



Report ABPC/23/009

To: Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.

Date: 11 September 2023

Status: Public Report

Subject: Business Plan

1. **SUMMARY:**

This report brings to the Parish Council a draft proposal for its business plan for the period 2023/2027.

2. **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION.**

The Parish Council is required to be open and transparent in the way it works, the plan sets out proposals together with an indication as to possible timescales for various projects to be taken forward.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/23/009.**
2. **To receive and acknowledge the draft business plan.**

4. **INTRODUCTION:**

A number of projects have been suggested for the Parish Council to take forward these have been incorporated into an action plan which indicates potential cost implications to the Parish Council's budget and will in turn determine whether the project is a short, medium or long term matter.

The Parish Council is asked to consider the proposals and determine the priority order for the projects. A biodiversity proposal drawn up by Led By the Wild for the area surrounding the pond is attached.

5. **CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS.**

If you have any queries about this report please contact the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council Tel.: 07928453208 or email: clerk@abpc.org.uk prior to the meeting.

Business/Action Plan 2023 / 2027

Introduction

This plan sets out what the Parish Council would like to do over the period until the next Parish Council elections in 2027. The plan considers the issues facing us and our ability to respond with the resources available. It makes clear that there are choices to be made and how the Council will decide which to prioritise.

Context

It is acknowledged that all organisations that provide services to the community, be they public, private or voluntary are facing cost pressures and resource restrictions. The emphasis is on value for money, efficiency, collaboration and accepting that some things just will not get done. Through a planning process, we can have a shared vision and direction, protect what is important and consider new ways of getting things done.

What is a Parish Council?

The Parish Council is a small local authority. Its councillors are elected every four years at a time in the same way as for other councils. In May each year the councillors choose a chairperson from amongst their number. In Aldington and Bonnington, there are seven councillors representing Aldington and two councillors representing Bonnington who make up the Parish Council, which employs a part-time clerk to manage administration.

What can we do?

Powers and Duties

Parish Councils have a number of formal powers, set out in a wide range of legislation. A duty is something that a council must do, a power is something that it may do, if it so decides. A Parish Council cannot do anything that is not permitted in law.

What do we want to do next?

The table below sets out the Action plan:

| No | Issue | Action | Lead partners | Resource implications | Timescale |
|----|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Neighbourhood Plan | Continue with plan to completion and adoption | NDP Team & ABPC | Covered by grant funding | |
| 2 | Highways Improvement Plan | Junction of Calleywell Lane/Roman Road, and footpath to post office | Kent Highways | No cost to ABPC | Works planned by Kent Highways w/c 13/11/23 |
| 3 | Biodiversity | Draw up policy | ABPC | | |
| 4 | Quarry Field and Pond | Establish wildlife corridor behind the pond | ABPC & Led by the wild | Minimal cost | By November 23 |
| 5 | Quarry Wood | Complete woodland management plan prior to determining the works to be carried out | ABPC & Forestry Commission | Minimal cost to draw up management plan/ staff time | By November 23 |
| 6 | Bus shelter, Roman Road | Undertake survey of bus shelter to consider repair/replacement | ABPC + handyman | Potential cost of repairs/ replacement | By November 23 |
| 7 | Meadows Recreation Area | Replace Under 11's play area | ABPC | £48,000 | |
| | | Install 11+ play area | ABPC | £54,000 | |
| | | MUGA | ABPC | £150,000 | |
| 8 | Tree Avenue | Plant avenue of trees between Reynolds Playing Field and Quarry Field | ABPC | Minimal cost | |
| 9 | All weather footpath | Create an all-weather footpath around the perimeter of Quarry Field | ABPC | £50,000 | |
| 10 | Defibrillators | Consider the purchase of defibrillators for installation at Bonnington and Aldington Frith | ABPC | £1,800 if power source available £9,000 if solar powered cabinet | |
| | | | | | |

Aldington Pond and Meadow



Suggested plan:

Led by the wild would be happy to try and meadow these areas marked in red and happy to donate yellow rattle seed from our own stock. All of the areas would need to be cut and grass cutting removed. We would need to be put in contact with whoever maintains this area to discuss mowing and management of path and boundaries to meadow. We think it may be useful to have some kind of boundary marker between field and meadow whilst it establishes. We suggest low posts and a rope, with a path wide enough for disabled access.

Are the parish council able to supply a budget for plug plants, this would be the quickest way of establishing the meadow. All needs to be ideally sown in the next few months.

We will happily work with the parish council to recruit local volunteers to support and would seek to engage the school in biodiversity monitoring.