

Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Community Consultation



Inside this booklet you will find four questionnaires
from your Parish Council:

1. Traffic Plan
2. Neighbourhood Plan
3. "Bromley Bulletin"
- 4 Burial Ground

We would be grateful if you could spend a few
minutes completing them. The opinions you give will
help determine the village's future.

Completed booklets can be returned to:

- Top Shop, Abbots Bromley
- School House, School House Lane (red letter box
on wall next to gate)
- Antlers Coffee Shop, Market Place

Alternatively you can complete online by going to the
Abbots Bromley Parish Council website.



QUESTIONNAIRE 1

A TRAFFIC PLAN FOR ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH

By far the most common complaints we receive are those relating to traffic and parking.

Despite meetings with Staffordshire Highways and District Councillors to discuss our traffic problems, it does not seem they will be addressed with the exception of the B5013 Rugeley Turn. The Parish Council has decided, therefore, to try a different approach and put together its own traffic plan on behalf of residents.

There are recommended steps for doing this, and it may take 2-3 years to complete. One of the first steps is to form a working group which should include councillors, local residents, business representatives and key stakeholders.

Many residents have expressed concerns over the volume of traffic, the speed of traffic through the village and elsewhere in the parish, the weight of traffic, and parking issues such as parking on double yellows or in “pull in” places in the lanes.

ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH TRAFFIC PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Could you please complete the following questionnaire. Without a good response rate we will not be able to proceed with our Traffic Plan because, in keeping with the regulations, it needs the support of the community.

Please circle your responses.

1) Traffic Speed:

- Do you have concerns about traffic speed? **YES NO**
- Has excessive traffic speed affected you personally? **YES NO**
- Are there particular areas of the village/parish where you feel measures to reduce traffic speed are particularly needed? **YES NO**

If your answer is “yes”, could you list those areas below?

.....

.....

- There is a range of measures that could be used to reduce traffic speed. From the list below, **please circle up to three** that you would favour:

Chicane

Right-in/right-out movement restriction

SID vehicle speed feedback sign

Speed reduction markings

Flashing beacons

Pedestrian crossing

Raised traffic island

Speed humps (sleeping policemen)

Speed cushions (rumble strips)

A raised area of road

Enhanced speed limit signage

Police speed detection device (which records registration numbers)
20mph speed limits

2) Traffic weight/size

- Do you have concerns about the weight or size of some vehicles? **YES**
NO
- If “yes” is there anywhere in particular in the parish?

.....
.....

- What is the reason for your concern?
-
.....

3) Parking

- Do you feel parking is a problem? **YES**
NO

If “yes” please answer the following three questions:

- In what way is it a problem? (eg pedestrian safety; congestion; obstructing driveways and entrances; obstructing the line-of-sight of other motorists etc)

.....
.....

- Is there anywhere in particular you have in mind?

.....
.....

- Can you suggest any solutions?

.....
.....

- Should action be taken against motorists for parking on footways, double yellows, pedestrian crossing zig-zags, and bus stops (apart from those who have a legal right to park there)? **YES NO**

4) Parking provision for domestic properties

Many older properties, particularly in the main street of Abbots Bromley, do not have off-road parking. The following questions relate only to new builds and alterations to current housing.

- Would you like to see planning consent refused if adequate off-road parking is not provided? (ESBC has a formula for establishing what “adequate” would be.) **YES NO**
- Would you like our Neighbourhood Plan amended to prevent alterations to existing properties reducing off-road parking to what ESBC would consider inadequate? **YES NO**

- Should all new builds be required to provide sufficient space for vehicles to turn round in order to enter and exit the property in a forward gear? **YES NO**
- Should all new builds accessed directly from a main road be required to provide sufficient space for a delivery vehicle to turn round in order to enter and exit a property in a forward gear? **YES NO**

5) YOUR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

If you would like to add comments to explain any of your answers to the above questions, please do so here.

There is an opportunity for you to contribute ideas that may help our Traffic Plan.

If you would like to be part of the Traffic
Plan Working Group (no experience
necessary - just a little free time) then
please contact the Parish Clerk
(parish.council@abbotsbromley.com) or
Cllr Keith Baker
(kbakerabpc@gmail.com)

**Without your support
the Traffic Plan will
not proceed.**

QUESTIONNAIRE 2

ABBOTS BROMLEY

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (REVIEW)



Any new development - whether residential, commercial or industrial - will have an impact on things like demography, the built and the natural environment, education, public health, and transport.

Our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was written to control these things in the village's best interests. Abbots Bromley's Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was adopted in February 2023 but was actually drafted almost two years prior to that. It states what type of housing is needed to make Abbots Bromley sustainable, and also has policies relating to the impact housing development will have - policies such as Design and Heritage; Dwellings, Employment, and Community; Natural and Green Environment; and Transport and Infrastructure.

Since it was first drafted, though, things may have changed.

This is your opportunity to let us know whether the current NP meets today's needs.

Keith Baker

Our NP policies are set out below:

DAH1: Sustainable Design and Character

1. New development must be well-designed, sustainable and maintain the distinctive identity of Abbots Bromley, meeting the following requirements of this policy proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposed development:

a) In order to create a satisfying relationship between built and open areas, the existing character of the village and the immediate context of the development site must respect the surroundings in terms of scale, massing, height, distance of setback from the road, design and character, and materials.

b) "Active" frontages (elevations with windows and doors) must be provided to road facing elevations, to provide natural surveillance.

c) High quality and durable materials, in keeping with the surrounding built environment, must be used. Use of locally sourced materials is highly encouraged, as is use of reclaimed materials.

d) Public realm designated areas should be complemented through effective 'placemaking' schemes that ensure high quality streets, with traditional landscape as an integral part of the design, and the creation of an inclusive, safe and convenient environment for residents to undertake a range of social activities.

e) Design accounting for the specific site and context is required. Layout and form must respond to local features within and adjacent to sites including local topography, landscape and water features, trees and plants, views, wildlife habitats, existing buildings and microclimate.

f) Front boundaries comprising hedges or historic brick walls or railings should be retained as part of any new development. New front boundary treatments must complement the existing character of the area, based on the use of low brick walls or hedges.

g) All designs for new homes or commercial premises must include features and materials which actively reduce the impact of carbon emissions.

2. Development on the edge of the village must incorporate planting and landscape design to create a natural transition between urban and rural areas. Hard boundary treatments such as high walls and fences must be set back and be screened by suitable landscaping.

3. Creative and innovative design solutions will be considered, especially where they incorporate high environmental protection performance.

DAH2: Extensions

1. Extensions to existing residential, commercial and community properties must:
 - a) complement and not dominate existing buildings.
 - b) not cause any significant adverse impact on the amenities of adjacent properties.
 - c) maintain adequate functional garden space for residential properties.

DAH3: Abbots Bromley Conservation Area

1. Development should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Abbots Bromley Conservation Area, including:
 - a) avoiding harm or loss of mature trees and hedges;
 - b) in the main street, complement the predominant townscape characteristics based on the strong sense of enclosure and definition created by building frontages;
 - c) avoiding harm or loss to buildings and structures that contribute to the special architectural or historic interest of the area.
2. In exceptional circumstances, where the removal of trees or hedges is justified, replacement trees or hedges must be provided to create a similar level of amenity and to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

DEC1: Residential Development

1. Residential development will be supported within the existing settlement boundary or otherwise in accordance with the development plan subject to Local Plan Policy SP8.
 - a) Development must address the identified local need in terms of the mix and type of sizes of accommodation. The accommodation must predominantly include a mix of the following:
 - smaller housing and First Homes (1-2 bedrooms)
 - homes affordable for young families (3-bedrooms)
 - housing suitable for the elderly, with a mix of market-value and social housing
 - b) Any affordable housing provision should focus on these types of housing.
 - c) Proposals for bungalows and smaller terraced housing will be supported.
 - d) Housing infill development for gaps in existing frontages must have no significant adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties.
 - e) New housing within existing domestic garden space will only be supported where the existing dwelling would maintain adequate functional garden space and where adequate functional garden space would be provided also for the new dwelling(s). Development in historically important garden spaces, such as burgage plots, will not be supported.
 - f) Self-build schemes, co-housing and other community-led housing projects that meet the local need, whilst satisfying all the requirements of this policy are encouraged.
 - g) Housing internal layouts should be flexible to meet changing needs including home working.

DEC2: Employment, Tourism and Community Facilities

1. Employment (Use Class E), tourist facilities and community facilities will be supported, subject to there being no significant adverse impact on the amenities of residential properties by reason of noise, vibration, disturbance, dust, noxious fumes or other impacts.
2. Development involving the loss of existing community facilities will be supported only where similar or better facilities are provided within reasonable walking distance, or it can be demonstrated that such facilities are no longer needed.
3. The use of brownfield sites to effect this policy would be supported.

DEC3: Former Abbots Bromley School Site

1. Any development on the former Abbots Bromley School Site must be based on the following principles:

- a) New housing and employment development as part of the scheme must be within the settlement boundary, but associated open space could be outside the boundary.
- b) A mix of uses must be provided. This may include housing that meets the requirements of Policy DEC1, but must also include the retention or replacement of community use facilities within the site, as well as the creation of new employment opportunities, which could include new small independent retail uses.
- c) The listed school buildings and other buildings of townscape merit must be retained and refurbished as a key element of development, thereby maintaining their contribution to the special architectural or historic interest of the conservation area.
- d) Existing open space, including recreational space, must be retained, or replaced by a similar or better level and quality of provision elsewhere in the site.
- e) Trees and hedges should be retained in the interest of development being in keeping with the village environment.

NGE1: Natural Environment

1. New development must have no significant adverse impact on the open rural landscape of the parish and its wildlife and ecology. In particular, this includes consideration of impacts on natural features:

- a) The landscape setting of Abbots Bromley village.
- b) The River Blithe and its setting.
- c) Other watercourses.
- d) Blithfield Reservoir and its setting and local ponds.
- e) Bagot Wood ancient woodland and its setting, including Bagot Park.
- f) Duckley Wood plantation.
- g) Other woods, trees and hedges.
- h) The Clump.
- i) The Staffordshire Way and other footpaths and bridleways.
- j) Species rich grassland.

2. Development should provide diversity net gain so that any habitat lost or damaged is adequately mitigated with additional habitat also being provided.

3. Features to support wildlife and nature are encouraged such as bat bricks, bird and owl boxes and hedgehog runs.

NGE2: Drainage and Flooding

1. Driveways and other hard standing surfaces within a development should be water permeable.

2. The extent of hard standing should be minimized, in the interest of regulating temperatures, and to support the drainage of surface water.

TIN1: Sustainable Transport Provision

1. Development likely to generate car trips must include a balanced provision of transport and parking options, meeting the requirements of this policy, proportionate to the scale and nature of the scheme.

TIN2: Transport Impacts

1. Where highway infrastructure works are necessary to enable development to take place, they must be designed so as to preserve or enhance the rural and historic character of the area, including rural lanes.

TIN3: Local Energy Schemes

1. Renewable and low carbon energy schemes will be supported, provided there is no significant adverse impact on the amenities of nearby residential properties or businesses, or on the rural or historic environment. This includes visual impacts.

TIN4: Broadband

1. New development must include high speed broadband provision, or, for its successor so as to be ready when local services undergo upgrade.

**The Parish Council feels the time is right to
review our NP policies.**

What works? What needs amending? What needs adding? What needs deleting?

For example, you may feel that, with our current parking problems, Policy DAH2 (extensions to properties) ought to have an additional statement to the effect that adequate off-street parking should be maintained for properties that already have that facility.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document agreed by the majority of the residents in the parish. We are therefore asking you for your thoughts about any changes to our NP.**

**** Please note: We have been informed that relatively minor changes to *existing* policies will not necessitate another referendum.**

Because of cost implications, the Parish Council will not, at this time, seek to add *new* policies.

QUESTIONNAIRE 2

THE ABBOTS BROMLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Please read the current Neighbourhood Plan (NP) policies (above) which are also available to view on the Parish Council's website (where the policies are written in **bold type**).

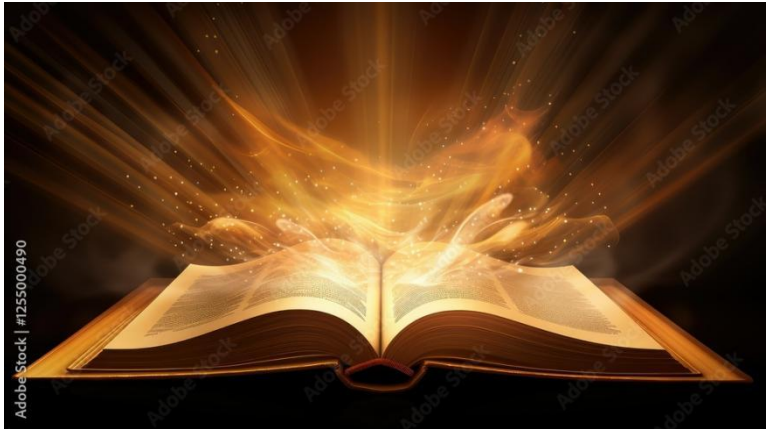
For any changes to the Neighbourhood Plan to be made, we need to prove they have the support of the community.

Please circle your responses

- Are you familiar with our Neighbourhood Plan? **YES NO PARTLY**
- Do you think the NP does enough to protect the village **YES NO NOT SURE**
- Do you think ESBC's planners support our NP through their planning decisions? **YES NO DON'T KNOW**

- Would you support a restriction on the power of new outside lights in order to help protect nocturnal habits of wildlife and to help prevent nuisance to neighbours? (The Environmental Protection Act 1990 recommends a max of 2250 lumens for a security light) **YES NO NOT SURE**
- Would you support a requirement to replace felled trees in our conservation area? **YES NO NOT SURE**
- Would you support an extension to the village settlement boundary in order to allow more housing development? **YES NO NOT SURE**
- Would you prefer new buildings/extensions to mirror the surroundings or to contrast? **MIRROR CONTRAST NOT SURE**
- Would you support a condition whereby new builds had to be wheelchair-user friendly (eg width of doorways and heights of some plug sockets)? **YES NO NOT SURE**
- What other amendments or additions would you like to make to the current NP? Please respond below.

QUESTIONNAIRE 3 ABOUT THE “BROMLEY BULLETIN”



The Parish Council’s “Bromley Bulletin” magazine went digital in April 2025, and paper copies were only delivered to those who had requested them.
The Parish Council would be interested in your thoughts about this change.

Please circle your responses to the questions.

- **Have you read “The Bromley Bulletin” before?**

Yes - every edition

Yes - a few editions

No - this is my first time

- **Ideally, how often would you like to receive the “Bromley Bulletin”?**

Once a year

Twice a year

3-4 times a year

Never - I think it should stop

- **What do you like reading most? (Choose your top two)**

Adverts for upcoming events

Richard Clarke School report

Abbots Bromley Surgery report

Planning information and advice

Nature Corner

Farming News

WI report

Other

- **Why is receiving the “Bromley Bulletin” important to you?**

It keeps me informed about parish matters

It helps me feel connected to our community

It is something to look forward to

It’s not important

- **How do you feel about the move to a digital version?**

Unhappy - I’d prefer a paper copy

Pleased - I prefer the digital version

I don’t read the “Bromley Bulletin”.

- If you opted for April's digital version, how were you made aware it was available?

I saw a notice on social media

I was told by someone

I chanced to see it when looking at the Parish Council's website

I received an email

I was unaware it was available

- If you prefer the digital version would you be prepared to subscribe to a Parish Council social media site in order to receive an email whenever a new "Bromley Bulletin" is published?

Yes

Maybe

No

- Any other comments you wish to add?

QUESTIONNAIRE 4

A NEW BURIAL GROUND

St Nicholas Church's grave yard is almost full for burials, although there is still some room for the interment of ashes.

The Parish Council has been offered a plot of land about a mile from the village centre. Of course this land may or may not be acceptable to our planning authority.

If it was deemed suitable it might have to be run by the Parish Council, in which case the cost of running it would come from burial fees.

- When the time came would you wish to be buried in a site just outside the village? (The alternative would be the municipal cemetery in Uttoxeter. Despite appeals from your Parish Council there have been no other offers of land closer to the village centre.)

Yes

No

(Please circle your answer)

The Abbots Bromley Parish Council
is most grateful to you for
completing these questionnaires.

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- School House, School House
Lane (red post box on wall next to gate)

Alternatively you can download this booklet
from the Abbots Bromley Parish Council's
website (abbotsbromley.com) and email a
completed copy to:

Parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

The next edition of "The Bulletin" is
expected to be available in
August/September.

