

BETHERSDEN VILLAGE SOCIETY & PARISH COUNCIL

JUNE 2009 NEWSLETTER

By the time you get this Newsletter the new BETHERSDEN VILLAGE OFFICIAL WEBSITE will be open !
www.bethersden.org.uk

This is a completely new website, designed to meet your needs and to be easy to use. We have transferred all the data (e.g. Parish Council minutes etc) from the original Kent County Council "villages" website, but have retained an automatic link, i.e. if you try to go into the KCC site you will get automatically transferred to our new site. We have also added lots of new information, and hope you will help us make it an important and dynamic (up to date!) communication medium for all Bethersden activities.

THIS WEBSITE IS FOR YOU - we hope you will visit it and let us know what you think. If you run an organisation or business in the parish and are not on it, please contact Jim McClymont, the website administrator. He can help sort out the best location and content for your entry, which can be on any subject, from diary dates of events to details of sporting functions and regular ongoing achievements, village news and services. **If your club, society or business already has a website, we can create a link from the Bethersden site to yours.**

A Bethersden **Business Directory** is being worked on - if you run a business we would like to include you!

The "home page" for the site has a menu listing all the main subject areas on the left. If you click on one of these, e.g. Services, it will show a sub-menu of all the Services, which can be clicked on individually for the full information on that item. The main menu is on all pages so it is easy to navigate back and forward on the site

Jim McClymont is our website administrator. He is looking forward to your comments and input. You can email him on jmccly@aol.com or telephone on 01233 820 214.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS - from now to 2021

Ashford Borough Council has been revising its Development Plan Document (DPD), including the likely number and location of required housing in each village. The Village Society Consultative Group met with Ashford BC on the 13th Dec 2007, and the 24th March and 19th May this year. As their latest proposals are not in accordance with our recent conclusions, they have agreed to allow us a further two weeks for discussions, before the Bethersden part of the DPD is completed. The Parish is keen to encourage a Local Needs Housing scheme in the village, that might be enabled by a General Housing allocation in the DPD.

Ashford are not expecting plan approval by the government Inspector until early 2010

RECREATION GROUND - A MAJOR REVIEW

Public meeting in the Village Hall, Saturday 20th June at 10am

The Parish Plan review we carried out last October generally confirmed that the Action Plan objectives are still valid. However it did reveal strong support for improvements to the Recreation Ground; some parts are now reaching the end of their natural life. In view of the importance of the Rec. to us all, it has been agreed that we should have a public meeting to collect views and suggestions that are as adventurous as possible so that the Rec. will continue to provide the best local opportunity for a wide range of Sports and Leisure activities.

We need volunteers to join our working group to review the whole of the site, design the new facilities and to implement the overall plan.

Caroline Buckley, recently elected Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee, will chair the meeting. **Please come to the meeting - we need your input and support!** (If you are unable to come on the day, please contact Caroline in advance with your suggestions).

A28 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

Kent County Council has reviewed the speed limits on the A28. They are proposing changing the existing 40mph and 60mph stretches through Bethersden. The Parish Council has a limited time in which to respond to these proposals. These will be discussed **at the next Parish Council meeting, Wed 10th June** (8pm in the Village Hall). Please come along to the meeting to hear the details, and to help the Parish Council formulate a response.

Contacts: Keith Mitchell, Chairman, Parish Council, 01233 820 883

Caroline Buckley, Chairman Recreation Ground Committee, 01233 820 406

Clare Skidmore, Chairman, Village Society, 07852 992 105

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