

BRIDFORD PARISH PLAN – February 2023

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this updated Bridford Parish Plan which councillors are pleased to share with everyone living in the parish. At its best, the Parish Council believes that a parish plan should identify and reflect the things that we, the people of Bridford value about our community. At the same time, it is hoped the plan recognises local issues that require discussion and development. Overall the plan aims to describe our community's agreed vision for the future.

Since 2005 Bridford Parish Council's Parish Plan has continued to evolve and develop, in response to questionnaires circulated within the community; on-going formal and informal feedback from groups and facilities; attendance at social events; parishioner attendance at meetings. The breadth of feedback the Parish Council receives contributes to parish council meeting discussion and helps to guide decisions where appropriate

ABOUT BRIDFORD

Bridford is a village and civil parish in the Teign Valley, on the eastern edge of Dartmoor National Park. At the 2011 census the population of the parish was 503. Locals are proud of their village and many volunteer time, expertise and energy to contribute to making Bridford such a welcoming and supportive community to be part of.

1. WORKING TOGETHER AND CONSULTATION

Bridford Parish Council is committed to on - going debate and consultation and a culture of positive working together for the good of the community. The following links are already in place and working well:

- Allotments
Allotments are owned and run by the Parish Council. One identified allotment holder works with the Parish Clerk to ensure the allotments are safe, kept cultivated and fully occupied.
- The Book Exchange
Run by a team of village volunteers, coordinated through a nominated Parish Councillor, the book exchange makes use of an old telephone box as a library for villagers to contribute to and take from.
- The Bridford Trust
Bridford Trust President Emeritus and village volunteers work together on various projects around Bridford; for example, most recently giving help and advice on planting ideas and suggestions for the play park and the clearing of an unsightly corner in the village. The Parish Council has good links with a key partner in Bridford Trust, enabling positive working relationships as and when appropriate
- Bridford Twinning Association
Bridford is twinned with St Vaast sur Seulles and is one of the oldest twinning partnerships in Devon, having started in 1977. It has a key part to play in various village activities and celebrations, including organising a twinning visit to coincide with the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee celebrations in the village; tree planting to commemorate or celebrate various royal occasions; the relocation of Normandy Boy, a statue donated to the village many years ago by St Vaast, to the village garden. The twinning exchange visits are annual and all are invited to join. The Twinning Association liaises as appropriate with the Parish Council

- **Bridford Village Hall**
The hall, formerly the village school and a wonderful resource for the village, is a registered charity managed by trustees who are supported by a management committee. The hall serves as a gathering point for social events in the village, including the mobile Post Office on Thursday afternoons. There is a named Parish Councillor who attends Management Committee meetings
- **The Clothing Bank**
The volunteer run clothing bank raises money which is used to support the upkeep of the two defibrillators in the village
- **The Village Garden**
The Village Garden is a well used village amenity, legally owned by the Parish Council and maintained by it, with the help of a team of village volunteers, who maintain this attractive calm space in the middle of the village; it is coordinated by a named Parish Councillor. The Village Garden serves as the allocated meeting point for flowers on royal occasions. Various activities happen and are held in the Village Garden, including annual carol singing

2. COMMUNITY EVENTS/ORGANISATIONS

Bridford Parish Council is pro-active in keeping up contact with organisations which provide services to the Parish. This is done through formal and informal attendance at various groups and by a standing invitation for the public to attend Parish Council Meetings. The Parish Council is keen to encourage and support initiatives which focus on neighbourly attention, help and need. Between them, Parish Councillors attend and/or have links to the following:

- Bridford CHAT IN
- Bridford Wives
- Crib Club
- Skittles
- Bridford Village Fete
- Acorns Community Support
- Teign Tennis Trust

3. WIDER COMMUNITY LIAISON

Bridford, Christow and Dunsford parish councils meet annually to discuss common issues, swap ideas and identify concerns. Joint action is taken where possible and the minutes of all meetings are exchanged

4. BRIDFORD FACILITIES

- THE BRIDFORD INN
The Bridford Inn is the hub of the village and hugely important to Bridford. It provides a meeting place for various groups and clubs as well as being a lively, thriving and welcoming public house. The owners have kindly agreed to the pub being used as a centre in the event of an emergency.
- BRIDFORD TRUST – WOODLAND PARK and ROWDEN VALLEY WOOD
The Bridford Trust maintains the Woodland Park and Rowden Valley Wood, beautiful areas for walks and activities. The arena is available for a range of events; Bridford Village Fete and the annual Wassail are held in the Woodland Park and, weather permitting, upcoming coronation celebrations will also take place there.
- THE BUS SHELTER
The bus shelter needed cleaning, maintenance and refurbishment. Thanks to the painting skills of one of the Bridford Parish Councillors, it has received a facelift – positive feedback

through all formal and informal communication channels, including children and young people waiting for the school bus, has been welcomed. The Parish Council has liaised with the Wildlife Wardens on verge side flowers and grasses to include in the mural based on the Bridford wildlife survey.

TARGET Completion of the refurbishment project including a notice board to be erected for Parish Council information and community notices, alongside an information board giving more detail on wildlife in the mural.

- **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Libraries Unlimited is a charity which runs four mobile libraries across Devon, including the Teign Valley; it is commissioned by Devon County Council. Bridford residents enjoy the services of this rural mobile library, once a month on a Thursday.

- **POST OFFICE**

Chudleigh Post Office offers a weekly outreach service to Bridford and is held in the Village Hall on Thursday afternoons. It provides a wide range of services, including individualised help and support for more vulnerable residents when required and is subsidised by the Parish Council

- **ST THOMAS BECKET CHURCH**

The church is part of the Teign Valley and Haldon Hill Mission Community, and as such offers a programme of services.

The church offers opportunities for villagers to congregate, especially at key times such as, but not exclusively, Harvest, Remembrance Day and the Carol Service. On the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, a book of condolence was set up in the church

The church supports and organises various functions in the village and it is also organising a community event for the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III in May 2023

Parish councillors are part of the church cleaning and church flower rotas

- **ST THOMAS BECKET CHURCH CEMETERY**

There are a limited number of spaces available in the churchyard

- **TEIGN VALLEY LARDER**

Parish Councillors are part of the rota for this cross parish initiative, working together to identify, as much as is possible, levels of need in the village and the wider Teign Valley. The larder has the wider aim of not only offering help to anyone struggling to buy food and essentials, but to reduce food waste and food miles

CONSULTATION TARGET - To further develop opportunities for two way engagement and consultation with as wide as possible cross section of village events, groups and facilities

5. TRANSPORT

- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

The Parish Council will maintain pressure on operators to consider suggestions regarding frequency, destinations and timings. It is concerned about potential future bus cuts and will resist any attempts to reduce this service any further. The current bus service will continue to be publicised

- **OTHER TRANSPORT LINKS**

East Teignbridge Community Transport and Newton Abbot Community Transport, both provide accessible, affordable transport services for those unable to use public transport or where no transport is available

Mini buses are available for hire from Acorn Community Support

A taxi service operates from Christow

- **ACCESS TO SCHOOL**

Children are transported to school by a school bus service. With the recent spate of icy weather, the fact that Devon County Council (DCC) has made a historic decision not to grit

Pound Lane, also known as Bridford Hill has, at times, compromised children's ability to get to school.

TARGET The Parish Council will contact the following to request reconsideration of the decision not to grit the hill: Cabinet Member for Highways; the local MP; Leader of DCC; DCC County Councillor for the Teign Valley; Education South West; Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools DCC

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people are valued in the village, the Parish Council seeking opportunities, when it can, to contact them and listen to what they have to say

- WORKING TOGETHER

The Parish Council received a batch of letters from local schoolchildren describing various environmental improvements they would like councillors to consider. One of the issues raised was a request for signs to be introduced in the village to encourage cars to slow down so that less fuel is used and roads are safer for everyone to walk and cycle around the village. This feedback was taken into consideration when the Parish Council passed a resolution asking Devon County Council to sign up to the '20s Plenty for Us' initiative. Bridford children designed the posters which have gone up round the village asking motorists to adhere to 20s Plenty

- LITTER PICKING

Children and young people in the village helped with litter picking, equipment provided through a successful grant application

- PLAYPARK

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. There are named Parish Councillors involved in the play park. Recently trees have been planted and a jubilee picnic table purchased to commemorate the late Queen's platinum jubilee

TARGET Complete plans to change the name of the Playpark to Jubilee Park

TARGET Complete the planting of a small copse created with free trees from the Woodland Trust as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

- TEIGN VALLEY SCOUTS, CUBS and BEAVERS

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers are run in Bridford, based in the village hall, for the whole of the Teign Valley, providing there are adults willing to lead and support the groups. Currently Beavers is not running, but the aim is to set up a group again, as soon as possible: Scouts and Cubs are both doing well. The groups aim to enhance and broaden children and young people's experiences and life skills; they contribute to a sense of belonging through activities such as treasure hunts round the village and games in the woodland park and to an understanding of where they live, in relation to the moors and sea

- PRE-SCHOOLS

Christow has a pre-school which some Bridford children in their early years attend. There are also pre-schools in Doddiscombeigh (four miles away); Moretonhampstead (five miles away) and Lustleigh (six miles away).

- SCHOOLS

Information about local schools is posted on the Bridford Village website: Christow Primary and Foundation Partnership School, Dunsford Community Primary School, Doddiscombeigh Primary School and Teign Academy in Kingsteignton
School buses sometimes run late to enable young people from the village to stay for after school activities

7. COMMUNICATIONS

All communication systems are perceived by the Parish Council as two-way, thereby allowing parishioners both to inform and be informed

- NOTICE BOARDS
The Parish Council notice board is kept in good repair and regularly checked to ensure information is up to date and relevant. Another notice board is planned to go up in the Bus Shelter, once the renovation is complete. The use and location of the notice boards will be kept under review, and, if necessary, changes will be made
- BRIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE
The website is successfully up and running and is regularly updated. Organisations can use this as one of the prime means of communication, along with Teign Unity Magazine, to keep parishioners and visitors informed. A volunteer from the village has taken responsibility for the upkeep of the website.
- TEIGN UNITY MAGAZINE
Parishioners continue to benefit from Teign Unity magazine, which now includes the six villages within the Teign Valley. In addition, volunteer Teign Unity distributors are soon aware of newcomers to the village and a welcome pack is arranged to be delivered.
- FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA
A named Parish Councillor is responsible for the Parish Council Facebook page which is updated regularly; it is automatically updated from the website. Photographs of things of interest in the village, such as the revamped Bus Shelter and the Jubilee picnic table in the play park are posted. Comments received feed into the Parish Council consultation process
TARGET At each Parish Council meeting, identify any items of particular interest for inclusion on Facebook
- INTERNET ACCESS
Broadband is now available for much of the Parish and access is being extended. High speed Broadband has arrived but it is not available at some of the outlying properties in the Parish.
TARGET The Parish Council will continue to support the need for improved broadband and mobile signal where needed

8. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Parish Council takes an active interest in, and supports, services provided by all village organisations which provide care for lonely or vulnerable members of our community. It also appreciates and supports the contributions made by individual volunteers. The Parish Council will keep a watching brief on developments in Health and Social Care on behalf of parishioners and seek to ensure that local medical facilities are maintained and where appropriate developed.

- ACORN COMMUNITY SUPPORT
The charity, funded by Devon County Council and donations, provides a range of vital services to elderly, frail and disabled people within the Teign Valley GP area. Bridford parishioners both use this service, whilst some are volunteers
- VOLUNTEERS
In addition to volunteering through Acorn Community support, offering lifts, supporting people to attend functions, go shopping and so on, volunteers from Bridford Village arrange to collect and deliver medicines for those unable to do so for themselves. During Covid two parishioners put a village support system in place. Village volunteers are extremely good at responding to need.

- DEFIBRILLATORS

There are two defibrillators installed in the village, one located outside the Village Hall and one at Venn Park Garage

9. CONSERVATION

The Parish Council is mindful of conservation issues; Bridford is extremely fortunate to have the Bridford Trust and Bridford Wildlife Wardens as guardians to support conservation

- THE BRIDFORD TRUST

The 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 continues to focus on extending the community aspects and educational use of these sites, together with ecological monitoring. The Trust is funded by grants and by membership subscription.

- BRIDFORD WILDLIFE WARDENS

The Wildlife Warden scheme is a recently established part of Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT). Bridford's Wildlife Wardens are independent of the parish council, but present an annual Ecological Management Plan. This year the Parish Council is currently supporting a twelve month plan to encourage wildflowers and biodiversity in the parish. The maintenance plan this year includes broadening the mowed verge in Pound Lane to 1.5 metres as well as specific agreements on mowing and the collection of cuttings

There is a named Parish Councillor link to the Wildlife Wardens

TARGET - The Ecological Action Plan produced by the Wildlife Wardens to be reviewed by the Parish Council annually

- HEDGEROWS

The Parish Council seeks to ensure that roadside hedges are trimmed with sufficient frequency at appropriate times, particularly where road safety is a concern. Where there are issues, the Parish Council will encourage landowners to manage their hedges in the interests of safety and access. The Parish Council ensures account is taken of protected habitats and nesting birds

10. ENVIRONMENT

The Parish Council carries out, to the best of its ability, its responsibility to keep informed and responsive to environmental developments and initiatives. It pays particular attention to the fact that the village sits within Dartmoor National Park. Issues are addressed as they arise and are taken up with the appropriate authorities.

- STREETLIGHTING

Devon County Council (DCC) turns off streetlights in the village between midnight and 5.00am. Streetlighting problems should be reported directly to DCC.

DNPA has a drive towards dark skies, encouraging and making recommendations for limiting the adverse polluting impacts of artificial light sources. Bridford Parish Council supports this initiative

- LITTER, FLY TIPPING & GRAFFITI

Litter bins are regularly emptied and there are periodic village litter picks which involve children and young people from the village

Fly tipping should be notified directly to the Rapid Response team at TDC.

TDC will only remove graffiti from its own property and land. It can be reported using TDC's Environment hotline.

Where there is graffiti on Parish Council owned property or land, the Parish Clerk should be contacted in the first instance

- DOG FOULING

This continues to be a problem and incidents should be reported to the Dog Warden at TDC. The situation will continue to be kept under review. Dog owners may now place plastic bags of dog excrement in normal litter bins

- PARKING

Parking is a particular challenge in some parts of the village, so is always under review.

- RECYCLING

The weekly recycling collection continues to work satisfactorily; the Parish Council continues to collect reusable clothes in the Clothing Bank in the Village Hall car park; Bridford Book Exchange encourages book and jigsaw recycling.

TDC website gives details of recycling and waste collection dates

11. PLANNING

The Parish Council is aware of Dartmoor National Park's (DNPA) special qualities and proactively seeks to take them into account when considering planning applications.

- PLANNING DEVELOPMENT

The Parish Council is invited to comment on every planning application and to give feedback and recommendations to DNPA. When making a decision about whether or not to support a planning application, the Parish Council takes into account all aspects of the Dartmoor Local Plan, including bio – diversity net gain, the use of sympathetic materials and the visual impact on the environment (external appearance).

In addition, the Parish Council will take into consideration the impact on neighbours and the surrounding area. Where appropriate, a site visit will be offered by the Parish Council; a site visit can also be requested by a parishioner.

Sometimes planning applications will be supported by the Parish Council but refused by DNPA which is ultimately responsible for making the final decision on planning. The Parish Council understands that DNPA has a greater overview and needs to ensure applications are compliant with the Dartmoor Local Plan 2018 -2036 and national planning laws.

- PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

If enforcement issues are formally brought to the attention of the Parish Council, they will be followed up with DNPA through the usual channels

- AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Those in need of affordable housing are encouraged to register with Teignbridge District Council and Devon Home Choice.

12. POLICING, SECURITY AND SAFETY

- EMERGENCY GRITTING / SNOW WARDEN

For winter emergencies, a Bridford snow plan has been developed, which is managed and reviewed by the Snow Warden and their team of village volunteers. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the Snow Warden, monitor the voluntary gritting of Bridford Hill and support the upkeep of the gritting machine, to ensure it is fit for purpose

TARGET Ensure a thorough overhaul of the gritter is undertaken, in time for next winter (2023)

- COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER (PCSO)

Bridford has a nominated PCSO, David Hawkins, who can be contacted directly, by email or by telephoning 101 and leaving a message. The Police service has asked parishioners to

report problems so that all incidents are logged. The Parish Council will take appropriate action should it be required to do so

- SPEED, TRAFFIC CALMING AND ROAD SAFETY

The main road safety issues are located at the junction at the top of Pound Lane and at the bottom, at the junction with the B3193

In 2022 Bridford Parish Council resolved to request Devon County Council to positively embrace the “20’s Plenty for Us” nationwide campaign. 20s Plenty signs, designed by local children, have been erected around the village

Concerns have been raised by some parishioners about the safety of organised rallies through the village. Rally organisers do notify Police of proposed events, but they do not require authorisation to run. There is, however, legislation in place where vehicles are driving in an anti social manner, without due care and attention and/or dangerous driving. Anyone concerned about rallies and safety can contact the PCSO with organiser details; direct contact can then be made as necessary

- ROADS

Potholes on roads are repaired when DCC is notified. Parishioners are encouraged to contact DCC as and when potholes occur via the DCC website. Pressure will continue to be applied to DCC to carry out regular maintenance to ensure road surfaces do not deteriorate further. The Parish Council has developed a good two-way working relationship with Devon Highways

- FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

A Bridford Walks booklet published by the Bridford Trust has been revised. Parish Councillors arrange to walk all paths annually and report back to the Parish Council Annual meeting. Any opportunities to create other paths will be considered as they arise.

CONCLUSION

The Parish Council thanks all those who have contributed to this updated plan and hope that it does justice to what works well for the people of Bridford.

By continuing to maintain an overview and perspective, the parish council will strive to ensure that villagers increasingly feel engaged, supported and safe and that Bridford remains an excellent place to live. To this end, Bridford Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk are committed to on-going training, reflection and continuous development.

Our plan is an organic and responsive working document, which, when reviewed, will be informed and revised as a result of feedback, comments and suggestions from individuals and organisations within the Parish. The Parish Council welcomes formal and informal ideas and input to inform the plan, throughout the next year

The following priorities have been identified and achievable targets devised; they will be reviewed in twelve months’ time:

PRIORITIES FOR 2023 TO 2024		
TARGET	Bridford Parish Council will:	REVIEW DATE
TARGET	Further develop opportunities for two way engagement and consultation with as wide as possible cross section of village groups and facilities. Add to Parish Council Agenda for March 2023. Compile in time for the next Parish Plan Review	February 2024
TARGET	Identify any items of particular interest for inclusion on Facebook, at each Parish Council meeting,	February 2024
TARGETS	Complete plans to change the name of the Playpark to Jubilee Park	February 2024

	Complete the planting of a small copse as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.	
<i>TARGETS</i>	Contact DCC to request reversal of decision not to grit Pound Lane, aka Bridford Hill Ensure a thorough overhaul of the gritter is undertaken, in time for next winter	February 2024
<i>TARGET</i>	Completion of the refurbishment of the Bus Shelter project: a notice board to be erected for Parish Council information and community notices; an information board detailing wildlife on the mural	February 2024
<i>TARGET</i>	Review the ACT Wildlife Wardens Ecological Management Plan	February 2024
<i>TARGET</i>	Continue to campaign for improved broadband and mobile signal	On - going

A copy of this Bridford Parish Plan can be obtained from the Clerk to the Parish Council and can be viewed on the Bridford Parish website: www.bridfordvillage.co.uk

This plan will be reviewed annually