

Dear Residents,

It's been a little while since you have been updated on the Neighbourhood Plan – even though it has been a standing item at meetings of the Parish Council. This has largely been due to the on-going examination of Canterbury City's Draft Local Plan which has forced us to take a 'pause' while the Government's Planning Inspectorate does its work, including Housing Allocations for Bridge.

We haven't been idle however. In June we took on board an experienced community planner Jim Boot (an Associate with Action for Communities in Rural Kent) to help advise us. Some of you will have met Jim at the Summer Fair (held at Bridge Primary school) just after he was appointed. On the advice of Jim and colleagues at Planning Aid and CPRE Kent we have now:

- Commissioned a Rural Place (statistical) Profile of Bridge from Action for Communities in Rural England to strengthen our evidence base.
- Met with Canterbury City Council's new Planning Policy Manager on two occasions in July and October. We now have received their written response to the most recent draft of the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan.
- Received written responses from the Environment Agency, Kent Downs AONB Unit, Kent County Council Environment and Highways Teams.
- Held a site visit to look at traffic issues with a Highways Planner from Kent County Council.
- Commissioned a traffic survey from Road Data Services which we hope to use as evidence to support any future traffic improvement measures in Bridge.
- Undertaken a site survey of Important Local Green Spaces to include in our plan for protection from future development.
- Most recently commissioned a 'health-check' of the draft Plan from an independent planning expert who has helped 20 neighbourhood plans to completion. The 'health-check' report will be made available to you on this website in January.

All of the above will be used to sharpen up our plan which we aim to publish and make available to you in the New Year, for our final six-week (Pre-Submission Regulation 14) consultation. By then we should also have heard back from the Government's Planning Inspectorate on the site allocations for Bridge.

All of your responses will be anonymised, published and used to draw up the Plan that is then submitted to Canterbury City Council to check that it meets so-called 'Basic Conditions' or in layman's terms – the government's legal requirements. Following a further six week Statutory Consultation, that they undertake on our behalf, the Plan and all the responses received will then be go to an Examiner appointed jointly by us and Canterbury City Council. Should our Plan then pass Examination, or simply require a few minor amendments, the Plan will then be put to you to vote on in a Referendum – whether you are 'in favour' of the plan in its entirety or 'not'. Should the Plan be approved by you at Referendum it is then 'made' by Canterbury City Council and will thereafter be used to assess any future Planning Applications/Permissions in Bridge.

Please make a note of this date when there will be a chance to find out more and feed in your comments on the plans: **Saturday January 21 in Bridge Village Hall**. There will be a further update on this site prior to that meeting. A copy of the draft plan will be posted here shortly, as well as the statistical profile and responses received from Canterbury City Council.

If you'd like any further information, please contact the Parish Clerk by [e-mail](#)

*Bridge Neighbourhood Plan committee*