

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Progress Report on Bentley Parish Plan

This plan was circulated to all in the Village and is a document to guide the work of Bentley Parish Council over the coming years.

It contained several categories/issues for consideration and this report comments on the progress to date. All matters are decided in open Parish Council meetings or by other authorities but are not always highlighted as being part of the Parish Action Plan. The purpose of this summary, therefore, is to bring all these points together in one document to be read with the Plan circulated to all houses in the village.

Access to Healthcare.

Practice Manager from Constable Country Practice has attended Parish Council Meeting.

Affordable Housing

Housing Needs Survey being considered at a public meeting on 24th July

Facilities for Young Children

On going research and investigation to locate suitable site for play area and other provisions for young children

Facilities for older People

Computer club being set up and Village Hall user group activities increasing. Bentley Village hall is run by a separate Bentley Village Hall Management Committee which is an independent Charity

Public Transport

Bus companies have re-instated a route to Capel St Mary

Community Transport

No progress to date

Traffic management

Speed survey carried out, ongoing dialogue to try to reduce hazards from speeding traffic. Chairman of Parish Council and District Councillor on group to highlight problem areas and to seek solutions from the appropriate responsible authorities.

Road and Footway maintenance

Site meetings held with County Council concerning footpath provisions in Bentley and in conjunction with School Travel Plan.

Public Rights of Way

Parish Council supports work of Footpath Society and makes requests for action as necessary.

Jobs and Local Economy

Supports existing employers but tries to protect village from detrimental effects of new developments, however these main decisions are made by other authorities.

Shopping and Services

No new proposals have yet been developed as no one has come forward with a business plan and willingness to operate a Post Office, Shop or Community store in Bentley, in fact closure of Post Offices is happening around the country

Provision of local schools

Bentley School is fully subscribed and 2008/9 numbers are already agreed. A new Sixth Form College (SWISS) is planned for the Copdock interchange area opposite the Holiday Inn Hotel

Access to Training and skills development

The IT Club has been formed and is seeking funding for development. Bentley School has a new extension to the main building and is at present investigating the concept of 'Extended Schooling' provision.

Built Environment

A Housing Needs survey is under discussion and a public information meeting is to be held on the 24th July involving Suffolk ACRE.

Natural Environment

Regular reports from Village Tree Warden highlight areas of concern and action which the Parish Council considers.

Environmental Health and Pollution

Litter picks have been purchased and several litter picks have been arranged as well as volunteer work carried out. Babergh are regularly contacted to remove fly tipping material.

Recycling and Waste Management

Bottle and Paper Banks are prominently located at the Village Hall

Access to Information

A new village Notice Board has been placed at the Village Hall Car Park next to the walkway. The Parish Council has financially supported the new local Magazine which goes out to all houses in the village and the editorial control is within the village. Notes of Parish Council matters are supplied and reported.

Local Democracy

Parish Council members are available for discussion before and after every Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall. Names and Telephone numbers of all Councillors are published on the village notice board.

Appointments can be made direct with the Clerk for all official business. clerk@bentleypc.org.uk

Community Assets

Village Hall Management Committee AGM elected new members and the Committee handle matters and they report that the new village Hall is self financing and gives priority to, and encourages, new local user groups

Emergency Planning

Babergh District Council have just delivered to all houses in the village a booklet produced by the Community Safety Partnership called "Babergh Be Safer" which contains a wealth of information.

Police Direct service to alert people by telephone or e-mail is now working well and we have an active Community Support Officer around the area on a bicycle. We have also had a street meeting with the Community Safety Officer at the Village Hall in June.

3rd July 2008 Bentley Parish Council for Parish Council Meeting, Notice Board and Bentley Bugle.