www.bridfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.bridfordvillage.co.uk)

## **THE PLAN**

### **PLANNING**

#### **Development**

The Parish Council takes a firm stance to ensure due regard is taken of its views when planning decisions are made. Councillors attend DNPA meetings as appropriate and planning workshops. Any future major developments and smaller developments for infilling or conversions will all be judged on their merits. It is Council policy to try and undertake site visits in respect of all planning applications

#### **Enforcement**

There has been a measure of success in ensuring proper application of enforcement legislation by DNPA where there have been breaches in planning matters. Parish Councillors will continue to monitor developments for compliance with planning consents and consult with DNPA where development has taken place without consent. If parishioners are concerned about a development they should inform a Parish Councillor or DNPA. The Parish

#### **Employment and Economy**

The Parish Council is keen to encourage new forms of economic opportunities and business development and to talk to people about their plans. It will actively encourage anybody wishing to establish economic activity. The Parish Council understands that DCLG is looking for National Parks to be proactive in growth and prosperity in communities.

### **SERVICES**

Public Transport	Mini buses are available for hire from Acorn Community Support or at Moretonhampstead and a taxi service operates at Christow. The Parish Council will maintain pressure on operators to consider suggestions destinations and timings. It is concerned about potential future bus cuts and will resist any attempts to reduce regarding frequency, this service any further. The current bus service will continue to be publicised.
Roads	Potholes on roads are repaired when DCC are notified. Parishioners are encouraged to contact DCC as and when potholes occur via the DCC website: <a href="https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/reportaproblem">https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/reportaproblem</a> Pressure will continue to be put on DCC to carry out regular maintenance to ensure road surfaces do not deteriorate further.
Speed, traffic calming and road safety	The main issues are safety at the junction at the top of Pound Lane and at the bottom at the junction with the B3193. Ensure that our voice is heard when funding becomes available.
Hedges	Ensure roadside hedges are trimmed with sufficient frequency where road safety is an issue, being mindful of conservation issues and encourage landowners to cut their hedges.
Recycling	The weekly recycling collection is working satisfactorily. Encourage recycling and the collection of clean paper and newspapers at the Village Hall and explore other ways of recycling. The Parish Council is keen to ensure the continuation of the annual rural skip facility and will advertise the dates.
Healthcare	Keep a watching brief on facilities for the health and well being of parishioners. Seek to ensure local medical facilities are maintained and where appropriate developed, including doctors' surgeries and the Acorn Community Support facilities. Moretonhampstead hospital no longer has in-patient beds but is operational as a hub.
Policing, security and safety	Police contact is maintained via the PCSO currently Mark Easton, as and when necessary and Parishioners should be aware that they can contact him direct. Continue to coordinate with other information services. Police have asked Parishioners to report problems so that all incidents are logged. The Parish Council will take action as required and will continue to support the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and will try to ensure the whole village is included and involved in the scheme.

Mobile Library	Residents enjoy the services of DCC's rural mobile library once a month on a Thursday. The Parish Council will keep up the pressure to ensure that this service continues at the existing level.
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## **APPEARANCE**

Conservation	The Bridford Trust owns and manages Bridford Woodland Park and Rowden Valley Wood. These are managed for public access, recreation and wildlife. Currently, in addition to ongoing conservation work, the Trust is particularly focussing on extending the community aspects and educational usage of these sites, together with ecological monitoring. The Trust is funded by grants and by membership subscription.
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Environment & Sustainability	Issues are addressed as they arise and are taken up with the appropriate authorities. DCC now turn off the street lights between midnight and 5.00am. The Parish Council actively encourages people to explore and implement alternative energy and will look to develop sustainable opportunities. It will watch the developments at Christow to see if anything could be relevant to Bridford.
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Litter, fly tipping & graffiti	Litter bins are regularly emptied. Fly tipping should be notified to a Parish Councillor or direct to TDC's Rapid Response team. Ongoing maintenance is required for the bus shelter.
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Dog Fouling	This continues to be a problem and incidents should be reported to the Dog Warden. The situation will continue to be kept under review and additional bins installed if deemed necessary.
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## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Notice Boards	The notice boards are kept in good repair. Parish Councillors to notify the Clerk of any deaths and funeral details of any Parishioner so that a notice may be put up. The use and location of all notice boards will be kept under review and if necessary, changes will be made. The Parish website also provides information about events.
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Unity Magazine	The Community to continue to support and develop this magazine.
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Website	Bridford's website <a href="http://www.bridfordvillage.co.uk">www.bridfordvillage.co.uk</a> is successfully up and running. Organisations should use this as one of the prime means of communication along with Unity to keep Parishioners and
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visitors informed and ensure their entry contains up to date information

Community

It is hoped this Plan will go some way towards improving the community ensuring the Parish has the will to improve Bridford as a place to live. The Parish Annual Meeting is promoted as an opportunity for all the village organisations to meet to exchange views.

Neighbouring  
Parishes

A tripartite meeting of Christow, Dunsford and Bridford Councils takes place annually at which common issues and concerns are discussed. Joint action is taken where possible and the Minutes of all meetings are exchanged.

Emergencies/gritting  
Snow Warden

For winter emergencies, a Bridford snow plan has been developed, managed and reviewed by the Snow Warden and his team. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the voluntary gritting of Bridford Hill.

Information Leaflet

"Contact" is updated as necessary. New residents are given a copy. Arrangements to be made to put this information on the Bridford website.

**FACILITIES**

Affordable Housing

Those in need of affordable housing are encouraged to register their need with Teignbridge District Council and Devon Home Choice. The Parish Council will actively investigate, fulfilling any need that is identified.

Village Hall

Parish Council to provide ongoing support

Schools/education

Parish Council supports Christow, Doddiscombsleigh and Dunsford schools

Allotments

Owned and run by the Parish Council which seeks to ensure that they are kept cultivated, fully occupied and neat and tidy.

Woodland Park and  
Rowden Valley Wood

The Bridford Trust maintains the Woodland Park and Rowden Valley Wood. The arena is available for events and more activities are being promoted.

Cemetery

A limited number of spaces in the churchyard are available.

Village Garden	This is a village amenity to be kept as an attractive feature and meeting place in the centre of the village.
Parking	A review was undertaken and recommendations noted. Spaces are available on request for visitors in the Woodland Park. Parking at the Village Hall is only available for those hiring the hall or for use by churchgoers. More off-street residential parking areas to be sought and developed. The Parish Council will try to ensure that all new developments have parking. Future action plan: to actively explore the village future car parking.
Bridford Inn & Village Shop	Parishioners are encouraged to make use of these very important village facilities. The owners have kindly agreed to the pub being used as a centre in the event of an emergency.
Adult education, active retirement club	Regular 'chat -in' meetings are held in addition to weekly keep fit sessions. The possibility of courses being held in the village will be explored if requested and the Parish Council will work with TDC on health initiatives e.g. Villages in Action, if and when asked to do so.
Play Park	Weekly checks are carried out by the Parish Council to ensure safety is maintained. An annual safety check of all equipment and surfaces is undertaken by RoSPA.
Youth and support	The Parish Council supports all sporting activities including the cricket club and any future youth development. The Teign Valley Scouts, Beavers and Cubs are operating successfully.
Child Minding	There are now child minding facilities in the Village and Parishioners should refer to Unity for individuals offering this service.
Footpaths & Bridleways	A Bridford Walks booklet published by the Bridford Trust has been revised. Parish Councillors plan to walk all paths annually and report back to the Parish Annual meeting. Any opportunities to create other paths will be considered as they arise.
Internet access, & Broadband	Broadband now available for much of the Parish and access is being extended throughout the Parish. High speed Broadband has arrived but is not available at some of the outlying properties in the Parish. Community internet access will be kept under review to ensure Bridford is included in the proposals for high speed Broadband.
Public Telephone	BT has agreed to retain the public call box for the time being. Ensure this facility is retained as

Bridford is not in a good mobile phone reception area. The Parish Council will support and encourage any plans to improve mobile phone reception.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT**

We will manage our activities to minimise wherever practicable their effect on the environment. Environmental regulations and laws, as applicable to Parish Councils will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance.

We will aim to use companies which consider the environmental impact of its products and services.

We will try to ensure that products and /or services supplied or provided by third parties can be used, handled, stored and disposed of in a manner which safeguards the environment and the health and safety of all.

We will try to reduce waste to the lowest practicable level ensuring safe and responsible disposal of any waste created in an environmentally sound manner.

We will seek to increase environmental awareness.

We will review and update the policy on an annual basis.

We will monitor our compliance with this Policy statement

### **What are the potential benefits of a Parish Plan?**

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- It gives guidance and a framework to the organisations in the Parish being an “agreed to do” list.

- It is a communication tool.
- It must be seen as a working document and a driver to get things done.
- It provides a timescale for matters that will be addressed.
- It provides a vision that transcends short-term changes in parishioners involved in the organizations, such as changes in members of committees and changes in those on the Parish Council.
- It helps to ensure that the views of the local community, mainly through the Parish Council, carry more weight with other bodies, such as Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority, when decisions are made by those bodies that affect Bridford.
- It facilitates the raising of funds for projects that will benefit the community.
- It enables the prioritisation of projects backed by the community.

**Are there any potential drawbacks?**



- It is important to avoid creating a talking shop.
- Some of the Plan may be unrealistic.
- Without the Plan being reviewed regularly it would stagnate.
- If progress falters, the Plan would lose support very quickly.

### **Conclusions**

A Parish Plan is a dynamic community document to be kept in the forefront when considering matters affecting the Parish. It will be an agenda item at every Parish Council meeting so that progress can be measured and the Plan will be reviewed as time passes and views develop. However, for this to be a success all suggestions will be welcomed and considered in the review process.

The facilities that we still have must be carefully guarded in order to maintain a thriving community. We need to ensure young people are not driven away through the lack of reasonably priced housing. The core facilities for a sustainable community are a shop/PO, pub, village hall and school. Certain facilities, for example a shop / outreach Post Office service, have proved to be sustainable in Bridford.

**Revised 28 October 2015**

