

Bethersden Village Society & Parish Council

August 2011 joint newsletter

IMPORTANT – MILL ROAD DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Your chance to influence the proposals!

An exhibition of the draft plan proposals will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 27th August 2011, 10am to 12 noon. The proposals combine the two sites (now known as Beth 1a) put forward by our Housing Consultative Group to Ashford Borough Council. The Housing Consultative Group worked on the project following the public meeting in Sep 2007, and their proposals were built into the Ashford development plan for Bethersden, which was approved by the Government Inspector last year. Site "Beth1a" is on the top left (west) side of Mill Road, above the Poplars. The site, which is owned by The Peter Adams Trust, is planned to include up to 10 Local Needs houses, as outlined in the 2003 Parish Plan, and also up to 14 "general demand" houses.

The public exhibition will be attended by representatives from the Parish Council, The Peter Adams Trust and the developers.

This is your opportunity to make a contribution to the plans at the preliminary stage, i.e. before they become a formal planning application to Ashford Borough Council. Do come along and see for yourself what is being proposed.

RECREATION GROUND DEVELOPMENT – SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

What do you want from YOUR Recreation Ground?

A small team of volunteers, working with the Parish Council, oversee the maintenance and evolution of our recreation ground. They now want your views to ensure that future facilities best serve the village.

Please take a few moments to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the enclosed postage paid envelope, by 31st. August 2011

Please also feel free to let us know your views on any related subject, by a written note which can be included with the questionnaire – or write on the back of the questionnaire.

Recreation Ground Volunteers Day; 9am 13th August 2011

If you are a fit and able adult, how do you fancy giving your time to the community to make your own contribution to our recreation ground?

Starting at 9am on 13th August 2011 you have the chance to do so. We're looking for volunteers to help tidy up the recreation ground, paint the pavilion, and generally smarten up the facilities for the benefit of the whole village.

If you are able to spare any time you'd be warmly welcomed. Please wear old clothes, bring some gardening gloves (and a few basic gardening tools if you feel comfortable using them, plus any empty rubbish bags you can spare).

A28 SPEED LIMITS

The 40mph speed limit on the A28 has already been extended towards High Halden. Kent CC has agreed to reduce the speed limit on the A28 through the village and to introduce speed reduction enhancements, including two informal pedestrian crossing points. This has been through public consultation, and is due to be implemented in the Autumn. Our County Councillor, Richard King, is sponsoring this work. The next step is to work on extending the 40mph towards Ashford, i.e. past the Woodchurch turning.

BROADBAND INTERNET

At very short notice we managed to make a grant application for Bethersden to be included in the roll-out of high speed internet. Although we were not successful, we gained a good understanding of the activities we need to have in place to succeed in the next round. Tim Carmichael (Parish Councillor) is leading this project and will post further information on the website and noticeboard, as it develops. If you would like to be involved, you can email him via the website contact section.

BETHERSDEN WEBSITE

Ashford Borough Council has advised that their Ashford Voice magazine will no longer be sent out in printed form. It will however be available on their website (www.ashford.gov.uk/voice) or via a link on the Bethersden website, and, increasingly official communications of all types will be via the internet. Our website team is working to ensure that our website keeps information and news from Bethersden up to date, and we provide information and links to important official news and events. Check the website, www.bethersden.org.uk to see what is going on and, if you run a local organisation or business, please help us to keep your information up to date. The site is managed by Jim McClymont who can be emailed via the website contact section.

This newsletter is published jointly by Bethersden Parish Council and the Village Society. For further information on the above, contact Bryan Muddell, 820 349.