

# Addington Parish Council Action Plan



## **The Aim of the Addington Parish Plan**

This is intended to be a working document which will be continuously updated following ongoing consultations. The result is a managed and prioritised Action Plan which delivers against aspirations for a better community.

There is an ongoing objective to identify the issues of most concern to the community, prioritise these and to decide how to implement any changes or improvements. These issues have been identified on our Action Plan, with details of how they are to be tackled, their priority and time-scale, any partners involved and their resource implications. Resources includes the volunteer base which in many cases, has been, and will always be the key contributor to achieving the Plan outcomes.

## **What is a Parish Council?**

A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the town. Parish councils have a number of formal powers, set out in a wide range of legislation. A duty is something that a council must do, a power is something that it may do, if it so decides. A parish council cannot do anything that is not permitted in law. It is the level of government closest to the community. Addington Parish Council is often the first-place parishioners will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason, we are a vital part of the community and we want to encourage you to engage with us.

In recognition of the need for a vibrant local democracy, the Localism Act 2011 sought to decentralise administrative power from the state towards localities, empowering communities to enable them to make better responses to community problems, and over the course of the past few years Parish Councils have found themselves taking on many more responsibilities. Addington Parish Council has taken on providing additional play areas, defibrillators, litter bins and bus shelters and continually seeks to be actively involved in the delivery of many other local services.

## **Our Village**

### *The History*

The Village lies in an area which has had a continuous history for over 5,000 years, and where direct links with our prehistoric forbears can still be seen. Addington shares with Trottscliffe and Aylesford the distinction of preserving some of the most ancient monuments of the first settled population of Kent. There are the Neolithic monuments lying in Park Road between the Village Green and the Village Hall/ Recreation Ground: one is a Burial Chamber and the other a Long Barrow. It is generally agreed that they were erected around 2,500 BC and being similar to monuments found all the way from India to Europe and demonstrate that the earliest inhabitants of the Parish also belonged to a culture that started to fashion the world of today.



Addington Stones 1780

There were significant factors which made Addington a suitable area in which to live, plenty of surface water, the adjacent trade-route of the river Medway, an open aspect, the hills for defence in time of attack, and the earliest of trackways, now better known by the later name of the Pilgrim's Way. Addington gets its name from Eddingtune—the land of Eda the Saxon.

## ***Now***

The village stretches west to east from Ford Lane to Mayhill along the A20, north to the sandpits, Woodgate and East Street North and south to the Maidstone East railway line. The ecclesiastic parish has slightly different boundaries.

The village has a Rural character and lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt in countryside designated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Addington's "village envelope" includes the built area around the Green, Park Road to the Chestnuts, Trottscliffe Road, Plowenders and East Street. A second "envelope" contains London Road (north), Clearway and Sandy Lane (southern side). Kent County Council identified Addington as a Conservation Area in 1970. The Conservation Area is from the village green and the buildings around it to the churchyard. Extra planning protection applies to this area. The Green Belt boundary is the A228 which runs north-south about two miles east of the village.



There are a number of organisations in the village which rely heavily on volunteers and the village hall has a number of regular bookings and is well used for events. We also have a very active cricket club which assists with the maintenance of the recreation ground and is again led by volunteers.

## **A Sustainable Community**

Given our geographic location we have always been a crossroads and a transport corridor accommodating trunk roads and motorways and this will always have a significant influence on how the community can be sustained and developed. Because of this there is an issue of controlling the volume and speed of traffic and managing a balance between the needs of through traffic and those of residents who want to minimise disruption, health and safety risks and access to the countryside using quiet lanes and public rights of way.

It is apparent from consultation that we have conducted and open days that there is a strong feeling amongst our residents that the risks and hazards from traffic on our country lanes needs additional focus.

Our village also needs sustainable businesses which are prepared to be responsible members of the community with demonstrable compliance with the community culture. There are significant challenges that we need to address to secure a sustainable future which include better public transport, information and IT services and facilities

The two main population centres of Addington are also separated geographically even though linked by the winding route of St Vincents Lane/ Park Road. At the hub of the village The Angel Inn has and continues to be a central part of the community.



## **Consultation**

We produced a Parish Plan in 2012 which was revised in 2015 and since then we have regularly consulted with residents through surveys and have used this feedback along with that gained from social media and comments made by residents directly to Councillors and at Parish Council meetings to refine our Action Plan. We have grouped the issues we are looking to address into the following categories.

### ***A Safe Community***

Trottiscliffe Road - speeding traffic was cited as a concern. We did introduce a speedwatch scheme and will continue to press for a speed reduction. In response to concerns about visitors to the public house blocking the sight lines to the roads in the vicinity of the Angel Inn we have successfully applied for and installed double yellow lines.

St Vincents Lane – The speed of traffic and the fact St Vincents Lane continues to be used a rat run is something we would like to address.

We have in place an Emergency Plan which we regularly update and we are keen to support the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.



*Trottiscliffe Road*

### ***Environmental Issues***

We continue to receive complaints about dog waste, litter and fly-tipping issues in the village. We have two commercial premises in the village and the Parish Council has been instrumental in ensuring that the lighting at night is kept to a minimum on these sites. We have a Tree Warden who we ensure continues to be trained to conduct an annual inspection of the trees on parish council owned land and keep a watchful eye on all the trees. We were delighted with our first wildflower meadow border on the village green and will look to carry out further wildflower meadow

planting. In terms of reducing our carbon footprint we are considering installing electric vehicle charging points in the village hall car park and installing solar panels on the roof of the village hall.

### ***Information & Communication***

The survey carried out in 2015 confirmed that our website needed to be revamped. This has now been achieved and we have seen an increase in usage. We also now have a Facebook page and produce a quarterly newsletter. We have subscribed to a market research provider and intend to consult on a regular basis to understand more about local issues.

### ***Village Facilities***

Since we revised the Parish Plan in 2015 we have installed a new playground for children aged under 12 on the recreation ground. This was in the main funded by developer contributions. We consulted on the design and we are delighted with the favourable feedback we have received. It was also suggested at the time that outside gym equipment would be a useful village facility. We hope to receive some grant funding to progress this initiative.

### ***Other village issues***

As is the case in many villages that have lost some of their amenities such as the village shop and the school a lack of community spirit is prevalent and some people are feeling isolated. Although the village hall and cricket pavilion are popular meeting places possibly the 'heart' of the village has been lost.

However, one positive outcome of the pandemic is that it seems that many would like to see this community spirit rekindled. This financial year we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with village events. We aim to encourage and support local organisations to hold similar events every year.

***What do we want to do next?*** The Parish Council has produced the Action Plan below which set out our aims for the next few years. The Action Plan will be reviewed annually when the budget for the next financial year is set.

## **ADDINGTON ACTION PLAN**

<b>Issue – A Safe Community</b>	<b>How will it be tackled</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
Speeding traffic on Trottscliffe Road/A20	Request more speed checks on A20 with the aim of reducing the speed limit.	High	Kent Police/KCC	Long term	Request through Highways Improvement Plan Process
	Speedwatch	Medium	Kent Police	Ongoing	Volunteers/Parish Clerk
	Remove confusing signage	Medium	KCC	Short Term	Budget required (HIP)
Safety issues on St. Vincents Lane	Request speed surveys to bring about a reduction in speed restriction on St. Vincents Lane.	High	T&MBC/ Parish Council	Short term	Budget required/Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)
	Consider weight restriction in St. Vincents Lane.	High	Kent Police/KCC	Short term	Budget required (HIP)
Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Resurrect a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to support emergency plan.	Medium	Kent Police/Parish Council	Medium term	Parish Clerk/Kent Police
Emergency Planning	Regular updating of emergency response issues	High	Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish Clerk

<b>Issue – Environmental Issues</b>	<b>How will it be tackled</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
Dog fouling	Review location of dog bins and consider placing a bin in The Clearway and at start of footpath in Park Road to quarry.	Medium	T&MBC/Parish Council	Medium term	£1000.00 in budget
Litter and fly tipping	Encourage the T&MBC ‘love where you live’ campaign.	High	KCC/Parish Council	Ongoing	T&MBC to provide support
Concerns about commercial activities	Monitor noise and light pollution. Education on external lighting for commercial premises.	High	KCC/T&MBC/Parish Council	Ongoing	T&MBC enforcement to provide support
Protection of Trees/vegetation and heritage of the village	Annual Inspection of publicly owned trees  3 year survey of ancient oak on Addington Green	High  Medium	Parish Council/Tree Warden Parish Council	Ongoing  Due January 2023	Remedial works may be required/Budget Required Survey fee in Budget £2000.00
Overgrown vegetation blocking Road Signs, Footpaths, Verges	To ensure vegetation is cut back by possibly arranging own contractors to do cuts	High	KCC/Parish Council	Ongoing	£1000.00 allocated in budget
Supporting protection of wildlife/protected species	Provision of wildflower areas on verges	Medium	KCC/Parish Council	Short	£1000.00 allocated in budget
Reduce our carbon footprint	Install electric vehicle charging points in the village hall car park. Support the village hall committee in installing solar panels.	Medium  Medium	KCC Parish Council  T&MBC	Short  Medium	Await KCC to announce next round of funding Joint partnerships to be considered

<b>Issue – Information and Communication</b>	<b>How will it be tackled</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
Communication with residents	Parish Council information sheet and/or Residents pack for new parishioners	Medium	Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish Clerk
	Continue to consult on a regular basis using a variety of survey methods.	Short	Parish Council	Ongoing	Parish Clerk
Continue to build a sense of community and belonging	Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Emergency Planning.	Medium	Parish Council	Ongoing	Kent Police
Elections/Parish Council Membership	Ensure widespread publicising of elections 2023	Short	Parish Council/T&MBC	Spring 2023	Parish Clerk
<b>Issue – Parish Facilities and activities</b>	<b>How will it be tackled</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
Install outside gym equipment on the recreation ground	Seek grant funding.	High	Fund raising bodies/Parish Council	Short term	£30,000.00 sought from grant funding
Annual Village Event	Parish Council to support village hall committee in organising a family event	High	Parish Council Fund raising	Short term	£1000.00 in budget
<b>Issue – Facing the Future</b>	<b>How will it be tackled</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
Housing Needs	Keep track of all planning applications and request involvement in a decision about the number and size of any new dwellings.	Medium	T&MBC/Parish Council	Ongoing	Budget required

Sign in | google maps - Search | Google Maps | <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@51.3059936,0.3539843,3294m/data=!3m1!1e3?entry=ttu>

Search Google Maps

Restaurants Hotels Things to do Sign in

Trottiscliffe

Gravesend Rd M20 A20 A227

Accington Ln M20

Ryarth Birling Rd M20

The Angel Inn

West Malling Golf Club

Wrotham Heath A20 A25

Big Motoring World - West Malling

Laurence J Betts

Orchard Pods Top rated

Layers

Imagery ©2024 Bluesky, CNES / Airbus, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Landsat / Copernicus, Maxar Technologies, The GeoInformation Group, Map data ©2024 United Kingdom 500 m

Type here to search | 35% | Rain today | 07:54 | 03/01/2024