

Bentley Parish Plan – Action Plan

INTRODUCTION

Four years ago the Parish Council decided to undertake a review of Bentley by undertaking the production of a Parish Plan. A Parish Plan Group of six members of the community was formed in January 2005 to act independently on behalf of the Parish Council in order to carry out the project under the guidance of Suffolk Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE).

After undertaking training, the group set about producing a questionnaire to gather the views of all the residents of Bentley from the age of 16 years and upward. The questionnaire was delivered by a team of volunteers to all 344 households in the parish and the occupants invited to express their views and needs with regard to the future of the village.

The population of Bentley is about 750 individuals and a surprisingly high 80% percent of questionnaires were returned. The accumulated data was subsequently analysed and a report published to highlight the issues that were identified.

From that report, the Parish Plan Group and the volunteers met to discuss the results and to formulate the basis for an Action Plan. The Parish Plan Group completed the work to define the finer detail of the Action Plan and submitted it to the Parish Council.

An Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting was held on 27 Sept 2007 and the Action Plan was discussed and formally adopted. There was only one minor amendment to the plan that raised one of the priorities that had been suggested by the Parish Plan Group.

This document is therefore a mandate of what the people of Bentley want the Parish Council and associated agencies and individuals to provide for them. It is a document that can be used to guide the work of the council over the coming years. It will be visited regularly during the years ahead to determine what progress has been made to make Bentley an improved place for all.

John Wheals

(Chairman, Bentley Parish Plan Group)

BENTLEY ACTION PLAN

Category	Issue identified from Parish Plan report	Action required	Lead Organisation	Partners	Resources	Priority
Access to Healthcare	Give full support to the Constable Country Medical Practice and seek to improve the appointment system.	Liaise with the practice to find ways to make improvements. Arrange for Practice Manager to address a Parish Council Meeting.	Parish Council	Patient Support Group Constable Country Medical Practice	No cost	A
Affordable Housing	Give consideration to a housing needs survey.	Seek District Council and Suffolk ACRE advice and guidance	Parish Council	Babergh DC Suffolk ACRE	No cost	B
Facilities for young children	Extend the playgroup hours.	Investigate possibilities of providing comprehensive playgroup facilities linked to Bentley school.	School	Playgroup	To be identified	B
	Develop a plan to provide a children's play area.	Identify a suitable area	Parish Council	Village Hall and LEA		C
Facilities for older people	Note the high level of retired residents.	Encourage the formation of new clubs and facilities aimed at the older generation.	Parish Council	Village Hall Tuesday Club	To be identified	B
Public Transport	Seek an improved public transport timetable.	Improve the Bentley to Capel service and question the need for a service via East End.	Parish Council	Suffolk CC Bus operators	Self financing	A
Community Transport	Develop a voluntary transport scheme.	Develop a scheme from the names provided during the survey.	Parish Council	Volunteers identified in survey	No cost	B
Traffic Management	Identify methods of reducing the speed and amount of traffic passing through Bentley.	Identify various methods to implement changes to reduce traffic and speeding. Press the County Council to take action.	Parish Council	Suffolk CC Police	Highways Department	A
Road & Footway Maintenance	Develop proposals to improve the Capel/Bergholt Road junction and provide footways along Capel Road, Station Road and at the C426/A12 slip road junction.	Seek plans to improve the junction and the possibilities for extending the village roadside footways.	Parish Council	Suffolk CC	Highways Department	A
Public Rights of Way	Support the waymarking and regular maintenance of public paths.	Undertake regular inspections of footpath signing and maintenance requirements.	Parish Council	Suffolk CC	Environment and Transport Department	C
	Organise self help work parties when required.	Organise work parties from the names provided during the survey.	Footpath Society	Parish Council	Self help	C
Jobs & Local Economy	Support a wide range of employment situations.	Continue to support existing employers. Control any major industrial developments.	Parish Council	Babergh DC	No cost	C
Shopping & Services	Support the provision of local post office services and the return of a Post Office in Bentley.	Although unlikely, support any move to provide post office services in Bentley.	Parish Council	Royal Mail	No cost to parish	C
	Support any initiatives (e.g. Community shop) to provide local shopping services.	Progress plans to provide a community shop in the village hall.	Parish Council	Village Hall	To be identified	B

Category	Issue identified from Parish Plan report	Action required	Lead Organisation	Partners	Resources	Priority
Provision of Local schools	Encourage more residents to send their children to Bentley CEVC Primary School.	Provide the fullest support to Bentley school and advertise its virtues to Bentley residents.	School Governors	Bentley School PTA Parish Council	No cost	B
Access to training and skills development	Develop the educational facilities available for all ages.	Identify suitable after school clubs and facilities/interests for young people.	School staff	Village Hall	To be identified	B
		Identify suitable training and skills development facilities/interests for adults.	Parish Council	Village Hall	To be identified	B
Built Environment	Extend the development envelope to allow small groups of affordable/social/retirement housing to be built.	Press Babergh DC to amend the local plan to allow extension if required following a housing needs survey.	Parish Council	Babergh DC	No cost	B
Natural Environment	Support local landowners to maintain the rural environment and wildlife habitats.	Liaise with local landowners, give consideration to a local bio-diversity action plan.	Parish Council	Tree Warden Volunteers Landowners	No cost	C
Environmental Health and Pollution	Organise regular litter picking events.	Set up a litter picking team to regularly clear the village.	Parish Council	Volunteers identified in survey	Minimal	C
Recycling & Waste Management	Improve opportunities to recycle.	Advertise the recycling facilities within the village, including the school operations.	Parish Council	Notice boards Bentley School Community News Babergh DC	No cost	B
Access to Information	Develop better ways of distributing news about local matters and events.	Provide more village notice boards to display information including Parish Councillor's CVs, event details, village hall activities.	Parish Council	Village Hall Community News	To be identified	A
Local Democracy	Encourage greater interest in the work of the Parish Council. Maintain Bentley as a desirable location to live.	Publish more information about Parish Councillors. Start running Parish Council surgeries to provide access to Parish Councillors.	Parish Council	Community News	No cost	C
Community Assets	Develop a wider range of facilities and events in the new village hall.	Expand the village hall management committee to provide a wider range of ideas and contacts for new activities.	Village Hall	Parish Council	To be identified	B
Emergency Planning	Encourage greater presence and liaison with the local police.	Press for increased presence in the village and regular Neighbourhood Watch meetings.	Parish Council	Police Neighbourhood Watch	No cost	B