

Bradwell Parish Plan

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The Bradwell Parish Boundary



The purpose

This parish plan is a community led planning exercise. Conclusions have been formed from residents, business owners and organisation members through open public meetings and questionnaires.

National government and local authorities are keen for local communities to decide for themselves what needs doing in their own neighborhoods and to engage with other organisations in getting things done.

This parish plan will set out a shared vision for the community and the aims & objectives for progressing towards the vision. This vision comes from the community and demonstrates to local authorities and agencies what the community wishes are and proposals for how they can be achieved.

The purpose of a Parish Plan is to communicate a vision of how those who live and work in a Parish want it to be, or to remain, over a period of time, when taking into account the environmental, economic and social issues it faces. It covers in one document those subjects that influence how a Parish wishes to move forward to enable those who read the Plan to appreciate and support the views and ideas of the Parish.

About our Plan

First of all, a Parish Plan provides important information on how the Parish, for example:

- Wishes to protect and enhance its heritage & natural environment in the years to come, in terms of its local characteristics, its features and also what its concerns are for the future.
- Considers housing, future developments, affordable homes and second homes.
- Views tourism in the future.
- Looks at employment and business opportunities.

All this information can be used by a Local Authority in the determination of planning applications concerning the parish. A Parish Plan may have a formal status and it can be recognised under the Government's Localism Act 2012.

Parish Plans deal with wider issues than just planning, but without a Plan, Local Authority Planners have no real idea of what a Parish wants when making judgments on a Planning Application. Presently they only have the comments received from the Parish Council or letters from individuals.

Quality of Life

Secondly a Parish Plan allows views and ideas to be expressed on what the Parish wants to do to preserve and enhance its quality of life. For example:

- Community and retail services and facilities.
- Road, traffic and transport issues.
- Matters of health, social well-being and education.
- The local economy.

Potential projects are identified in the Parish Plan ready to become Action Plans. These can then be pursued with the Local Authorities, Public and Private Bodies, and where required, seek funding agencies' support.

There is no guarantee of a project moving forward. However, a Parish with a Parish Plan, demonstrating a need which the majority of residents want, is more likely to gain support than a Parish without a Plan.

Our Vision

Our long term vision for Bradwell is for our parish to be:

A sustainable community made up of people of all ages;

Although the population as a whole is ageing, we want to ensure that Bradwell continues to be a community of all ages. We want people to be able to start and raise families here and for young people to be able to grow and develop without having to leave the Valley. We also want to ensure that older people can enjoy fulfilling lives here.

By “sustainable”, we mean a community where there is a healthy balance between community, economic and environmental needs. This includes providing opportunities for local employment and for the growth of local businesses.

A place that has grown with the times, but where development has been carefully managed to be in keeping with the heritage and to protect & enhance the environment of our Peak District location;

We want to ensure that development in and around our village enhances the quality of life here. That means making the most of our assets, making appropriate improvements and managing growth to minimise/prevent negative impact.

A working community with a vibrant economy made up of a balance of businesses and services for both residents and visitors;

We need to ensure that the service needs of residents are met and that Bradwell provides opportunities for people to set up a range of businesses, providing employment opportunities for local people. Visitors to our area make a valuable contribution to the Valley economy. While we welcome tourism, we want to ensure that Bradwell’s economy does not become dependent on tourism.

A connected community with access to viable options for using public transport and technology for work, health, education and leisure;

Connectivity attracts investment and it is important that Bradwell does not become isolated. Connectivity also gives people choices and supports sustainability.

By “connectivity” we mean both transport and electronic communication. This therefore covers issues relating to public transport, mobile phone signal, television reception and broadband speeds.

2003 Action Plan – Progress Report

In 2003 the Bradwell Village Action Plan was published as a 10 year plan for the improvement of the Village.

This Village Action Plan was very successful. Some of the ‘Action Items’ had already been acted upon before it was published and support was given to help achieve things identified during the production of the Plan.

Notable successes include:

- The Bradwell News
- Village website
- Traffic lights to improve safety
- Multi Use Games Area
- New play equipment on Town Bottom Playing Field
- Use of ‘dog bins’
- Litter collecting by residents
- Improvements to the Methodist Hall and the Memorial Hall

The Action Plan received generous funding. It is a detailed document produced with professional assistance and circulated to all households in Bradwell.

The Future

By 2022 the residents of Bradwell want their village to be a place which has managed to maintain a balance of old and new. This means ensuring sustainability within the village: recognising the growing difficulties of maintaining a reasonable balance between the demands of work and the desire for a satisfying home life.

What does this really mean?

Ensuring that businesses can thrive and develop and maintaining the essential services required by the village. Achieving this requires an adequate support infrastructure which allows people to work from home, but also to travel, if required, without dependence on a car.

To deliver this balance there are three key themes

- 1) The ability for existing businesses to continue to thrive and for new small/medium sized businesses to be established and grow.
- 2) The existing retail services are supported and new opportunities created, driven by local needs.
- 3) That the infrastructure to service these requirements is recognised, developed and supported.

Business

Bradwell must ensure that businesses can thrive and develop in the village and that the essential services required by the village are maintained. Achieving this requires that the support infrastructure is in place to allow existing businesses and retail services to continue to thrive and for new small and medium sized businesses to be established. There is a need to identify and encourage the use of possible locations for starter and expansion units taking account of how close they need to be, what is considered a fair commuting distance and whether people walk or cycle.

Objective 1: Create a “Bradwell Chamber of Commerce” to promote and enhance the ability of local businesses to thrive.

Objective 2: Ensure any redevelopment of the Newburgh site includes business start-up and expansion units for businesses suited to its village/residential location, identify and promote other locations for such units. Look to exploit the use of old quarries or redundant buildings and support the development of Stretfield Mill.

Objective 3: Encourage and support apprenticeships and youth employment in the valley.

Objective 4: Increase the self-sustainability of the village, for example, to reduce the need to travel for food and groceries.

Communications

All forms of communication are becoming increasingly important, even more so to a rural community. High speed broadband opens considerable opportunities for business but with the increase in home shopping, Internet banking and home entertainment streaming it will soon be essential for every household. Good mobile phone reception is also essential as are trouble free land lines.

Objective 1: Ensure a suitable level of “digital connectivity” which allows the village to thrive, grow and meets the same levels available in major cities. Improve mobile telephone and digital radio and TV (Freeview) reception in the valley.

Objective 2: Investigate alliances with adjoining parishes for overlapping projects.

Objective 3: Maintain a Post Office in the future that continues to support the needs and aspirations of both retail and commercial customers.

Transport

Reliable and efficient transport links (public and private) are essential for a rural economy to survive and prosper. Bus and train times must be at useful intervals and at a reasonable cost. It is also essential that the road system is capable of meeting the needs of all users and that the village is consulted on any changes considered, particularly on parking restrictions and traffic calming measures. We need to maintain and increase the use of pathways and cycle ways.

Objective 1: Reduce danger to pedestrians on the narrow road at Brough by provision of a footpath and/or single file traffic lights.

Objective 2: Install a pedestrian controlled crossing on the main road for safe access to the 'Beggars Plot' playground.

Objective 3: Maintain a public transport service, increase the frequency and times of the train connections. Ensure the road system is fit for purpose.

Housing

The results of the residents' survey showed that 73.6% want development limited to no more than 50 dwellings across the village over the next ten years. Residents require that any development scheme must meet or reflect the needs of the whole village and be a mix of dwellings with 2 to 5 bedrooms and of 1 or 2 storeys.

All developments must consider the elderly residents' requirements for 2 bedroom single storey dwellings and young people's need for affordable starter homes. These sustainable developments must include open spaces, sufficient off-road domestic parking and space to meet recycling requirements.

Objective 1: Provide the planning authority with guidance on the requirements and expectations of the village.

Objective 2: Ensure any development is in keeping with the village and is limited in size to retain the present character and social structure of the village.

Objective 3: Ensure proper provision is made for affordable housing to meet local needs, with landlords monitored by enforcement authorities to ensure properties are adequately maintained and kept at affordable levels.

Buildings

The Parish of Bradwell is built upon a background of industry, which makes for a strong and diverse community. The village does not want to lose this identity. Brownfield sites within a National Park are a very rare resource and need to be preserved for their potential for future commercial enterprise, even though the demand may not exist at present. Develop these sites for domestic use and you lose the opportunity that a brownfield site provides and it is gone forever. The long term sustainability of our community depends on the balance between the development of housing, commerce and employment.

Objective 1: Promote the industrial use of our brownfield sites.

Objective 2: Identify buildings and structures in the Parish worthy of preservation.

Environment

We are fortunate to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Bradwell Brook is a unique limestone stream and it would be beneficial to raise awareness of its special qualities. The brook through the village requires regular cleaning and in the adjacent fields has a thriving colony of water voles. We need to protect this environment.

We also need to maintain and improve the appearance of the village; this requires the continuing support and active involvement of all residents to, for example, clean up after their dogs, remove litter, and keep gardens clean and tidy.

Objective 1: Help groups and individuals with energy conservation projects.

Objective 2: Maintain and improve Bradwell Parish's rich flora and fauna.

Objective 3: Promote collaboration between landowners and residents to preserve and enhance the habitat.

Services, Education & Infrastructure

We want to support and improve the assets we have including the Police Station, the Fire Station, the Pre-school, Infants and Junior Schools, the Post Office, our Shops, Pubs and Churches.

Objective 1: Encourage and promote the use and development of the facilities we have.

Objective 2: Create a focal area for the village and improve the appearance of the main road.

Objective 3: Work with the schools, colleges and businesses to produce “fit for purpose” education that provides for the aspirations of our young and meets business needs. Provide support and mentoring services and seek the co-operation of the Parish Council to support to new business.

Sports and Leisure

Socially the village is very active with a diversity of volunteer-led organisations, activities and sports. These have many and varied facilities that need support on an on-going basis. These include the Methodist Hall, the Memorial Hall, two playing fields, sports grounds and an all-weather MUGA pitch, all of which need to be constantly assessed and updated.

We want families and young people to be able to grow and develop without having to leave the Valley. We also want to ensure that older people can enjoy fulfilling lives here.

Objective 1: Social Bradwell – improve the availability of information by increased use of the website with full details of all village organisations and links to their websites. A monthly diary will be available both on the website and displayed in the village.

Objective 2: Establish village allotments.

Objective 3: Extend and modernise the sports pavilions.

Objective 4: Establish an OAP drop-in centre and an Internet café which could be a multi-use facility including the Youth Club and Pre-school.

Culture and Tourism

Bradwell has a valuable and interesting heritage including Roman remains, the Grey Ditch and Bagshawe Cavern. It is the home of the original Bradda Beaver hat factories and the birthplace of Samuel Fox. A number of books have been published about the village. Modern cultural activities include the Well Dressings, Community Orchard, drama groups and folk singing.

Bradwell welcomes visitors but doesn't want to become a tourist village however, we have to recognise that there are many rural activities close by and we will have visitors. We must also recognise that many of our local businesses depend on visitors to survive and this will be supported by improvements to the appearance of the village.

Objective 1: Produce a leaflet of walks and places of interest for new residents and visitors and make the village more attractive for tourists and visitors.

Objective 2: Build a car park for both villagers and visitors. This will also improve the prospects of more events in the village halls.

Objective 3: Support our Memorial Hall to ensure future sustainability including the establishment of markets and trade fairs.