



## Counter the Urban Threat

Keep up to date with the **work being carried out on your behalf** by the Bethersden Parish Council and do let us have your views and support to make sure it truly reflects the the aspirations of our rural community

Our aim is to continue our work to ensure that we get the best results from our efforts to **achieve the Vision** that was the main objective of the aborted Neighbourhood Plan 2015 - 2030. **see the graphic map above taken from the Plan.**

This Vision can still be promoted by **updating the Bethersden Design Statement** which was originally published in 2003 as a guide to developers as what maybe acceptable to our community. **This will have a high priority.**

We intend to to establish a **working group** to complete this and would welcome volunteers from the Parish to help us - **so please contact the Clerk or any Councillor if you are interested in taking part in this important review.**

**This Parish Council has achieved a great deal during the last 5 years** 2019 to 2023 and is now set to meet the many challenges of the next 3 years 2024 to 2027.

The recent improvements to the Recreation Field included a new car park, footpath , hard-standing by the basketball practise net , a new basket swing and more safety surfacing. **A continued improvement programme is planned as funds permit.**

# Bethersden Parish Council Newsletter Dec 2023

## Local Tax Reduced

To help with the cost of living crisis your Council agreed to **reduce the local Parish tax** for 2023 /2024 and to adjust its spending budget accordingly

## Road Safety

We continue to lobby the Kent County Council for works to **improve pedestrian safety on the A28** to both reduce speed and provide controlled points to cross the road.

## Affordable housing

We are planning to promote **new housing in the village** which will meet the needs of the Housing Survey we carried out in July 2020 and has not yet been enabled by Ashford.

## Design Statement

The existing Village Design Statement produced in 2003 is now requiring a significant review **to respond to the threat of over development** in our Parish by urban expansion.

## Vision for the future

For Bethersden to continue to thrive by meeting the changing needs of its community **within its established rural setting.**

We will continue negotiations with the County Council to provide a safe **A28 pedestrian crossing**, and to erect a speed monitor to limit vehicle speeds to 30mph. To date the KCC have resisted our proposal to erect speed signs and required us to find £70,000 for a road crossing.

The Council will work together with all Clubs and organisations in the village to improve leisure activities across a wide range of ages and abilities. We will encourage youth activities like Guides and Scouts and also include the promotion of **health and wellbeing activities** such as keep-fit, yoga, and pilates at the Village Hall.

The Council will continue its efforts to regulate any potential flooding and work with the Agencies that should be responsible for preventing these all too common disruptions to your daily life.

A housing group has been formed to promote some new **locally affordable housing** as identified in the 2020 Housing Needs Survey. It will continue to work in relation with the Borough Council and Housing Associations to deliver a workable scheme.

The Council encourages all residents to take a full part in the life of the Parish and to contribute to the future development of our close knit community. **We welcome everyone to attend our monthly meetings held at the Village Hall on 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm**



Please visit the Parish Website at <https://www.bethersden-pc.gov.uk> for all the current news and contact the **Parish Clerk** if you have anything to discuss : **Tel 01303 892621**