

Barham Parish Council – MARCH 2025 In Touch Report

CONSIDERATION FOR BARHAM VILLAGE TO CARRY OUT A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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.

The Parish Council gave this some thought at its last meeting, BMSDC Cllr John Whitehead explained that a neighbourhood plan can be carried out by the parish or sometimes it makes sense to include neighbouring villages. It looks at what is needed in the village along with housing. 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%.

To carry out a Neighbourhood Plan the backing of a lot of people/support is needed. Village residents should be encouraged to be involved in the process. Therefore the Parish Council has invited a representative from the district council to be present at the next parish council meeting on Monday 17th March, 7pm, at the Church hall, to give a short presentation on Neighbourhood Planning, to explain fully what is involved with undertaking the process before making a decision. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Barham Parish Council has 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. Would you like to become a Barham Parish Councillor and help make a difference to your village? Do you care about where you live, its facilities, activities, open spaces? Whatever needs tackling or improving locally, becoming a Parish Councillor gives people the opportunity to change things. YOU can help to make a difference to the quality of life for people in Barham. If you are age 18 or over, you are an elector of the parish, during the whole of the last 12 months have occupied as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the parish. The Parish Council meetings are usually held every other month on a Monday evening at 7pm in Barham Church Hall. The best way to find out what it's like to be a Parish Councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now, come along to a Parish Council meeting or speak to our Parish Clerk (see contact details below). Applications to be sent to the Clerk by Monday 10th March 2025.

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:-

17th March

19th May Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting

28th July

22rd September

17th November

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