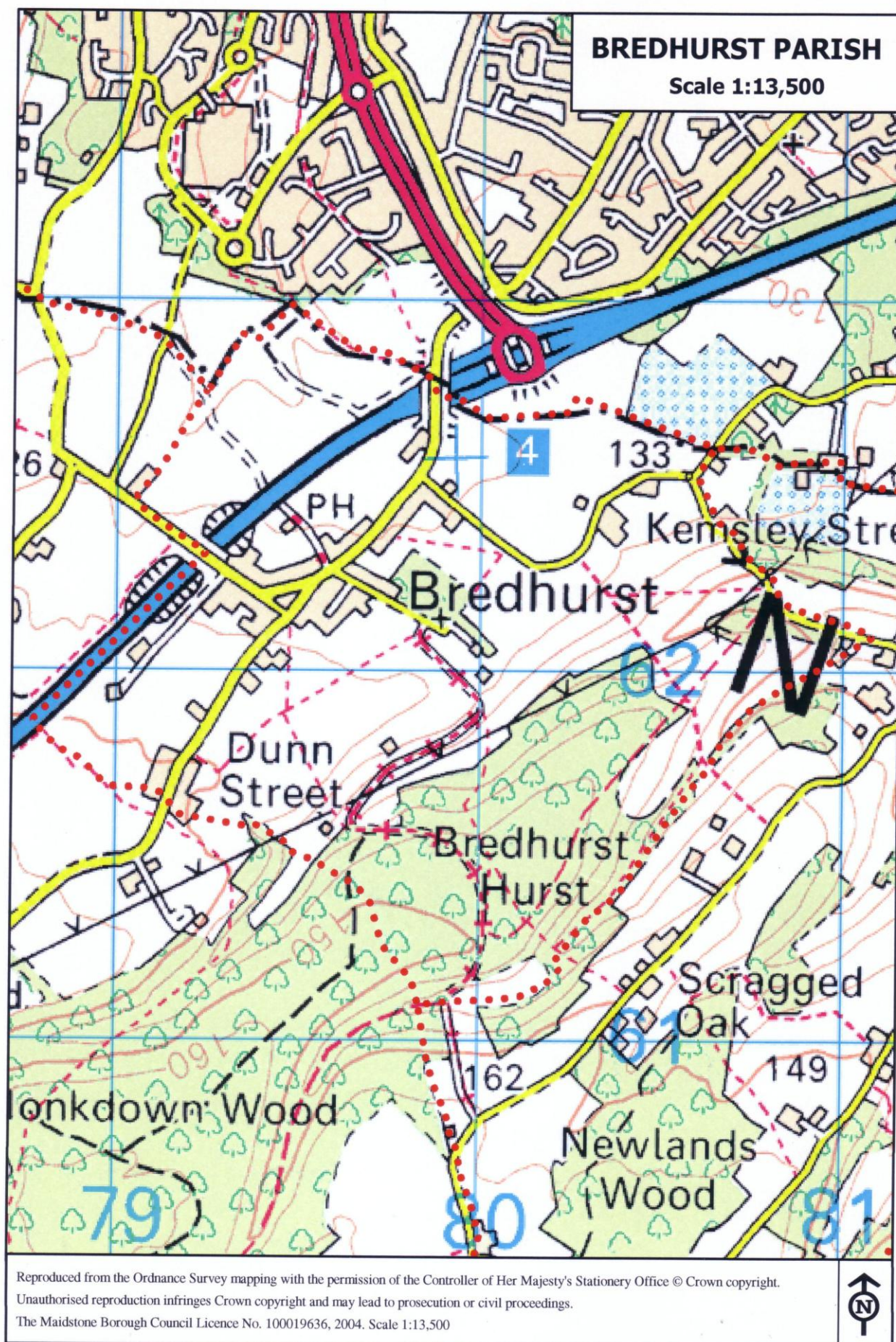


Parish Plan 2004



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Bredhurst Parish Plan 2004

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The Steering Group would like to thank the residents of Bredhurst for their contributions as well as many other individuals, organisations and government departments and agencies for the enormous amount of help and advice they have given throughout the preparation of this Parish Plan. In particular, we wish to record our appreciation for the financial support from The Countryside Agency and Bredhurst Parish Council.



Bredhurst
PARISH COUNCIL

BREDHURST PARISH PLAN 2004

Introduction

Background

Bredhurst Parish Council resolved at its meeting on 6 August 2003 that the village should produce a parish plan involving the whole community, not just the Parish Council or those who come along to Parish Council meetings.

Such plans were encouraged by the November 2000 “Rural White Paper” which set out the Government’s vision for the countryside. The scheme is administered by The Countryside Agency under its “Vital Villages” initiative. Part funding is provided by the Agency for the preparation of the plan but not for its implementation. Bredhurst has been offered 58.4% of the total costs, up to a maximum contribution of £3,500. The plan has to be completed by the end of 2004.

According to the Countryside Agency, Parish Plans have the potential to influence a wide range of organisations and processes, including local traffic, housing and land strategies.

Bredhurst Parish Plan

The Bredhurst Parish Plan is a statement of the vision of how the village community sees itself developing over the next decade or so and identifies the actions needed to achieve that vision. It is comprehensive in scope and aims to include everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community, from employment and playgrounds to the design of new buildings and protection of footpaths and trees.

Our Objective

Our objective in producing this plan is to document the vision and needs of the people of Bredhurst in so far as they are affected by living in this village. Key concerns, needs and aspirations are identified and an action plan extracted to meet these over the next few years. The plan is also intended to provide guidelines to the various local authorities concerning development, preservation of the historic and rural character of the village, and provision for maintaining law and order.

Methodology

Following the decision by the Bredhurst Parish Council all residents were informed of the intention to produce a plan by means of the regular Parish Council newsletter, which is distributed to every household, notices in the church magazine and the weekly notices sheet and an item in the Kent Messenger. A widely publicised open meeting was held in the village hall on 1 October 2003 at which a presentation was given, views canvassed and support of the village established. A Steering Group from a broad cross-section of the village community, including youth and pensioners was formed. An enabler was appointed to co-ordinate work and enable progress to be made.

A questionnaire was agreed and circulated to all 154 inhabited dwellings to seek the views of residents on all aspects that impact upon the village and to invite thoughts on their “personal vision for Bredhurst”. 78 households responded, a little over 50 per cent, providing a very good statistical sample. Final figures were derived by multiplying the returned data by 2 where appropriate. Input was sought from clubs, societies and activities groups operating in the village.

This plan is derived from these inputs and validated through further consultation, a presentation and some person-to-person interviews. Discussions were held with the appropriate departments at Maidstone Borough Council before the plan was finalised.

The Steering Group consisted of Bill Anderson (Chairman), Vanessa Jones (Secretary), John Corney, John Elliott, Simon Fooks, Mary Neaves, Darren Spree and Suresh Khanna (Enabler). The Steering Group agreed final drafts of the Parish Plan and the Action Plan set out in this document on 24 June 2004 and the residents approved them at a public meeting on 7 July 2004.

Summary Of Recommendations

1. Most Valued Aspects And Top Priorities For Action

Residents identified the following aspects of the village as being **most important** to them:

- The rural environment (68 per cent of households)
- Much less through traffic (64 per cent)
- Peace, quiet and cleanliness (59 per cent)
- The village community (56 per cent)
- Bredhurst Hurst (40 per cent)
- Preservation of antiquities (36 per cent)

36 per cent considered all of the above important. Many residents identified more than one aspect, hence the percentages exceed 100.

The **top priorities for action** were identified as:

- A more active Neighbourhood Watch scheme (99 per cent)
- Better consultation between the police and locals (95 per cent)
- A greater police presence (93 per cent)
- A Shop/ Post Office (58 per cent)
- Traffic calming without street lights (53 per cent)
- Traffic calming with street lights (47 per cent)
- Reducing the school run congestion (36 per cent)
- A by-pass (26 per cent)
- More affordable housing and housing for the disabled and elderly (18 per cent)

Recommendations: *The Parish Council should (1) make strenuous efforts to preserve and enhance the aspects of Bredhurst most cherished by the residents. (2) It should pursue vigorously and with sustained effort the achievement of our top priorities over an extended period.*

2. Housing

Recommendations: Housing Planning Guidelines. *(1) The Parish Council should discuss these clear guidelines with Maidstone Borough Council with a view to their adoption by the Planning Department when considering planning applications, namely that the only development permitted should be that of small family homes and housing for the elderly and the disabled, on single sites or in groups of less than ten houses. (2) The Parish Council should seek clarification from Maidstone Borough Council Housing Department about its policy for letting the “old peoples” bungalows and seek to ensure that village people get priority in allocation. (3) The Rural Housing Enabler at the Kent Rural Community Council strongly recommends that the Parish Council considers undertaking a housing needs survey to determine what level of housing need there is from local people in the parish. This should be undertaken within the next five years.*

3. Bredhurst C of E Primary School

Recommendations: Special safety measures around the school area. *In consultation with the School, the Parish Council should seek special safety measures around the area of the school. Consideration should be given to (1) Widening footpaths and installing*

safety barriers; (2) Introducing a special 20 mph speed limit in the area of the school; (3) Installing a footpath along the entire length of one side of Forge Lane for pupils living there; (4) Installing a pedestrian crossing from the village green to the school side of The Street.

4. Traffic

Recommendations: Reduce volume and speed of traffic through the village. *(1) The Parish Council and the Bredhurst Road Safety Group should seek periodic progress reports from Maidstone Borough Council/Kent County Council concerning implementation of traffic calming measures and discuss the bypass proposal with Kent Council with a view to getting it constructed in the medium term. (2) Progress the recommendations on traffic arising from the section above on the school. (3) The planning authorities and the Traffic Commissioner should be urged to refuse permission for businesses in the area that depend on lorries.*

5. Facilities for pedestrians

Recommendation: Improve facilities for pedestrians. *Steps should be taken by the Parish Council to meet the wishes of residents concerning facilities for pedestrians progressively over the next five years, especially for footpaths in Dunn Street and Forge Lane.*

6. A shop/post office

Recommendation: Get a shop/post office in the village. *The Parish Council should try to persuade one or more of the major supermarkets to provide a mobile Shop/post office, possibly twice a week. It could be positioned near the village hall close to the old people's bungalows.*

7. The Village Hall

Recommendation: Improvements to the village hall. *One suggestion for improvement was that there should be some committee rooms or smaller rooms so that more than one group can meet at any one time. More storage space would also be welcome, as would enlarging and modernising the hall and arranging a greater variety of activities for residents. The Village Hall Committee should bear these suggestions in mind if it considers expansion at any stage in the future.*

8. Sports And Leisure Facilities

Recommendations: Increase availability and use of sports and leisure facilities. *(1) The Parish Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council should explore the possibility of adult education evening classes being provided at the Bredhurst Junior School and the possible availability of sports and leisure facilities. (2) Further soundings should be taken by the Parish Council with a view to getting a mother/toddler group established. (3) The Parish Council should discuss with the management of The Bell ways to encourage visitors to park in the car park behind the pub so as to minimise parking on the village green and in the streets. (4) Village Clubs and societies should advertise their activities more, perhaps through the Parish Council newsletter and other local publications. (5) The Parish Council should make the Bell and the Nursery Restaurant aware of the concerns expressed and seek corrective action.*

9. Law And Order, Vandalism

Recommendations: Improve law and order, eliminate vandalism. *The Parish Council should (1) give further consideration to appointing and funding a Police Community Support Officer. (2) Pursue the matter of policing vigorously with Kent Police so that the*

authorities are fully aware that a change in the present policy is badly needed. (3) Inform the Medway Police about vandals from Parkwood. (4) Reinvigorate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and urge residents to report vandalism as well as crime quickly.

10. Community

Recommendations: Develop the village community. *(1) The Parish Council should consider how best to improve opportunities for residents to meet one another; gatherings in the village hall have been suggested by some. (2) The Parish Council should also consider and implement measures to facilitate access to medical facilities for those who find difficulty in getting to them. A voluntary driver scheme is a possibility. (3) The clergy should aim to increase church attendance from within the village. It might be beneficial to visit people at home after prior warning. (4) The Church Wardens and the residents need to ensure that the fabric of the historic and rare church is maintained in the highest order so that it may survive for many more generations.*

11. Village Identity

Recommendation: Strengthen village identity. *The Parish Council or the Parish Plan Steering Committee should enlist the assistance of Maidstone Borough Council to strengthen identification of the village with Maidstone Borough.*

12. Information

Recommendation: Improve access to information. *(1) Since 79% of the households have access to the internet the Parish Council should persist in setting up a website. (2) It should also lobby for broadband to be available to every household.*

13. Parish Council

Recommendations: Increase interest in Parish Council activities. *The Parish Council should consider publicising the dates of meetings well in advance in its newsletter and draw attention to the fact that the agenda is displayed on the village notice board.*



The Street and Village Green circa 1900

Parish Plan

Ancient History

The history of Bredhurst is documented comprehensively in the book “The Ancient Village Of Bredhurst And The Medieval Church Of St Peter” by Suresh Khanna CBE and published privately in November 2002.

The Romans established Bredhurst sometime between 55BC and 449AD on the raised elongated block of land between the Medway valley to the north and the North Downs to the south. Remains and coins dug up around the village church indicate that there was an unnamed settlement in the thick forest that covered the area. The soil was poor and flinty. There was no surface water supply. Undeterred, the Romans built villas in the area and dug a deep well just fifty metres to the south-east of where the Church stands today.

The Roman Settlement

In 1921 old Roman remains were discovered around the church at Bredhurst.

Adjoining the pathway at the southern corner of the churchyard wall, and only some thirty yards due south of the corner, was a well said to be five hundred feet deep. While clearing the wood around it for agricultural purposes, a considerable area of ancient foundations was laid bare. This well nigh broke the spirit of the new owner, for the massive walls were erected upon a foundation of large sarsen stones set in mortar! These and hundreds of large tree stumps were hurled into the well, which was thus finally filled. Some one hundred and fifty yards of flints from the walls were laid on one side to await removal for road repairs. Of the portion cleared and prepared for farming some quarter of an acre was almost solid with broken tiles, a hopeless outlook for a crop! In the uncleared wood, beneath the stumps of large trees hundreds of years old, were tiles, bricks of ancient make, and moss covered indications of further flint foundations of a place of strength. A little broken Roman pottery was found, and had careful systematic operations been carried out, discoveries of interest and importance might have resulted. Perhaps the remains were part of the old Saxon wall that surrounded the ancient Bredhurst, the old village in the 'broad wood' which still appears on the Ordnance Survey Sheet as 'Bredhurst Hurst'. Possibly these remains were the foundations of a Roman encampment or watchtower, similar to Goddard's Tower at Thornham.

“In Kentish Pilgrim Land” by William Coles Finch, 1925.

The Saxons followed the Romans (5th-11th century) and it was they who gave Bredhurst its name - “Bred” meaning Broad and “Hurst” a wood or a wooded rise. The ancient wooded rise, known as Bredhurst Hurst, survives to this day and can be viewed to the southeast from various points in the village.

The word Hurst is derived from the old English “hyrst” which in turn is of Germanic origin and is related to the German “horst”, meaning heap or a mound. In modern geological terms horst is a raised elongated block of the earth's crust lying between two faults, presumably the River Medway and the North Downs.

The magnificent 11th Century Grade II: XI listed Church of St Peter at Bredhurst stands back from the village centre some 500 metres to the east in a tranquil spot carved out of woodland on ancient crossroads that once linked Rochester with Detling and Maidstone with Sittingbourne. Panoramic views of the prehistoric wood known as Bredhurst Hurst to the east and open fields to the south reaching out to Monkdown Wood make this a spectacular setting. Not surprisingly this Church is by far the most popular venue in the parish for weddings. The first sight that a visitor gets from the approach road is of a sturdy buttressed Norman building with one-metre thick walls in flint bounded by a low wide flint wall. Surrounding the Church and also across the road to the south in a cleared orchard are the only burial grounds in the Parish of South Gillingham. The serene surroundings fill the visitor with peace and make this a most fitting place for prayer, contemplation or just communion with nature. It is not surprising, therefore, that according to the survey for this parish

KEY DATES

| | |
|--|---|
| 55BC – 449AD | Settlement established by the Romans in Bredhurst. |
| 5 th Century | Bredhurst given its name by the Saxons. |
| Late 11 th - 12 th Century | Church built. |
| 12 th - 13 th Century | Manor House built near Church. |
| 13 th Century | Green Court built. |
| 1379 | Manor of Bredhurst founded. |
| 1580 | The Bell Inn built. |
| 1862 | Court Lodge built. |
| 1863 | First Vicarage built. |
| 1866 | Major restoration work on the Church. |
| 1867 | School completed. |
| 1892 | Churchyard extended to the north. West boundary wall completed. |
| 1892 | The Reading Room and Village Club opened. |
| 17 th December 1894 | The first “Parish Meeting” convened, forerunner of the Parish Council. |
| 16 th December 1908 | Telegraph Office opened in village. |
| 1911 | Motorbus service to Chatham introduced. Street lighting first suggested. |
| 1913 | Chief Constable of Kent promises more policing of village. |
| 1914 | Discussion on establishing a Parish Council. |
| 1930s | Gas main laid to village. |
| 1939 | Houses in The Street connect to mains water for the first time. |
| 1946 | Mains water reaches Dunn Street. Refuse collection introduced and dumps cleared. Telephone Kiosk erected. |
| Early 1950s | Electricity comes to the village. |
| 29 th May 1963. | M2 motorway opens. Junction 4 not opened until 1966. |
| 1965-1970 | Fir Tree Grove development by Wards. |
| 1967 | Six old people’s bungalows built in Hurstwood Road, the new name for Church Lane. |
| 1969 | New Village Hall completed. |
| 1976 | First Parish Council elected. |
| 1979 | Mains drainage laid. |
| 1981 | Footpath built in The Street and Dunn Street Road. |
| 1 st July 1998 | Bredhurst Stores and Post Office closed. |
| 30 th November 2001 | Forge Lane Bridge reopened. |

plan almost a third of the residents (32 per cent) consider it important as a historic building, although only 16 percent value it as a place of worship.

The inn known as The “Bell” was built during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) in the year 1580. The origin of the sign of the Bell dates back to the eleventh century, when inns and taverns stood within the precincts of parish churches. However many bells a church held determined the number given to the name of the inn. The old church of St Peter (pre 1866) carried one single bell.

Bredhurst Town

Writing in 1797-1801 in “History of Kent” Hasted says “Almost adjoining Bredhurst churchyard northward there is a wood, where the inhabitants have a report that there was once a village called Bredhurst Town.”

Place names like these often point to historical facts not otherwise evident. When the Saxons arrived from Jutland in Kent nearly the whole of the county was covered with forests. They had to make clearings in the forests and fence them in. A clearing of this sort, with a dwelling on it, was called a “ton”. Even to this day in Scotland the “toun” simply means the farmhouse and outbuildings. Gradually the houses on the clearing increased in number and the “ton” became a hamlet, then a village, and finally a town as we know it today.

It is quite obvious that there was never a town at Bredhurst in the modern sense of the word, but the title becomes quite intelligible when we understand the sense in which the Saxons used the word “ton”.

“Historical Notes on Bredhurst” by
Reverend D P McClenaghan, Vicar of Bredhurst 1937-43

The Village Today

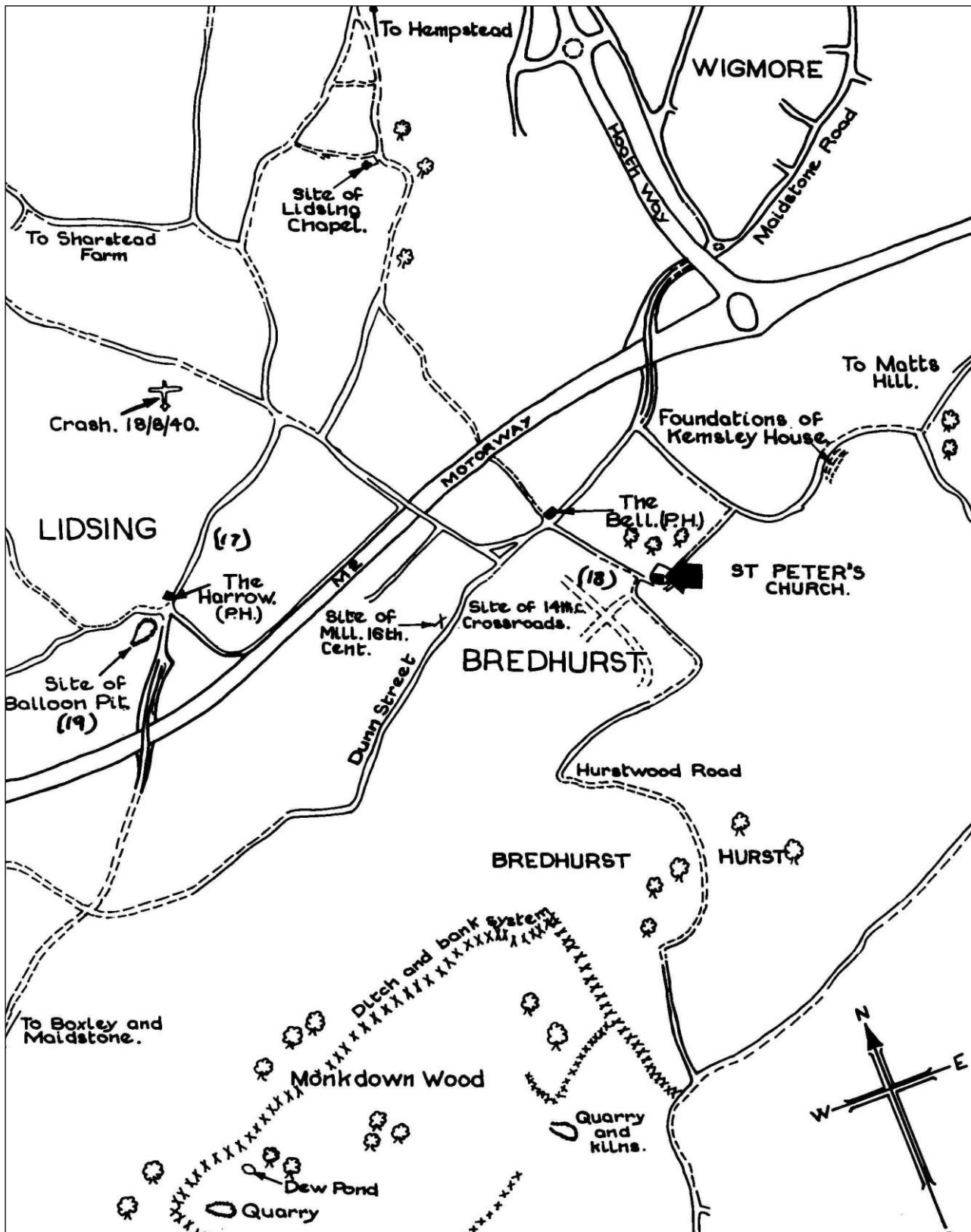
Bredhurst, which includes the hamlets of Dunn Street and Kemsley Street, is a small village with 157 dwellings and a population of some 380. It is situated at an altitude of 133 metres above sea level at grid reference TQ 7962, 7961 and 8062, 5 miles north of Maidstone and just south of Junction 4 of the M2 motorway, which forms the boundary with the Medway Unitary Authority. It is on the northern edge of the Kent North Downs in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). The M2 motorway skirts the village along its north-western face and Junction 4 lies on the approach to the village. The village comes under the jurisdiction of Maidstone Borough and wishes to remain under Maidstone rather than Medway. An ancient wood, Bredhurst Hurst, lies to the east. The village is surrounded by farmland. It enjoys an 11th century church, a 19th century primary school, and a 16th century public house, but most housing is 19th and 20th century.

There is a well-used village hall and a playing field. The village shop and post office closed in 1998, nine years after the petrol pump shut down, after a large shopping mall opened just over a mile away in Hempstead Valley, Medway. The nearest Post Office is some two miles distant. Eleven businesses have premises here – two garages, two car/lorry repair workshops, a second hand car sales centre, a fencing and garden building supplies yard, three stables establishments, a garden centre and a restaurant. Some further small businesses operate from homes. The village facilities are popular with the residents of Medway but the village remains fiercely opposed to being absorbed by this massive conurbation.

Foundations for the present day village were laid largely in the 19th century when three estates were dominant – Abbots Court Farm on the northern approach to the centre of the village, Bredhurst Farm (since renamed Green Farm and now Green Court) in the centre on the small village green and Court Lodge in Kemsley Street. The boundary stone embedded today in the tarmac of the village green, but which stood a little over half a metre high until around 1910, is a reminder that the village centre of Bredhurst straddled the boundary between two parishes – Bredhurst and Boxley – with farmland lying in several other parishes as well.

Bredhurst parish occupied the area to the east and north of a line running from Dunn Street along the middle of Dunn Street Road (the Maidstone-Rainham road) to the village green where the boundary turned left at a right angle to run west through the front door of Green Court to the Capstone Road near Elm Court and from there north to Hempstead and then east towards Farthing Corner. Amazingly, Green Court lay in two parishes whilst Forge Lane and everything west of

Dunn Street Road were not in Bredhurst at all. They came under Boxley. But that was not all. The fields of Bredhurst Farm and Abbott's Court Farm spanned no less than five parishes – Bredhurst, Lidsing, Boxley, Rainham and Detling. After many representations and tortuous negotiations this anomaly was resolved by the local government reform of the 1970s and in 1976 Bredhurst became a single entity with a parish council that for the first time had jurisdiction over the whole of the village.

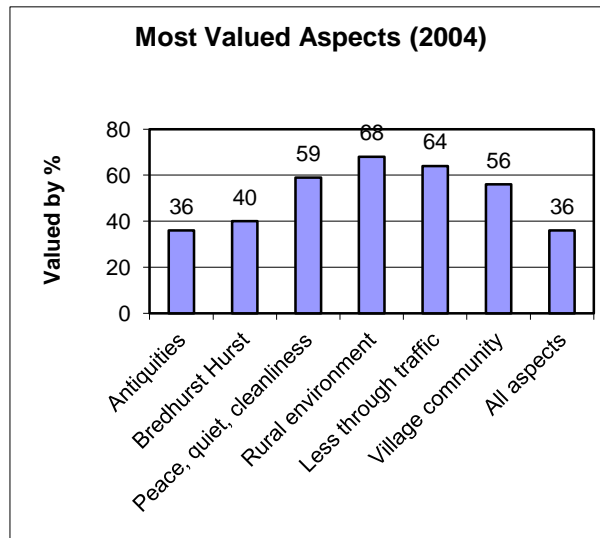


1966 Archaeological Sketch Map of Bredhurst Area

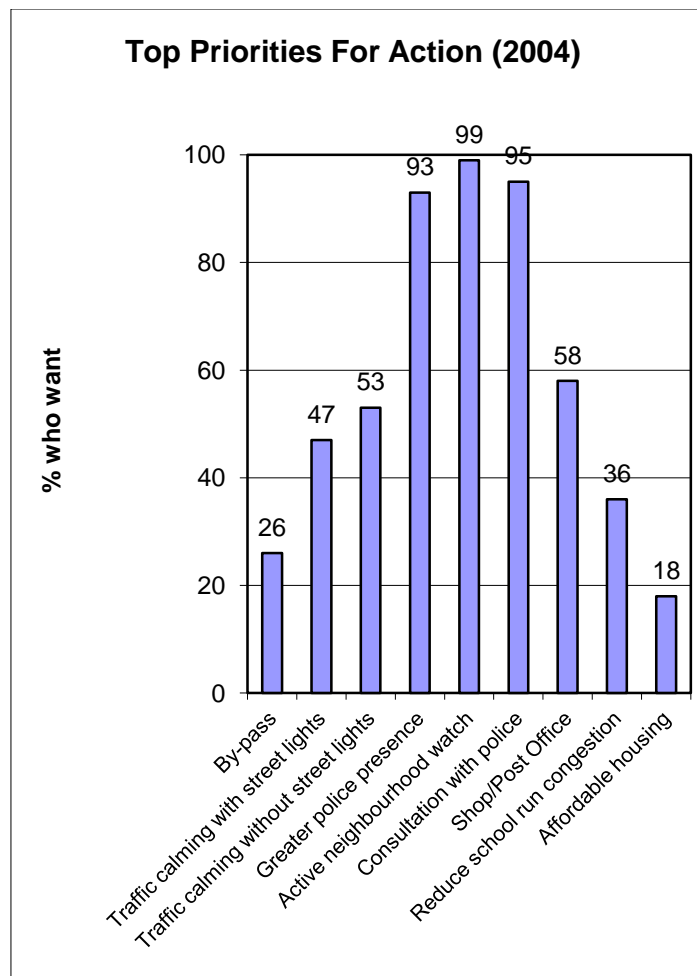
Questionnaire Results And Recommendations

Most Valued Aspects And Top Priorities For Action

Residents identified a number of aspects of the village, listed in the recommendations above, as being most important to them. They are shown below in graphic form.



The top priorities for action were also identified. In graphic form, they were:

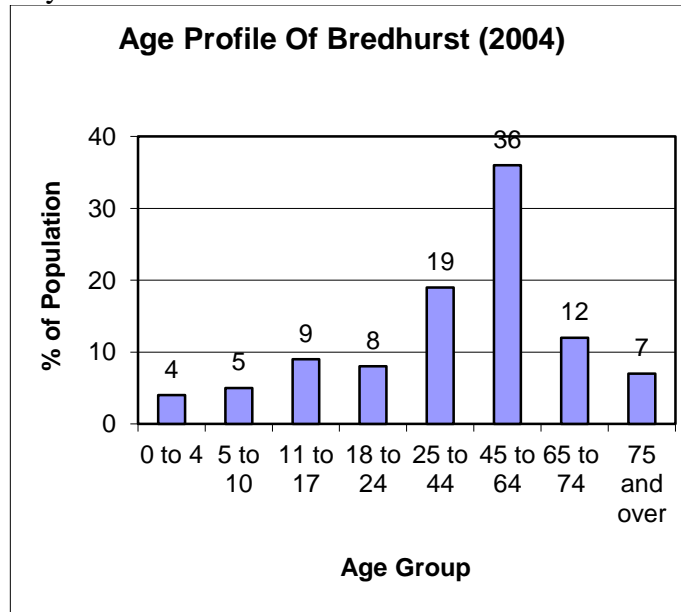


Recommendations: *The Parish Council should (1) make strenuous efforts to preserve and enhance the aspects of Bredhurst most cherished by the residents. (2) It should pursue vigorously and with sustained effort the achievement of our top priorities over an extended period.*

People

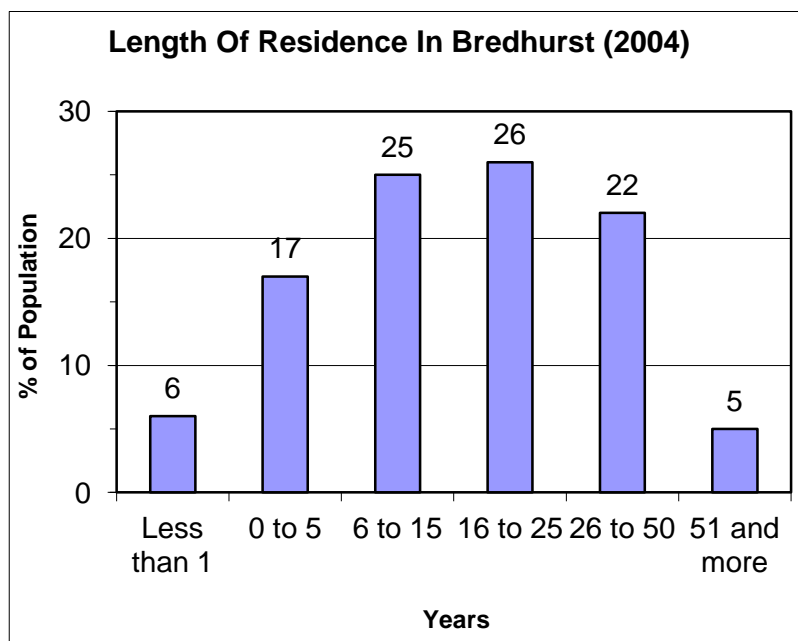
Population Profile

The population of the village is approximately 380 persons of all ages. Of these 68 persons (18%) are below the age of 18 years. This tallies with the present 314 registered voters (18 years or over). Females outnumber males by 204 to 176. 79% of the households have access to the internet.



Length Of Residence For Over 11 Year Olds

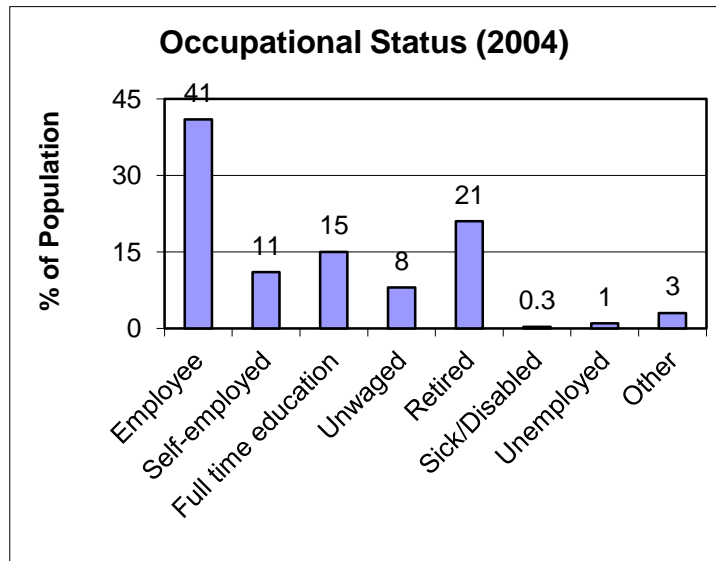
77.5 % (295 persons) of the population have lived in Bredhurst for longer than 6 years. This indicates stability and perhaps contentment with the environment of the village.



Vehicle Ownership

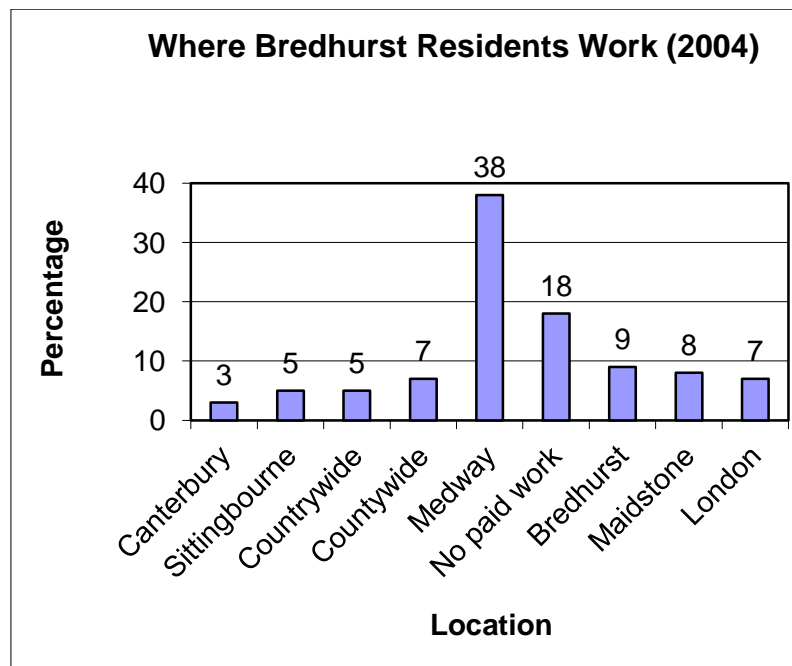
We own 304 motor vehicles between us, including 266 motorcars, 12 vans and 18 motorbikes. This adds up to almost one vehicle per adult or 2 vehicles per household on average. Almost two-thirds (64%) of those at work, school or college travel by car or van. Only 5% travel by public bus, 4% by train, and 5% walk.

Employment Status



Fortunately, the incidence of unemployment is not large but it is nevertheless a major difficulty for those who are unemployed. Interestingly, whilst 19 percent (72 persons) of the population is over 65 years old, 21 percent (80 persons) are retired. This indicates that 8 persons under 65 years old are also retired.

As many as 38% (144 persons) work in Medway and only 7% (27 persons) commute to London. The majority, including those working in Medway, (60% or 228 persons) work within 10 miles of Bredhurst, of these 9 % (34) in Bredhurst itself.



Deductions and Recommendations From The Household And Personal Surveys

Bredhurst has a normal population profile with the majority either working or in full time education. Neither the young nor the retired age groups are disproportionately high. **It is not possible to make any recommendations at this stage.**

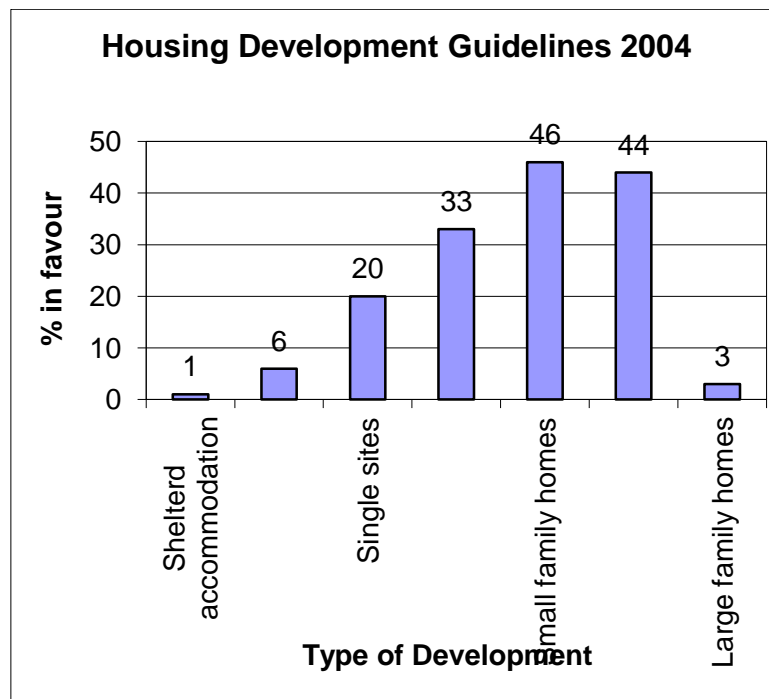
Housing

Housing is a subject that arouses most passion but often after someone has started building. It is therefore important to capture the feelings of the village concerning development. As is the case in other rural areas, builders and speculators are on the lookout for old properties with grounds, which they demolish to build several in their place.



Old People's Bungalows In Hurstwood Road

- (1) Almost half of the population (44 per cent) are opposed to any new development.
- (2) 46 per cent accept the need for small family homes, homes for young persons and for the elderly.
- (3) A further 6 per cent would welcome homes for people with disabilities and 1 per cent sheltered accommodation.
- (4) 97 per cent are opposed to large family homes.
- (5) Development should be restricted to single site (20 per cent) or at worst to groups of less than 10 (33 per cent).



It goes without saying that the design of houses should have designs appropriate to their surroundings, possibly a country and period character so as to retain and enhance the fundamental nature of the countryside.

Council bungalows built in the 1960s in Hurstwood Road for the disabled or elderly are now freely let by the council to others.

Recommendations: Housing Planning Guidelines. (1) *The Parish Council should discuss these clear guidelines with Maidstone Borough Council with a view to their adoption by the Planning Department when considering planning applications, namely that the only development permitted should be that of small family homes and housing for the elderly and the disabled, on single sites or in groups of less than ten houses.* (2) *The Parish Council should seek clarification from Maidstone Borough Council Housing Department about its policy for letting the “old peoples” bungalows and seek to ensure that village people get priority in allocation.* (3) *The Rural Housing Enabler at the Kent Rural Community Council strongly recommends that the Parish Council considers undertaking a housing needs survey to determine what level of housing need there is from local people in the parish. This should be undertaken within the next five years.*

Bredhurst C of E Primary School

Bredhurst C.E. Primary School is a small, Church of England, village school catering for 120 pupils. The original ‘school house’ part of the building has stood since the 1860s but has recently been extended and redeveloped to accommodate the needs of the 21st century pupil. It is a popular and vastly over subscribed school, largely due to the school’s record on achieving high results.



The 18th Century Primary School

located dangerously on the rat run with speeding traffic between Medway and Maidstone

The school gives priority to those who reside in the village of Bredhurst, as well as siblings of existing pupils, but still takes about 40% of pupils from the Medway Council area, and in particular the areas of Wigmore, Parkwood and Hempsted. This has resulted in the majority of parents bringing their children by car. However, a significant number of parents who live within the village also bring their children by car due to their fear of the speeding traffic that use the road through Bredhurst as a 'rat run' from Medway into Maidstone and the proximity of the pavements to the road for pedestrians.

In September 2002, this was exemplified in two cars overtaking each other at high speed with one swerving and narrowly missing crashing through the playground fence. The car still mounted the pavement adjacent to the playground. About two years prior to this, a car hit a crash barrier on the corner on which the school resides, but fortunately the barrier stopped this vehicle ploughing into the playground.

Clearly, the speeding traffic and the reckless driving of motorists are issues of great concern to the school and wider community of Bredhurst, and the fear remains that the school to date has been very lucky to have escaped unscathed the incidents that have taken place.

Recommendations: Special safety measures around the school area. *In consultation with the School, the Parish Council should seek special safety measures around the area of the school. Consideration should be given to (1) Widening footpaths and installing safety barriers; (2) Introducing a special 20 mph speed limit in the area of the school; (3) Installing a footpath along the entire length of one side of Forge Lane for pupils living there; (4) Installing a pedestrian crossing from the village green to the school side of The Street.*

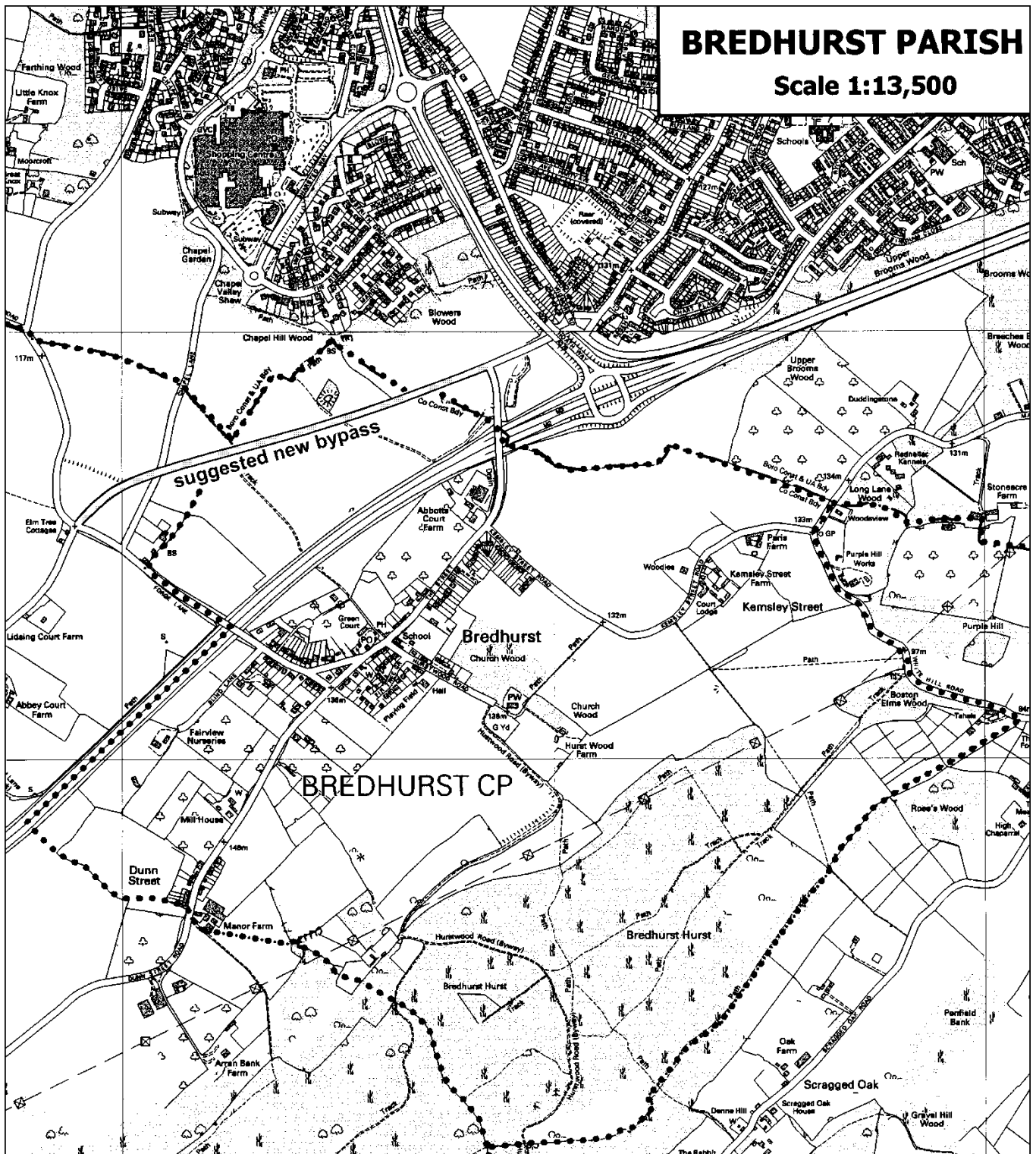
Traffic

Until the early 1980s the principal road through the village, The Street, was very much a country lane, without kerbs or footpaths. But the inexorable growth of Parkwood in Medway, which brought this largest housing development in Europe right up to the edge of the M2 motorway, meant a massive increase in through traffic. The new residents of Parkwood, many of whom had escaped the crowded conditions of London and other urban sprawls, found the temptation of speeding through the open roads of Bredhurst too good to resist.

Motor traffic became, and still remains, a menace. Following a fatal accident a footpath was laid along one side of the Street and Dunn Street Road in 1983. People were opposed to street lighting lest it turn the village into an extension of the neighbouring conurbation in all but name.

Unfortunately the local authority insisted on widening and straightening the road at the same time, ignoring pleas that this would create a racetrack through the village, which it has done. Even with the widened carriageway speeding traffic and heavy lorries are often only a few inches from pedestrians on the footpaths. So the problem of speeding, far from being resolved, got worse. Ever since then the village has sought traffic calming measures without success. For long no other issue has raised the blood of the residents as much as the volume and speed of traffic through the village, which is increasingly used as a rat-run between Medway and Maidstone.

During the 1970s a scheme to construct a by-pass to the north of the village was mooted. Over the following decade the local authority produced drawings and held numerous consultation meetings. It seemed that our problems might soon be over. But to the amazement of everyone the scheme was abandoned quite suddenly in the mid 1990s. So the pressure for traffic calming was intensified, but so far to no avail. In late 2003 the authorities allocated £20,000 for traffic calming in Bredhurst and a similar amount for Boxley. They also appointed a firm of consultants to advise on the measures that might be taken. A traffic survey undertaken by the firm concerning the flow and speed of traffic confirms the complaints of the village and Kent Highways intend to undertake traffic calming work during 2004-05.



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Suggested Bypass

The suggested bypass (which would be only around a half mile long) would result in a major reduction in through traffic along Dunn Street towards Maidstone, especially with the envisaged traffic calming measures in Bredhurst. Furthermore it would virtually eliminate traffic through the very constricted Forge Lane, where motorists from Parkwood and Wigmore take a short cut to the other Medway conurbations of Hempstead, Walderslade, Lordwood, Chatham and Luton as well as the rapidly expanding Elm Court Trading Estate.

A low cost bypass that runs almost along the northern boundary of the M2 has been suggested as shown on the map on the next page. However, Kent County Council Highways Department considers a bypass unlikely and advises that the village should concentrate on traffic calming. This may be realistic but the long-term aspiration for a bypass should not be lost sight of.

Recommendations: Reduce volume and speed of traffic through the village. (1) *The Parish Council and the Bredhurst Road Safety Group should seek periodic progress reports from Maidstone Borough Council/Kent County Council concerning implementation of traffic calming measures and discuss the bypass proposal with Kent Council with a view to getting it constructed in the medium term.* (2) *Progress the recommendations on traffic arising from the section above on the school.* (3) *The planning authorities and the Traffic Commissioner should be urged to refuse permission for businesses in the area that depend on lorries.*

Facilities Survey

Library. A Kent County Council mobile library calls every Monday between 10 – 11 am and is considered to be adequate. The nearest permanent library is approximately one mile away in Fairview Avenue, Wigmore (Medway) and is used by the residents of Bredhurst. The County library at Springfield, Maidstone, is also used for specialist publications.

Bus Service. Only 13 per cent of the residents, mainly the young and the older, use the bus service, largely for shopping and leisure, but also for going to school and for medical visits. It is infrequent (approximately one per hour) and the choice of destinations is limited. Meanwhile car ownership has increased sharply and most residents are able to call upon alternative means of transport from friends and relations. Consequently, there is no clamour for an improved service. This may in part be because any approaches in the past have been rebuffed. One concern expressed was that some buses do not observe the speed limit through the village. **This needs action.**

Facilities for pedestrians are considered reasonable or good by almost two-thirds of the residents but over a third regard them as poor. As many as a third of the 120 respondents to this question would like more roadside footpaths and 23 per cent favour more street lights so as to make the use of all roads safer than at present. The area of Dunn Street, with its narrow road, is particularly dangerous. A suggestion was made to widen Forge Lane so as to provide a footpath, but not a wider road. Some consider it urgent to install a pedestrian crossing near the school. Around 14 per cent recommend cycle paths and some 23 per cent want more countryside footpaths. As a safety measure a new footpath should connect the Kemsley Street end of footpath KH49 (which runs from the church to Kemsley Street) to KH50 at Court lodge, thus avoiding a walk along a dangerous and narrow stretch of Kemsley Street.

Recommendation: Improve facilities for pedestrians. *Steps should be taken by the Parish Council to meet the wishes of residents concerning facilities for pedestrians progressively over the next five years, especially for footpaths in Dunn Street and Forge Lane.*

A shop/post office is very much missed, as much or more as a social focal point as a convenience store. Over half (54 per cent) of the residents would like one “very much” in Bredhurst and a further 30 per cent “would like it”. The last shop/post office closed in 1998 because it became unviable. The result of soundings taken by the Parish Plan enabler indicate that a business is most unlikely to open one here. In the circumstances a mobile shop/post office may provide albeit a poor alternative. A café to which might provide a venue for informal social contact was not favoured by a very large majority (78 per cent). The village pub serves this purpose for some sections of the population but it is not frequented for casual meetings during the day.

Recommendation: Get a shop/post office in the village. *The Parish Council should try to persuade one or more of the major supermarkets to provide a mobile Shop/post office, possibly twice a week. It could be positioned near the village hall close to the old people's bungalows.*

Leisure

The Village Hall is used either often or occasionally by 88 per cent of the population. It regarded as adequate for the needs of the village by a vast majority (82 per cent) but 7 percent do not and 11 percent have no opinion. One suggestion for improvement was that there should be some committee rooms or smaller rooms so that more than one group can meet at any one time. More storage space would also be welcome, as would enlarging and modernising the hall and arranging a greater variety of activities for residents.

Recommendation: Improvements to the village hall. *One suggestion for improvement was that there should be some committee rooms or smaller rooms so that more than one group can meet at any one time. More storage space would also be welcome, as would enlarging and modernising the hall and arranging a greater variety of activities for residents. The Village Hall Committee should bear these suggestions in mind if it considers expansion at any stage in the future.*



The Village Hall

Sports And Leisure Facilities are regarded as very effective or effective for the pre-school group by 63 per cent but not very effective by a substantial element (37 per cent). Significantly, 19 percent feel there is a need for a mother/toddler group. A similar number suggest after school clubs. Provision for the primary school age group fare even better with 69 per cent but not with 31 percent. The children's play area behind the village hall is used either often or occasionally by 39 percent of the population. However, for other groups they are considered as being not very effective.

For **teenagers** 97 per cent place the facilities in the "not very effective" category. In response to a concerted demand by several teenagers the Parish Plan Steering Group and other residents moved quickly to set up what they wanted, namely a Youth Club, within weeks but interest from the

teenagers waned just as quickly and after an initial rush it proved impossible to attract more than a handful. Consequently, the youth leaders themselves let the club lapse. However, the response to Question 18 of the survey indicates that more activities for young people are favoured by 92 per cent of the population. One suggestion is a basketball practice area. Another resident advocates a new playing field of sufficient proportions to accommodate a wide range of sports.

Provision for **single people, couples** and the **disabled** is considered not very effective by a mean of 79 percent, with facilities for the disabled being the worst (88 per cent). A half of the population regards provision for **young families** and the **retired** as very effective or effective but an equal number holds the opposite view. At the same time 26 per cent have expressed a need for adult education evening classes. It is thought that the new school hall might be made available for this purpose and that perhaps the school could make available to residents any sports facilities after school hours. 56 per cent would be interested to learn more about the activities organised by the village clubs and societies. A drama group has been suggested but there is doubt that the population is sufficient to sustain it as well as all the other activities.



Children's Playing Area

The village pub, **The Bell**, dating from the 17th century is very well patronised by the residents (81 per cent) but the main clientele comes from outside the village, which impacts on parking on the village green as well as in the streets and, where youth are concerned, with noise. It is soon to be extended and may well be able to sustain greater village participation but the traffic problem needs attention.

The Nursery Restaurant is visited by a third of the residents but some concern has been expressed about noisy entertainment at night and unsightly notices on the roadside.

Of the businesses, **Akhurst** (garden and building materials) attracts 68 per cent of the village as customers, **Bredhurst Garden Centre** and **Pickwick Motor Company** are each used by 64 per cent and **Bredhurst Garage** 30 per cent. In sharp contrast, the three **stables** in the village are used by only 6 per cent of the residents; most of their clientele comes from outside, most probably Medway, which has implications for traffic.

Not surprisingly for a rural village, the local footpaths are well known, easy to use and well signposted.

Recommendations: Increase availability and use of sports and leisure facilities. (1) The Parish Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council should explore the possibility of adult education evening classes being provided at the Bredhurst Junior School and the possible

availability of sports and leisure facilities. (2) Further soundings should be taken by the Parish Council with a view to getting a mother/toddler group established. (3) The Parish Council should discuss with the management of The Bell ways to encourage visitors to park in the car park behind the pub so as to minimise parking on the village green and in the streets. (4) Village Clubs and societies should advertise their activities more, perhaps through the Parish Council newsletter and other local publications. (5) The Parish Council should make the Bell and the Nursery Restaurant aware of the concerns expressed and seek corrective action.



The Bell, Bredhurst

Law And Order, Vandalism

A greater police presence is accorded a very high with 93 per cent seeking this. Concomitantly, 95 percent would like better consultation between the police and locals, 99 per cent want a more active Neighbourhood Watch scheme and 63 per cent would also like to have closed circuit television (CCTV) installed in the village. 25 per cent also commend parental control to prevent vandalism but there is evidence that some vandals come from Parkwood. A greater sense of responsibility to reduce and report vandalism is thought by some to be necessary. Although the police regard the village as virtually free from crime, these high figures are a stark reminder that residents are extremely concerned about law and order, especially personal safety.

The village is almost equally divided about appointing and paying for a Police Community Support Officer at an approximate cost of £15,000 per annum.

Recommendations: Improve law and order, eliminate vandalism. The Parish Council should (1) give further consideration to appointing and funding a Police Community

Support Officer. (2) Pursue the matter of policing vigorously with Kent Police so that the authorities are fully aware that a change in the present policy is badly needed. (3) Inform the Medway Police about vandals from Parkwood. (4) Reinvigorate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and urge residents to report vandalism as well as crime quickly.

Community

Almost everyone (86 per cent) knows 11 or more persons in the village, including 30 per cent who know more than 50. This is a welcome indication and is reflected in the fact that 59 per cent of the village feel that there is community spirit but a high proportion (41 per cent) do not agree. In line with these findings, 56 per cent consider that a “good neighbour scheme” already exists informally. However, a worrying 42 per cent believe there is scope for one. These gaps need to be addressed. Whilst recognising that not everyone wants to be involved, greater voluntary participation by villagers and more involvement by the school are commended. This could be stimulated by individual invitation to appropriate events, sometimes by participating neighbours.

As many as 12 per cent have difficulty in getting to medical facilities.

Nearly twice as many persons (100 per cent of the 60 respondents to this question) consider St Peter’s Church important as a historic building as those who value it for worship (52 per cent). However, 78 per cent think of it as a focal point for the village community and 63 per cent appreciate it for weddings and funerals. There are challenges here for the clergy.



The 11th Century St Peter’s Church, Bredhurst

Recommendations: Develop the village community. (1) The Parish Council should consider how best to improve opportunities for residents to meet one another; gatherings in the village hall have been suggested by some. (2) The Parish Council should also consider and implement measures to facilitate access to medical facilities for those who find difficulty in getting to them. A voluntary driver scheme is a possibility. (3) The clergy should aim to increase church attendance from within the village. It might be beneficial to visit people at home after prior warning. (4) The Church Wardens and the residents need to ensure that the fabric of the historic and rare church is maintained in the highest order so that it may survive for many more generations.

Village Identity

Bredhurst has always been separate from its neighbour Medway to the north. A very large majority (85 per cent) wish to retain this status and, by a small majority (57 per cent) would even like to strengthen identification with Maidstone by, for instance, changing the telephone dialling code to that of Maidstone and dropping the very misleading “Gillingham” from our postal address. The postal address is within the control of individual residents. Some give only Bredhurst and the postal code in their addresses.

Recommendation: Strengthen village identity. *The Parish Council or the Parish Plan Steering Committee should enlist the assistance of Maidstone Borough Council to strengthen identification of the village with Maidstone Borough.*

Information

The Parish Council occasional newsletter is the most popular source of information about the village; 55 per cent of residents rely on it and a further 40 per cent consult it sometimes. “Action Forum” the free newsletter produced by the Rainham Bookshop comes next with a readership in Bredhurst of 91 per cent of the residents. The Village Hall notice Board and the Village and Paths Notice Boards come equal third with 79 per cent readers, the Ecclesiastical Parish newsletter “Spiral” is read by 75 per cent and the Kent Messenger, Medway or Maidstone editions, by a mean of 57 per cent for each. 41 per cent consult the locally produced book on Bredhurst but only 29 per cent surf the internet for information about the village. A clear majority (63 per cent) would welcome a Parish Council website. 79% of the households have access to the internet.

Recommendation: Improve access to information. *(1) Since 79% of the households have access to the internet the Parish Council should persist in setting up a website. (2) It should also lobby for broadband to be available to every household.*

Parish Council

A high 73 per cent consider that the Parish Council publicises its activities well or very well but 45 per cent do not attend any meetings, largely because of other commitments. Almost a sixth of the residents are unaware of the date, time or agenda for the meetings. Only 8 per cent think that the council is not sufficiently active.

Recommendations: Increase interest in Parish Council activities. *The Parish Council should consider publicising the dates of meetings well in advance in its newsletter and draw attention to the fact that the agenda is displayed on the village notice board.*



The Village Playing Field

BREDHURST ACTION PLAN 2004

| Recommendation | Action | Priority | Partners | Timescale | Lead Responsibility | Resource Implications |
|---|--|----------|---|--|---------------------|---|
| 1(1). The Parish Council should make strenuous efforts to preserve and enhance the aspects of Bredhurst most cherished by the residents. | (1) Preserve the rural environment. (2) Take steps to reduce considerably through traffic. (3) Ensure peace, quiet and cleanliness. (4) Foster a community spirit. (5) Preserve Bredhurst Hurst. (6) Preserve village antiquities, particularly maintain the church and all listed buildings in good condition. | High | Parish Council, Maidstone Borough Council Planning Department, Church Committee, owners of listed buildings | Continuing | Parish Council | No immediate resource implications |
| 1(2) The Parish Council should pursue vigorously and with sustained effort the achievement of our top priorities over an extended period. | (1) Seek a coordinator for a more active Neighbourhood Watch scheme following a briefing session by the Kent Police Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, Mrs Lorraine Hemphrey. (2) Better consultation between the police and locals at Parish Council meetings and by e-mail. (3) A greater police presence, including advertising for Parish Special Constables. (4) Attempt to get a Shop/ Post Office in the village. See Recommendation 6 for action. | High | Kent Highways, Kent Police, Village School | (1) Parish Council to arrange briefing meeting by end 2004. (2) Parish Council to publicise contact details for the police by end 2004. (3, 4) 2006 (5) 2004. | Parish Council | £20,000 for traffic calming in the first instance, subsequent substantial expenditure on most objectives. Funding may be available for 1(6). |

BREDHURST ACTION PLAN 2004

| Recommendation | Action | Priority | Partners | Timescale | Lead Responsibility | Resource Implications |
|--|--|----------|---|--|---------------------|---|
| | <p>(5) Traffic calming without streetlights.</p> <p>(6) Reduce the school run congestion by developing a “walking bus” or “school travel plan”.</p> <p>(7) A by-pass.</p> <p>(8) More affordable housing and housing for the disabled and elderly.</p> | | | <p>(6) End 2005.</p> <p>(7) Long term.</p> <p>(8) Long term.</p> | | |
| 2(1). MBC to apply the housing development guidelines. | Ensure that any housing development is in line with the guidelines in this plan, namely that the only development permitted should be that of small family homes and housing for the elderly and the disabled, on single sites or in groups of less than ten houses. | High | Parish Council, Maidstone Borough Council, residents and developers. | Continuing | Parish Council | Nil |
| 2(2). Seek clarification of letting policy for “old people’s” bungalows. | Ensure that village people have priority in allocation. | Medium | Maidstone Borough Council. | December 2004 | Parish Council | Insignificant |
| 2(3). Conduct a housing needs survey. | Following the survey determine what action needs to be taken, for instance to achieve more affordable housing. | Medium | Parish Council Maidstone Borough Council Kent Rural Community Council Housing Association/Trust. | December 2005 | Parish Council | £500 for survey (or whatever Kent RCC recommend). |

BREDHURST ACTION PLAN 2004

| Recommendation | Action | Priority | Partners | Timescale | Lead Responsibility | Resource Implications |
|--|---|--|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | Residents | | | |
| 3. Special safety measures around the school area | <p>Subject to the advice of Kent Highways and Maidstone Borough Council</p> <p>(1) Widen footpaths and install safety barriers.</p> <p>(2) Introduce a special 20 mph speed limit in the area of the school.</p> <p>(3) Install a footpath along the entire length of one side of Forge Lane for pupils living there.</p> <p>(4) Install a pedestrian crossing from the village green to the school side of The Street.</p> | <p>(1)Medium</p> <p>(2) High</p> <p>(3)Medium</p> <p>(4)Medium</p> | <p>Parish Council, Kent Highways, Maidstone Borough Council, Bredhurst School, Parents</p> | <p>(1) End 2008</p> <p>(2) End 2005</p> <p>(3) End 2010</p> <p>(4) End 2008</p> | Parish Council | |
| 4. Seek to reduce the volume and speed of traffic through the village. | <p>(1) Seek periodic progress reports from Kent Highways and MBC concerning the implementation of traffic calming measures.</p> <p>(2) Discuss the bypass proposal with Kent Highways and MBC with a view to getting it constructed in the medium term.</p> <p>(3) Urge the planning authorities and the Traffic Commissioner to refuse</p> | <p>(1) High</p> <p>(2) Medium</p> | <p>Parish Council, Parish Plan Steering Group, Kent Highways, Maidstone Borough Council, Traffic Commissioner</p> | <p>(1) Quarterly</p> <p>(2) End 2005</p> <p>(3) 2004</p> | Parish Council | Considerable |

BREDHURST ACTION PLAN 2004

| Recommendation | Action | Priority | Partners | Timescale | Lead Responsibility | Resource Implications |
|---|---|------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | permission for businesses in the area that depend on lorries. | (3) Medium | | | | |
| 5. Steps to be taken by the Parish Council to meet the wishes of residents concerning facilities for pedestrians. progressively over the years. | (1) Get footpaths constructed in Forge Lane and Dunn Street. (2) A new footpath to connect the Kemsley Street end of footpath KH49 (which runs from the church to Kemsley Street) to KH50 at Court lodge. | Medium | Parish Council, Kent Highways, Maidstone Borough Council, Landowners | (1) 2009 (2) 2006 | | |
| 6. Attempt to get a Shop/Post Office in the village. | (1) Attempt to persuade one or more of the major supermarkets or post offices to provide a mobile shop/post office, possibly twice a week (2) Explore the concept of a community run shop. | Medium | Supermarkets, Traders, Post Office. | 2007 | Parish Council | Mainly persistence and stamina! |
| 7. When considering any changes the Village Hall Committee should bear in mind the suggestions of the village. | The following are suggested: (1) Enlarge and modernise the hall. (2) Provide some committee rooms or smaller rooms for multiple bookings. (3) Create more storage space. (4) Village organisations should organise a wider range of activities. (5) Consider a separate survey for the village hall. | Low | Village Hall Committee, Village organisations | Long term | Village Hall Committee | Probably around £100,000 at 2004 prices. |

BREDHURST ACTION PLAN 2004

| Recommendation | Action | Priority | Partners | Timescale | Lead Responsibility | Resource Implications |
|--|--|------------|--|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 8. Seek to increase the availability and use of sports and leisure facilities. | (1) Explore the possibility of adult education evening classes at Bredhurst School. | (1) Medium | Parish Council, Bredhurst School, Organisers of groups for infants, The Bell, | 2005 | Parish Council | Insignificant |
| | (2) Also explore the possible availability of sports and leisure facilities at Bredhurst School. | (2) Medium | | | | |
| | (3) Try to get a mother/toddler group established. | (3) Medium | | | | |
| | (4) Discuss with the management ways to encourage visitors to The Bell to park behind the pub. | (4) High | | | | |
| | (5) Encourage village clubs and societies to advertise their activities widely. | (5) Medium | Village clubs and societies, | | | |
| | (6) Publish a village directory listing all facilities and activities. | (6) Medium | | | | |
| | (7) Make the managements of The Bell and the Nursery Restaurant aware of the concerns of villagers regarding noise and seek corrective action. | (7) High | The Bell, The Nursery Restaurant | 2005 | | |
| | (8) Get water mains laid to the allotments in Hurstwood Road. | (8) Medium | Allotment users | | Allotment users | Several thousand pounds. |
| 9. Improve law and order, eliminate | (1) Give further consideration to appointing a Police | | | | | |

BREDHURST ACTION PLAN 2004

| Recommendation | Action | Priority | Partners | Timescale | Lead Responsibility | Resource Implications |
|------------------------------------|--|----------|--|-----------|---------------------|---|
| vandalism. | Community Support Officer or Special Constables. (2) Inform Kent Police that police presence and consultation is a high priority. (3) Inform Medway Police about vandals from Parkwood. (4) Reinvigorate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Find a co-ordinator. | High | Parish Council, Kent Police, Residents | 2004 | Parish Council | At least £15,000 per annum |
| 10. Develop the village community. | (1) Improve opportunities for residents to meet one another, for instance a weekly “coffee shop” in the village hall. . (2) Implement measures for easier access to medical facilities for those who find it difficult. (3) Aim to increase church attendance from within the village, possibly by the clergy visiting residents. (4) Ensure that the fabric of the historic church is maintained for future generations. | Medium | Parish Council The Church Council | 2005 | Parish Council | Insignificant for most items. Considerable for the maintenance of antiquities, especially the church. |
| 11. Strengthen village identity. | (1) Enlist the assistance of Maidstone Borough Council to strengthen the identification of Bredhurst with Maidstone Borough. | High | Parish Council, Maidstone Borough Council | 2004 | Parish Council | Negligible |

BREDHURST ACTION PLAN 2004

| Recommendation | Action | Priority | Partners | Timescale | Lead Responsibility | Resource Implications |
|---|--|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | (2) Invite the Maidstone Borough Council Cabinet to hold occasional meetings in the village hall. | | | | | |
| 12. Improve access to information. | (1) Set up a Parish Council web site. (2) Take steps to ensure that broadband can reach every household in the village. | High | Parish Council | 2005 | Parish Council | £3,000? |
| 13. Increase interest in Parish Council activities. | Publicise dates of meetings well in advance and draw attention to meeting agendas placed on the village notice board. | High | Parish Council | 2004 | Parish Council | Negligible |

Regular Activities In Bredhurst

Clubs And Societies That Meet In The Village Hall Or Playing Field

| Club | Day | Time | Contact | Telephone |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Art Club | Thursdays | 12.45 – 15.00 | Mrs D Simpson | 378591 |
| Bredhurst Parish Council | 1st Wednesdays | 19.30 – 21.30 | Suresh Khanna | 371692 |
| Brownies | Mondays | 18.15 – 19.30 | Nicola Winter | 363281 |
| Busy Bees (Playgroup) | Mon, Wed, Fri | 09.00 – 12.00 | Mary Gough | 231679 |
| Dance Club | Mondays | 19.45 – 22.15 | Mrs Stickles | 01795 535108 |
| Evergreen Club (over 55's) | Wednesdays | 13.00 – 16.00 | Minnie Rayfield | 235389 |
| Garden Club | 3 rd Wednesdays | 20.00 – 22.00 | Kate Adams | 233554 |
| Guides | Alternate Fridays | Evenings | Mrs J Shepherd | 388828 |
| Jo Jingles (pre-school music) | Tuesdays | Mornings | Mrs Gooda | 863949 |
| Mid-Kent Astronomical Soc | Alternate Fridays | Evenings | Patrick Sebell | 243131 |
| Scottish Country Dancing | Mondays | 13.30 – 16.00 | Ann Keeble | 361263 |
| Short Mat Bowls | Thursdays | 19.30 – 22.00 | Richard Field | 232423 |
| Whist Club | Alternate Tuesdays | 19.30 – 22.00 | Ruby Williams | 373832 |
| Women's Institute (WI) | 2 nd Wednesday | 19.30 – 22.00 | Ruby Williams | 373832 |

Regular Activities For The Community

| Activity | Day | Venue | Contact | Telephone |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Applause Rural Arts Shows | Occasional | Village Hall | Ann Keeble | 361263 |
| Art, Craft and Produce Show | September | Village Hall | Alan Wainwright | |
| Barn Dances | Occasional | Village Hall | Ann Keeble | 361263 |
| Bonfire | November | The Bell | | |
| Christmas Fayre | 1 st Sat December | Village Hall | Glen Bull | 235253 |
| Easter Hot Cross Buns and Coffee morning | Good Friday | Village Hall | Glen Bull | 235253 |
| Harvest Supper | 1 st Saturday Oct | Village Hall | Ann Keeble | 361263 |
| Quiz Nights | Occasional | Village Hall | Pam Tuff | 230933 |
| School May Day | May | School | School | 231271 |
| Summer Fete | Last Saturday June | Playing Field | Glen Bull | 235253 |
| Summer Picnic or Barbecue | | Village Hall | Ann Keeble | 361263 |
| Sunday School | Sundays | Church | Wendy Keast | 230325 |