

# BENENDEN PARISH COUNCIL - PROJECT LIST

Item numbers refer to Priorities Requiring Capital Investment list – see below

## HIGH VALUE OR EASY TO IMPLEMENT across the Community:

- Allotments (Item 2.)
- Improvements to Public Rights of Way (Item 4.)
- Improvements to broadband and mobile communications, to include Feasibility Study (Item 8)
- New play area at Iden Green recreation ground (Item 17) - **£45,000**
- New play area at East End (Item 17) - **£25,000**
- New pre-school - location to be confirmed (Item 21)
- Traffic calming scheme for Benenden village, Benenden crossroads and Iden Green crossroads; reduction of speed limits throughout the parish (Item 14)

## MEDIUM VALUE OR COMPLEX TO IMPLEMENT across the Community:

- Develop and maintain an online village directory (Item 11)
- Provision of additional car parking area at Benenden Village Hall (Item 15b)
- Public electric vehicle charging points at Benenden Village Hall, Iden Green Pavilion and Benenden Hospital @ **£5,000** for each point required (Item 18)
- Combined cycle lane and footpath linking Green Lane (East End) with Walkhurst Road (Benenden) (Item 13b)
- Facilitation of “Quiet Lane” status for Walkhurst Road; Green Lane; Stepneyford Lane; Mockbeggar Lane (Item 13a)
- Designated space for medical use, such as roving GP/nurse/physio/podiatrist/dentist (Item 16)

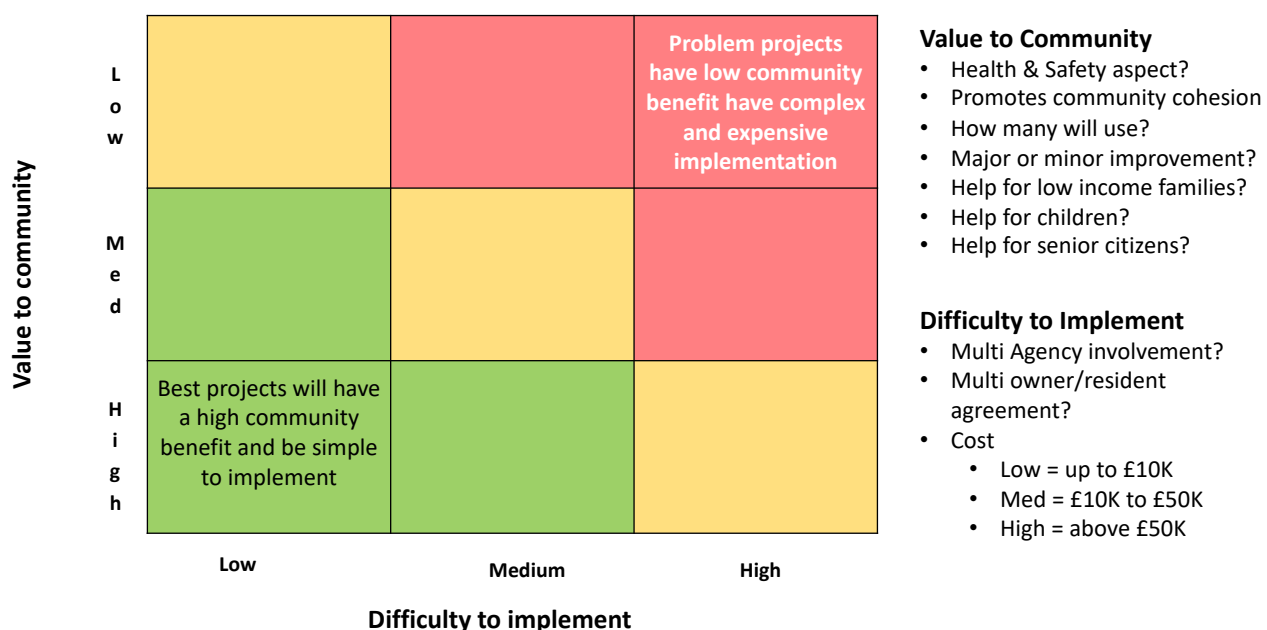
## LOW VALUE OR DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT across the Community:

- Superfast broadband for all dwellings within 1000m of Benenden Hospital (Item 19)
- Conversion of existing public toilets at Benenden Village Hall to Community Office and re-provision of public toilets with disability access in the Village Hall (Item 20)
- Provision of additional car parking spaces at Rothermere Close (Item 15a)

## Benenden Parish Council Project List

The following list of projects has been created using the Benenden Neighbourhood Plan (BNDP) as a start point. The BNDP has been presented to residents of Benenden and to appropriate agencies and utilities as part of the Regulation 14 Consultation process. None of the consultees asked for amendment to the projects, therefore the Parish Council believes they enjoy support.

Projects have been prioritised by assessing both the scale of impact they will have on the Parish – (numbers of people positively affected and whether those are disadvantaged or vulnerable) and ease of implementation – (cost and complexity). So some projects may have only a minor positive impact but as a 'quick win' will have a greater priority than a very positive impact project that is expensive, complex and has high dependency on external organisations.



A definition from the BNDP:

***Projects are specific proposals that fall outside the direct competence of a Neighbourhood Plan but which may be delivered in partnership with other competent authorities such as Kent County Council, or Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.***

## Priorities Requiring Capital Investment:

### **2. Allotments**

Promote the creation of shared amenities such as allotments and a community compost area.

### **4. Public Rights of Way**

Public Rights of Way provide a valuable amenity both for the existing local community and new residents as well as for tourists or visitors. In order to encourage greater use of this amenity there should be improved signage and access to the extensive Public Right of Way network.

### **8. Technical Feasibility Study to Improve Broadband and Mobile Signal**

In conjunction with operating companies, consultants and the community (asset owners) conduct a technical and commercial feasibility study to improve broadband and mobile communications in the parish.

### **17. Enhancing Play and Recreation Facilities**

Existing playgrounds and recreational fields in Benenden village and Iden Green are owned and maintained by the Benenden Village Trust (BVT). They are available for use by the community. The Benenden playground underwent extensive renovation in 2019. The BVT is currently fund raising for refurbishment of the Iden Green playground. In addition, land at East End will be made available for recreational and playground facilities arising from site specific policies within the NDP. The Parish Council will work with developers, BVT and other community groups to enhance recreational and play facilities.

### **11. Meetings/Online Directory**

Over a third of the businesses responding to the business survey are interested in regularly meeting with others in the village and over 75% would like to be listed in an online village directory. Develop, maintain and host the online village directory with a view to using this as the connecting hub for local businesses and residents.

### **15 (b). Additional Car Parking**

- The Parish Council will arrange and manage meetings between landowners with a view to improving both public and residential car parking provision; specifically looking at: Providing additional car parking spaces at Benenden Village Hall. Working with the Benenden Village Trust to extend existing car parking, reducing the adverse impact on village streets when large events are held at the hall

### **19. Superfast Broadband in East End, Benenden**

The Parish Council will work with Benenden Hospital Society, developers and BT Openreach to ensure the existing Broadband infrastructure which serves the Hospital complex is enhanced. The scope of any service extension to local dwellings will be determined via a feasibility study, but it is expected that dwellings within 1000m of the hospital site should have access to superfast broadband.

## **20. Reprovision of Public Toilets at Benenden Village Hall**

Existing toilets require refurbishment. Project envisages conversion of the external toilet block into office space and reprovision of (fewer) public toilets in the Village Hall with wheelchair friendly external access.

## **18. Public Electric Charging Points**

As part of our commitment to embracing green technology the BNDP recommends that pay to charge facilities are introduced in car parks at Benenden Village Hall, Iden Green Pavilion and Benenden Hospital. The Parish Council will work with developers, the Benenden Village Trust (BVT) and utility providers on projects to provide recharging points in each location.

## **21. Pre-school Provision in Benenden**

A suitable building with external play facilities will be required to replace the St Georges Pre-school. Space exists within the new Primary School campus but significant capital will be required to develop the site.

## **14. Traffic Mitigation**

The Parish Council will lobby and work with KCC Highways on the specific proposals resulting from the development of this Plan listed below:

- Reduction of maximum speed limit to 20mph on B2086 from Benenden Crossroads to Pullington Farm
- Reduction of maximum speed limit to 20mph on Goddards Green Road from East End Chapel to Mockbeggar Lane
- Reduction of maximum speed limit to 20mph on Mill Lane from Little Weavers to Cotton Cottage on Iden Green Road
- Extension of 30mph zones on the approach to the three main settlements of Benenden village, East End and Iden Green to encourage drivers to slow before reaching residential areas and rural crossroads
- Traffic calming scheme for Benenden Crossroads and Iden Green Crossroads and further measures at Castleton Oak Crossroads
- Introduction of 'Access Only' restrictions on designated quiet lanes

### **13(a). Support Car-free Connectivity**

To facilitate the foot/cycle lane and in recognition of the existing national cycle route 18, introduction of 'quiet lane' status is required on:

- Walkhurst Road
- Green Lane
- Stepneyford Lane
- Mockbeggar Lane

Each quiet lane would have speed limits of 20mph and appropriate signage.

### **13(b). Support Car-free Connectivity**

The Parish Council to identify an active route (see Fig. 50) and work with Sustrans/KCC to create a combined Cycle Lane and Footpath linking Green Lane (East End) with Walkhurst Road (Benenden).

### **16. Support Health & Community Cohesion**

The Parish Council will identify means of providing a designated space for 'medical use', such as roving GP/nurse/physio/podiatrist/dentist, which will be funded by developer contributions.

### **15(a). Additional Car Parking**

The Parish Council will arrange and manage meetings between landowners with a view to improving both public and residential car parking provision; specifically looking at:

- Providing additional car parking spaces in Rothermere Close. Working with the housing association and Benenden Almshouse Charities to see if additional car parking can be designed to reduce congestion for residents

## Priorities NOT Requiring Capital Investment:

### **1. Creation of New Habitat**

Development should include provision for creating new wildlife habitat and joining up of existing wildlife-rich areas.

This could involve planting and other measures on an undeveloped part of the site, or funding to achieve the policy elsewhere within the parish. Measures should be meaningful and long-lasting. The NPPF refers to the establishment of coherent ecological networks <sup>18</sup> as part of the provision for net gains for biodiversity.

### **3. Education**

Support on-going education of children and adults about the countryside and the environment. Primary school children are expected to spend a certain amount of time in the open air looking at nature and the intention is to extend this to older children and adults with organised nature trails, walks and encouragement to volunteer in the upkeep of Public Rights of Way and habitats. Contact with nature contributes to health and wellbeing.

### **5. Locally led housing initiatives**

The parish council will encourage partnership-based, locally led housing scheme initiatives by:

- encouraging developers to partner with local housing associations who understand the needs of rural residents
- supporting the marketing of help-to-buy schemes to existing residents and their families
- working alongside the Benenden Almshouse Charities

### **6. Community Land Trust Feasibility Study**

Establish a group of interested volunteers to explore further the idea of setting up a Community Land Trust (CLT) — see para. 2.3.4. The purpose of this group would be to establish if there are assets or land holdings in the parish which might be acquired and run by a CLT to the benefit of the community. The group would also undertake to find out about government funding for such a scheme and how it would be administered.

### **7. Reduce existing light pollution**

The current excessive car park illumination at Benenden Hospital, lighting at Benenden School and outside Benenden Village Hall until late into the night is contrary to the express wish of the parish for ‘dark skies’, and is the cause of local grievance. Negotiations should be undertaken by the Parish Council to see if the lighting could be timed or set to switch off earlier in the evening.

### **9. Renewable Energy and Local Recycling**

Engage with businesses to assess the potential for renewable energy and local recycling.

### **10. Increased Connectivity**

Opportunities will continue to be sought to foster closer working relationships with and between all the village businesses and enterprises where it is beneficial to the community and the environment. An existing example of sympathetic and synergistic development is the community shop that has been developed and maintained as a joint project between the Parish Council and Benenden School

## **12. Utilise Data Gathered in Researching the BNDP**

Ensure that data gathered as a part of the plan process, for example, sources of financing and creative development schemes are rolled out to interested parties in site specific meetings