

Barham Parish Council – MAY 2025 In Touch Report

CONSIDERATION FOR BARHAM VILLAGE TO CARRY OUT A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BMSDC PAUL BRYANT, BRADLEY HEFFER & ANDREW STRINGER Attended the March Parish Council meeting and gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood plans are a fundamentally new tool to give communities more control over the type, location, size, pace and design of development in their area. Town and parish councils and communities all over the country have either started developing neighbourhood plans or applied to their local authority for designation of neighbourhood areas or forums. These plans, developed by a parish council or neighbourhood forum, become part of the development plan for the area once passed by an examiner and ratified by the community through a referendum. Planning application decisions in those neighbourhoods will then be made taking into account the policies set out in these very important plans. Having good, clear, useful plans can help build community confidence that new development will suit their needs, encourage investment in community infrastructure and underpin the strategic policies of the local plan. It is a document that works along side the BMSDC joint local plan. Its content and policies must relate to “land use planning matters”.

List of policies might include for example landscaping, local green spaces, housing mix. Also, advisable to include an “Allocations Policy”.

Identify areas within the village suitable to build new homes and therefore gives the PC more control to preserve areas of the village in the future. Planners have to by law take a Neighbourhood Plan into consideration when making planning applications. Currently Barham receives 15% CIL money from the district council, with a neighbourhood plan the PC would receive 25% so would be a financial benefit.

A neighbourhood plan is a regulated process and can take 2/3 years to complete, guidelines have to be met. Community engagement/volunteers must be encouraged to form a working group as the plan is for the benefit of the community and takes great time, effort and commitment.

Locality grant funding is available, up to £10,000 to help deliver the plan. A planning professional consultant can be employed to work with the parish council/working group to help prepare a neighbourhood plan.

Barham Parish Council will make a decision whether to carry out a Neighbourhood Plan at its next Parish Council meeting

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The venue and agenda for all our meetings is always advertised on the Parish Council notice boards at Barham Green, Lower Crescent and outside the Co-op Food Store. Unless otherwise announced, full council meetings are held on ever other month on a Monday evening at 7.00pm at the Barham Church Hall.

An Open Forum will be at the discretion of the Chairman. If this is the case then members of the public will be welcome to raise any matters in the Open Forum before the meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting will be posted on the village notice boards and the website.

(however Extra Ordinary Meetings may not make the deadline to be advertised in the In Touch)

Parish Council meeting dates for **2025 confirmed** are as follows:-

19th May Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting

28th July

22rd September

17th November

Barham Parish Council
Parish Clerk – Melanie Thurston
Tel. 07837528187
Email clerk@barhamparish.gov.uk
Website barhamparish.gov.uk

