

Tennis Courts alongside.

The existing football pitch would have a jogging track laid around it, whilst an area at the northern end of the field would be converted into a BMX bicycle and skateboard area. The Council will seek grant aid to allow these facilities to be provided.

Youth Facilities

The need for youth facilities in the villages is very apparent from the recent village appraisal. When asked, "which crimes and antisocial behaviour concern you", 69% of the population stated "Youth problems". This concern rates very closely with *Vandalism* (70%), thus demonstrating a major need to provide our youth with facilities to both occupy and stimulate them. This was further demonstrated when 69% stated that more activities for young people were needed in the villages.

At the time of the appraisal, the only youth facility was the Church Youth Club, but in the youth section of the appraisal, 88% said that a non-religious youth club was required, and 69% said they would attend such a club. To accommodate this request a new youth club was set up in March 2002, sponsored by the Parish Council, and managed by a committee, which reports to the Parish Council.

It is proposed to develop the facilities at the club to include snooker/pool, table tennis, football, music (CD/cassette player), TV, Video player, drinks, snacks, BBQs etc. and that the club will be run by a committee, consisting of the two Youth Leaders and six youth club members.

(This meets with the request from the appraisal in which 58% wanted a club run by Youth Workers and a committee.)

The committee will oversee requests for activities, facilities, application for membership, complaints and other aspects involved in the day to day running of the club. The Youth Leaders will report to the Management committee. In time it is hoped that more evening meetings can be provided, and possibly a clubroom, or an outside shelter to act as a meeting point.

The club members will also be able to use the sportsfield facilities as they are developed and it is expected that this will accommodate some of the other youth requests, *Tennis* (50%), *Football* (46%), *Five a Side Football* (43%), *Basketball* (39%) and *Cricket* (25%). However, as these are mainly team sports the major stumbling block will be finding sufficient willing adults to run the teams/clubs.

Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Plan

Consultation Document August 2002

The Planning section of this Plan is to be forwarded to Maidstone Borough Council for consideration as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Maidstone Plan

The aspirations contained in the remaining sections will be used to guide future actions of the Parish Council, and a series of action plans will be developed to implement them.

*Comment should be made as soon as possible,
to any Parish Councillor,
the Clerk to the Council (Ron Harrup 745571),
or the Chairman (Bob Bowker 843344)*

The Planning Section of this Plan
has been adopted by Maidstone Borough Council
as Supplementary Planning Guidance

January 2003

Planning development in the Parish

The Parish population is one of the largest in the area, surprisingly even larger than Sutton Valence. It is largely concentrated in the village centre of Kingswood. The outer areas consist of small farms, smallholdings and large plots with single dwellings, mainly bungalows. Bungalows also predominate in the village centre, although with smaller plots, but the open plan design continues the feeling of spaciousness and rural tranquility, reinforced by the fact that it is surrounded by woodland and is approached by narrow roads. The hamlet of Broomfield lies on one of these roads and has a number of listed buildings, (including Leeds Castle and St. Margaret's Church).

In general the atmosphere in the Parish is of spacious, quiet, villages well separated by woodland from each other and main roads, a state that must be maintained, for example by discouraging ribbon development along the outlying roads.

In the appraisal questionnaire the environment and the situation were considered the most important attributes of the Parish, with 95% feeling that the woods should be protected, and strong support for hedges and open spaces.

78% of the respondents felt that new housing would spoil the environment, and 75% that no further homes were needed, but that if any were built they should be small family homes,

no larger than two or three bedrooms, or accommodation for young people, preferably as conversions of redundant buildings or single houses in controlled locations.

In the past ten years, development in the Parish has been exclusively of large executive style homes, with none of the small family homes preferred in the appraisal. The village population is stable, the average occupant has lived there for 15 years, and as 19% are under 17, and 23% over 60, starter homes and sheltered accommodation will be needed, but none have been planned. Future development should consider these requirements.

Past planning applications in the Parish appear to have been considered in isolation, with no consideration of their cumulative impact. In future this should be considered. In particular, any infilling requires to be sympathetically designed so as not to detract from the general feeling of spaciousness.

Law and Order

Almost 70% of the village was concerned about theft, vandalism and youth crime, with 80% wishing for a greater police presence, and 95% wanting a local policeman shared with a few villages.

Although the Police are addressing these concerns by the creation of a Rural Task Force, there is a need for the provision of police personnel

dedicated to knowing the people, highways, byways and footpaths of the Parish, and to be present in the Parish on a regular basis. A provision of one policeman to three or four villages would go a long way to meet this requirement, and would be a more effective use of the personnel in the Rural Task Force, and of Area Co-ordinators (who currently oversee 19 villages), without taking any more manpower. This is particularly relevant to the control of youth crime, damage to property and the harassing of various elderly inhabitants.

Transport & The Environment

60% of the residents supported the introduction of a 20mph limit in the two villages, with 75% regarding speeding as a serious problem. 60% also wished to see the provision of a footpath to the sportsfield.

The inner core of Kingswood village to be subject to a 20 mph speed limit, the "core" being that area bounded by Lenham Road, Gravelly Bottom Road (to its junction with Broomfield Road) and Broomfield Road (to the sign "Kingswood"). The 20 mph limit will apply to the Broomfield Road and to Gravelly Bottom Road, where they bound the core. It will not apply to Lenham Road.

That stretch of Broomfield Road between The Len and Upper Street Cottages to be subject to a 20 mph speed limit.

20 mph zones will be supported by the appropriate "calming" and enforcement measures.

That stretch of Gravelly Bottom Road between its junction with Broomfield Road and the Parish boundary (or to its junction with Pit Lane in Langley) to be subject to a 30 mph speed limit. In addition the 30 mph speed limit be extended from the end of Lenham Road, along Chartway Street, to the junction with Duckpond Land.

A secure footpath be provided from Kingswood centre to the sportsfield.

A footpath to be provided adjacent to the Broomfield Road between Kingswood and The Len.

The condition of roads in the villages to be checked continuously. Areas in poor condition to be identified and a report made to the appropriate highways authority for action on repairs. These actions to be monitored and recorded.

A dedicated bus service to be provided travelling along the Sutton Road to Maidstone.

Sports Facilities

In the Appraisal results, the provision of Tennis facilities was the most popular choice with 50% of the youth respondents, and 27% of the adults, with Football and Cricket being other popular choices. With adults the most popular choice was Bowls, whilst for youth, Basketball was almost as popular as football.

The current Sportsfield Committee have a draft design proposal to develop the facilities on the existing sportsfield by the provision of a permanent clubhouse with changing rooms and showers, with hard surface