

BAYLHAM NEWS

Issue No 13 | October 2023

Veteran Trees

The recent felling of the Sycamore Gap Tree prompted much anger and an outpouring of appreciation for trees throughout the nation. It brings into focus how we all have trees that have a special place in our hearts. Baylham is no exception. There are lots of interesting trees in the parish, some of which might be of special interest to different people.

The veteran tree survey identifies the largest trees in the parish and we shall continue work on this over the coming months - if you would like to help with this work, please do get in touch.

As in previous years, there are tree and hedgerow packs which are available, funded by the Woodland Trust and Suffolk County Council. If you haven't already contacted me, but are interested, or would like more information, do get in touch.

treewardenjames@btinternet.com

Diary Dates

Village Hall

Coffee Mornings 1st Saturday of the month. All Welcome.

Saturday 3rd December - we will be joined by our local MP Dr Dan Poulter.

Quiz Night

Saturday Nov 25th 7.00 for 7.30pm

Have a look at Facebook or the posters around the village for full details of this very popular evening. Tickets need to be bought by 20th November from Wendy 01473 830615.

Christmas/New Year Party

December 29th.

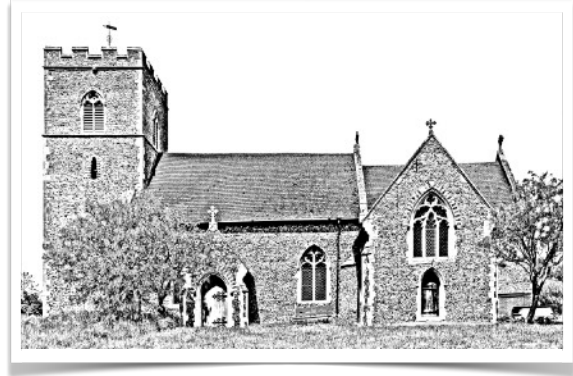
Details to follow

St Peter's Church

Friends and PCC

Upcoming Services

At present we hold two services a month in St Peter's. Every 2nd Wednesday, Morning Prayer, 8.30am and a Sunday Service every 4th Sunday at 4pm. For further information, and if you are interested in joining the Friends Group, please contact Ann Williams on 01473 830316.



Parish Council Chairman's Report

Neighbourhood Plan

This is an important project for our Parish, and we now have a preliminary timetable of events. Most of this newsletter will therefore be devoted to outlining where we are and where we are going. Thanks go to Jim White who leads the project for us.

Council Meeting October 2023

The agenda, minutes and presentations can be found on the village web site.

I am pleased to inform you that we now have all the positions on the council filled and welcome Paul Scarff and Nick Berry to the group.

Paul was coopted at our July meeting, is now retired but in previous lives was a police instructor and worked for MSDC in the Planning and Enforcement department.

Nick was coopted last week and, I guess, is well known to you as Chair of the Village Hall Committee and was Secretary to our Parish Meeting. Nick is still 'touring' around the world working to keep the Apache helicopters at Wattisham battle ready.



Baylham Neighbourhood Plan - Update October 2023.

It is pleasing to report some progress at last albeit the process remains rather slow!

Funding

At our last Parish Council meeting in July we had only heard a day or so before that the Government had finally released funds for the current financial year to help councils prepare Neighbourhood Plans. The announcement was prompt

ed after some lobbying by our MP who we tackled on the issue at the July Coffee Morning.

This has enabled our consultant, Ian Poole from Places4People Planning Consultancy, to prepare our funding application. Part of which was identifying and securing quotes from specialists able to research, prepare and present surveys on local biodiversity, landscape and heritage assets. The application was submitted on 14th September. Expecting some longer delay we were pleasantly surprised to receive approval a week later.

This brings us £9932 as a first slice of funding and will pay for the specialists' reports and some of the consultant's fees. Once this has been spent we are eligible to apply for up to a further £8,000 to cover further costs.

Technical Support

In addition to this we are eligible for technical support in preparing the design guidance section of the Neighbourhood Plan. This is not a direct cash grant but the government agency dealing with Neighbourhood Planning appoints a specialist organisation to work for us to produce the guidance. We have had a first introductory/ exploratory 'Zoom' meeting with them.

Why Specialist Studies & Technical Support

So, what does all this mean? There is a general agreement amongst residents as to what we like about the village. However, it is not sufficient just to say it's nice we want to keep it how it is.

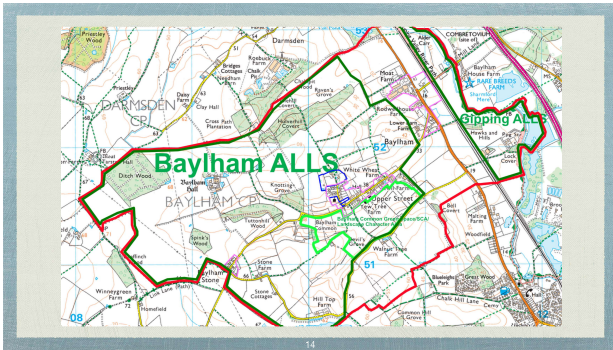
We have to justify and provide evidence to support any statements we put in the Plan. If we want to protect a landscape or view, restrict or allow development or put anything else in the Plan we have to show why it is important, what value it has and any relevant historic or ecological issues. This is why the specialist reports are important as we do not, ourselves, have the expertise to produce them.

The reports will then, hopefully, give us the evidence we need to protect what we value about the village and how we might influence any future development. We will have the opportunity to brief the specialists so have been looking at what residents have told us so far through the consultation exercises to identify the views and landscapes, buildings & structures and their settings (which are not already listed) that the village generally feels are worth protecting.

All of this then feeds into the writing of a draft plan which will be presented to everyone in the village for discussion and comment.

Key Issues

To give you some idea and get you thinking, some maps and photos covering some of the issues are available to view on the village web site in the Neighbourhood Plan section. The following thumbnails indicate what to look out for.



The lines on the map are illustrative only in order to draw out views and ideas. They do not represent any firm proposals.

Things to consider are:

- Which views/ landscapes should be protected?
- Which non-listed buildings and structures and their settings ought to be preserved?
- Which areas should constitute any 'Green Spaces', 'Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity' (formerly 'Special Landscape Areas') and 'Special Character Areas' (ex 'Visually Important Open Spaces')?
- Where should the settlement boundaries be drawn?

Coming back to a design statement, this is to provide guidance on the appearance of buildings, not only their scale and materials but their settings and associated works eg boundary treatment, landscaping etc. to ensure any development is sympathetic to the area. It will not dictate what we as individuals can and can't do in relation to our own homes. It will only apply where planning permission has to be sought. Any guidance developed will be subject to full consultation along with the rest of the Plan.

We are still very much in the consultation phase, so if you have a particular view on any of these issues please let us know. We would welcome your input.

What next & timescale?

- Specialist studies can now start and are likely to take about 2 months.
- Developing design guidance, approximately 3 months to completion
- Contents of these reports need to be considered and a draft plan drawn up – early New Year.
- 6 week consultation period following publication of draft plan.
- Review and any revisions in light of the consultation.
- Plan submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council June 2024 for scrutiny, verification and their approval.

The process is then in the hands of MSDC and may take 5 months from submission to the date it fixes for the residents referendum, so quite possibly the end of next year before we actually have the NP adopted.

If you have any questions or views on any aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan, would like further information or wish to comment on any of the issues raised above please e-mail us at baylhampc@gmail.com or speak to any Parish Councillor.

Jim White