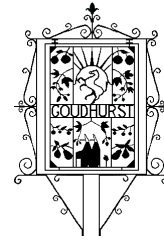


Goudhurst Parish Council



Meeting of the Parish Council 12th August 2025

MEETING
12 August 2025 19:30 BST

PUBLISHED
6 August 2025

Goudhurst Parish Council



To: Members of Goudhurst Parish Council

I summon you to Meeting of Goudhurst Parish Council on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start in The Church Rooms, Back Lane, where business detailed on this agenda will be discussed. At 7.15pm, members of the public are invited to speak with Councillors, but the meeting will officially start at 7.30pm.

Members of the Public and the Press are welcome to attend this meeting and to ask questions or raise issues of local interest during the 7.15pm to 7.30pm session. Thereafter they are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the Meeting; members of the public are not permitted to speak during the remainder of the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1. Please note, Council cannot lawfully decide on items of business not specified on the published agenda although the Chairman may decide to refer any issues raised for further discussion (LGA 1972 Sch 12, 10 (2)(b)).

Please inform the Clerk, if you intend to film or record the Meeting.

Katrina Hoyle
Clerk to Goudhurst Parish Council
6th August 2025

Parish Council Office – 3 Fountain House, High Street, Goudhurst, KENT. TN17 1AL
01580 212552 | <https://goudhurst-pc.gov.uk>

Quorum for Council: 4 Members

Agenda

Location
The Church Rooms, Back Lane, Goudhurst.

Date
12 Aug 2025

Time
19:30 BST

	Item	Page
	7.15pm - prior to the start of the meeting. Questions and comments from members of the press and public.	-
	This is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or raise issues of local interest. Thereafter they are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the Meeting (members of the public are not permitted to speak during the remainder of the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1. Please note, Council cannot lawfully decide on items of business not specified on the published agenda although the Chairman may decide to refer any issues raised for further discussion (LGA 1972 Sch 12 10 (2)(b)).	-
1	To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given.	-
2	Declarations of Interest	-
3	To approve and sign as a correct record the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th July and available to members prior to the meeting via Board Intelligence.	5
	Members are reminded that only issues relating to material accuracy can be discussed.	-
4	To receive reports from County and Borough Councillors (limited to 10 minutes in total).	-
5	RFO Report	9
5.1	To resolve to approve payments for July 2025.	-
5.2	To appoint to Councillors to approve payments	-
5.3	To agree Committee Chairs to meet PC Office and set dates to review Committee priorities for 26/27	-
6	Resolutions	-
6.1	To resolve to appoint a Solicitor to undertake the land registration of Tattlebury Triangle	-
6.2	To resolve to adopt the Planning Process Policy as recommended by the Planning Committee.	11
7	To receive an update on projects in 2024/25 and decide any further action	36
8	To discuss the correspondence from Mike Martin MP and decide further action	38
9	To discuss launch event for the new village facilities	-
10	To agree to start the co-option process for a new Parish Councillor and agree dates	-
11	To nominate a new Councillor for Goudhurst Village Hall representative	-
12	Council to note the minute of the following Committees and the decisions made	-
13	Planning Decisions	40
14	Chairman's Report	-

	Item	Page
15	Clerk's Report	41
16	Correspondence	-
16.1	Update from the Scouts	44
17	Items for information	-
18	Date of next Meeting 9th September 2025, 7.15 for 7.30 start at The Church Rooms.	-

Goudhurst Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOUDHURST PARISH COUNCIL on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7.30pm in Church Rooms Back Lane

PARTICIPANTS

Councillors present: Cllrs Craig Broom, Antony Harris, Phil Kirkby (Chairman), David Knight (Borough Councillor), Geoff Mason, Ed Read-Cutting, Caroline Richards, Edward Hodgskin, Paul Wareham

Others present: *None*

Officers present: Kat Hoyle (Clerk) Rebecca Barden (Asst. Clerk)

APOLOGIES

219/25 Apologies were received from Cllr Suzie Kember (poorly), Cllr Peter Rolington, (Away), Cllr Alison Webster (arriving late)

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

220/25 There were none.

REGISNATION

221/25 It was **noted** Edward Hodgskin resigned, due to relocation. Edward was thanked for his hard work on the Council and wished him all the best. The Notice for Casual Vacancy will be published on Friday 11th July and submitted to Tunbridge Wells Election Team

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

222/25 It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th June 025, copies of which had been previously distributed to Members via Board Intelligence, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

223/25 Cllr Claudine Russell sent in a written report which has been summarised. There remains a lack of formal policy direction at Kent County Council, and no committee meetings have taken place due to repeated cancellations, though the July timetable is expected to be the first adhered to by leadership. Training sessions have been attended on various topics, and meetings have been held with officers leading service areas. In the Cranbrook Division, recent engagement with highways officers appears to have reinvigorated progress on Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) priorities, and councillors are encouraged to continue providing updates to support this work. All S106 contributions from Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) have been collated and forwarded to the rural bus team to initiate discussions on how the funding might be used. Kent County Council planners have confirmed that a 20mph zone on Whites Lane may be requested through the reserved matters application at TWBC, although this will take time; additional signage can be installed separately to improve safety in the interim. A meeting with Police Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott led to

contact with the Business Crime Manager from the Tunbridge Wells Safe Town Partnership to explore support for local retailers in Cranbrook. Numerous resident enquiries have been addressed, and constituents seeking assistance should be directed to the councillor's email. A meeting outside the regular parish council schedule is welcomed to provide background on long-standing issues and to discuss current priorities. The Clerk is asked to arrange a meeting with the councillor, Phil, and Paul, and councillors should inform the Clerk if they wish to participate.

- 224/25 Borough Councillor David Knight shared there were no public updates to share and offered to take any questions to the Borough with regards to Local Government restructure. Cllr Antony Harris updated on the KALC meeting regarding the restructuring of Local Government and will send questions through to Clerk

ACCOUNTS

Resolutions

RFO Report

- 225/25 It was resolved to approve the payments for June 2025.
226/25 It was resolved to appoint Cllr Craig Broom and Caroline Richards to approve payments
227/25 It was agreed to set the budget process for the budget setting and set a Committee Chair Meeting date.
228/25 The budget setting was agreed and the Committee Chair date set for 29th July

Resolutions -

- 229/25 It was **resolved** to permit the memorial plaque on a bench in the Lower Glebe. Action: Assistant Clerk to write to the resident
230/25 It was **resolved** to approve the increase in Burial Fees as proposed by the Burial Authority
231/25 It was **resolved** to approve the changes to the Burial regulations as proposed by the Burial Authority
232/25 It was **resolved** to approve the terms of reference for the Finance committee

BIODIVERSITY POLICY

- 233/25 It was **resolved** to adopt the Biodiversity and Sustainability Policy as presented via email.

NEWSLETTER POLICY

- 234/25 It was agreed for Cllr Paul Wareham to create a template and share with the Parish Office.

ERGONOMIC REVIEW

- 235/25 It **agreed** for an ergonomic review of the office furniture to take place. Cllr David Knight will send contact information of a specialist to the office.

GOUDHURST PARISH IN BLOOM

- 236/25 It was **agreed** to approach the Kilndown Garden Society to request the possibility of them taking ownership. Cllr David Knight, Ed Read-Cutting and Paul Wareham to approach

237/25 Council noted the minutes of the following Committees and the decisions made:

BURIAL AUTHORITY

- It was agreed to propose an increase in burial fees of 3.5 % in line with the National consumer index
- It was agreed that the gates to St Mary's need to be removed and the Deputy Clerk is to advise the Reverend. It was also agreed that the gates to the Victorian Cemetery need replacing.
- It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk will liaise with the Contractor to ensure: -that the growth in the church wall is removed-that the bushes beside the steps to back lane are cut back -that the brambles and ivy in the yew trees are removed-the cutting of grass in the Victorian level is left at a higher level
- It was also agreed that the frequency of weed spraying on the ashes area be determined to enable the Burial Authority to compare the cost of weed spraying and hand pulling
- It was agreed quotes will be obtained to have dangerous headstones laid down and deep graves ruts filled, within the Victorian Cemetery
- It was agreed that the commonwealth graves should be identified and that maintenance be requested for these graves, if necessary, from the War Grave Society
- It was agreed that quotes should be obtained for metal signage to be placed in the burial ground using the wording recommended by Cllr Richards and with reference to the Council's biodiversity policy
- It was resolved to approve the quote of £177.50 from the Living Forest to trim back the overhanging branches in the Coleman enclosure
- A document detailing rights and obligations of the Burial Authority was circulated, and it was noted that the Victorian Cemetery may be suitable for the interment of ashes alongside the path. A proposal for a project to repair the pathway and in the Victorian cemetery and install memorial kerbstones in the Burial ground will be drawn and costed for inclusion in the 2025/26 budget
- It was agreed that the internment of ashes in the grave plot be approved for the current applicant. It was further agreed to update burial regulations to clarify that ashes can only be interned in burial plots if the grave is already in use and that the Deputy Clerk will write to lessees of plots where there may be an intention to place cremated remains in unused graves in the future. The amended regulations to be included in the July Full Council agenda for adoption

FINANCE AUTHORITY

- The grant application by GK church for the church room decking was rejected. It was felt that that the slippery issue could have been better resolved by a covering or regular maintenance with a solution and that there was no plan to ensure the new surface would not also become slippery over time

HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY

- Cllr Paul Wareham was unanimously elected as Chairman. Cllr Craig Broom was thanked for his work previously on the committee
- It was agreed for an amendment to be made to the Terms of Reference which Cllr Antony Harris will draft
- An update from the HIP was received. It was agreed for the Clerk to reply to the questions and update the contact information and return to KCC
- It was agreed for the suggestions and proposed upgrades to signage be submitted, as shared in the meeting pack, to be submitted to KCC

PLANNING DECISIONS

238/25 Members noted Planning Committee recommendations and TWBC decisions in 2025.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

239/25 The Chairman updated on plans for additional Christmas Lights as a combined project up the Highstreet. The Newsletter is planned for later this week in a new format.

CLERKS REPORT

240/25 Clerk reported the lower glebe upgrades had been well received, and the pavilion was due to be installed later that month. The Chequer field pavilion was also due to be painted.
Full report in the appendix

CORRESPONDENCE

241/25 There was none

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

242/25 There were none

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

243/25 The next Council Meeting is Tuesday 9th September at 7.30pm at The Church Rooms.

Meeting finished 9.15

K.Hoyle
Clerk

Goudhurst Parish Council

RFO report to Council

Accounts to 31/07/2025

These figures will be presented to Council at the August 2025
Council meeting.

Receipts UTB in July 2025

Garage Rents	640
Burials	2,709
	3,349

Receipts Instant Access in July 2025

Receipts CCLA in June 2025

Dividend payment	394
Total Receipts	
	3,743

Payments July 2025

UTB	8,709
CCLA	0
Total Payments	
	8,709

Cash Balances at Bank as at 31st July

UTB	7,469
CCLA (30.6.2025)	107,403
Instant Access	101,525
Current Balances	
	216,397

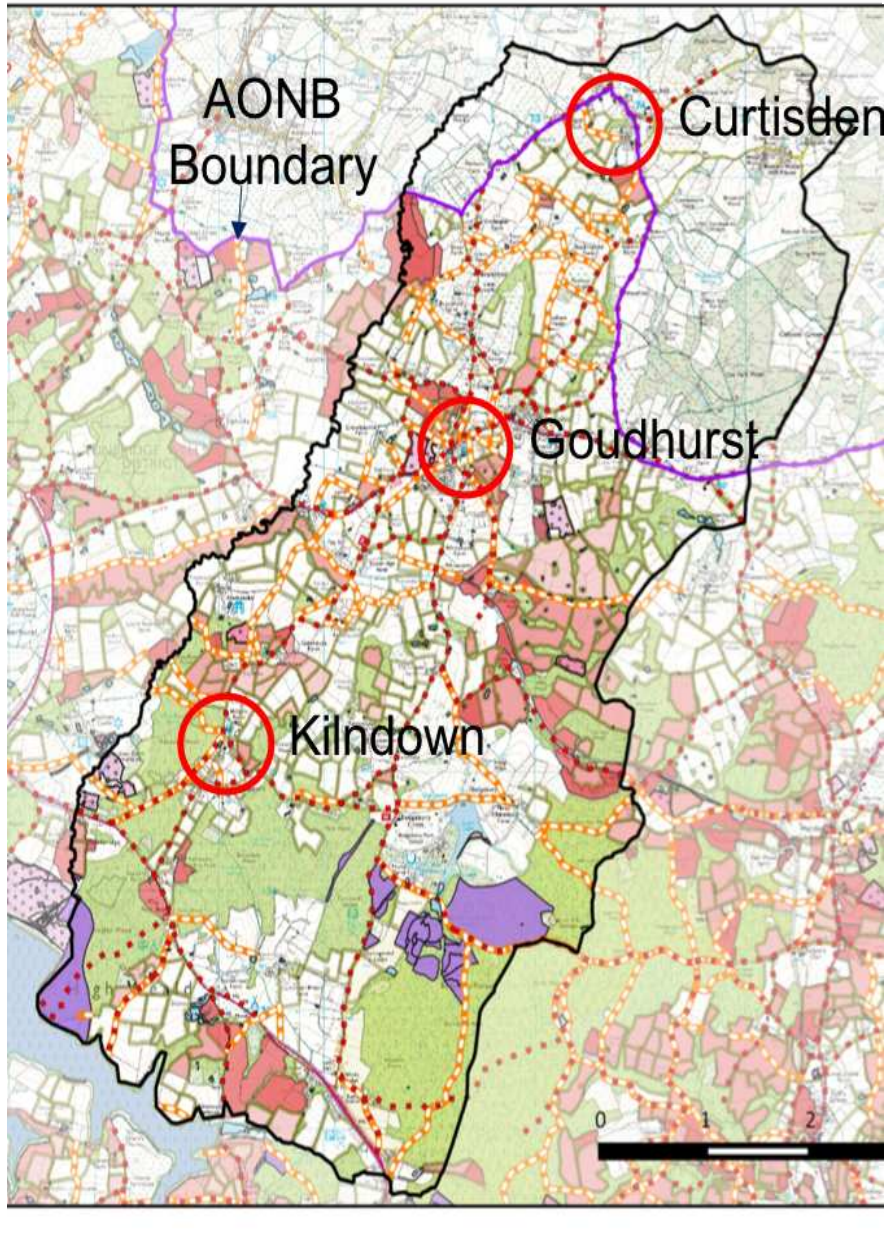
Accounts Payable to 31.07.2025 for authorisation

Payment Ref	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	Gross	Net
25150		Perinda Skilton	July office cleaning	80.00	80.00
25151		Envirocure		115.60	
	48013		L8 checks at CF Feb 25	77.10	64.25
	48707		Outstanding balance as £27.50 paid not £33	5.50	4.58
	49602		L8 Checks at CF	33.00	27.50
25152		GVH	Hop pickers Meeting 22/4	15.00	15.00
25153	252636	Capel Groundcare	Replacement hand rope for Back Lane Playground	214.43	178.69
25154	3444	F&C	Cleaning services to 8/7	742.80	619.00
25155	9357	Kalc	Annual subscription to 31.3.26	1,147.15	1,376.58
25156	2435	Reekie	Toilet repair CF	134.00	134.00
25157		Pearsons	Balance owing due to standing orders not matching invoices. Standing order amended.	741.40	617.83

Panetta Horn
Deputy Clerk and RFO
31st July 2025



Goudhurst Parish Council



Management of Planning in our Parish



Goudhurst Parish Council

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Goudhurst Parish Council

Document Summary:

This document outlines how Goudhurst Parish Council (GPC) engages with the planning process, including reviewing applications, influencing decisions, and monitoring enforcement. It aims to empower local voices and ensure sustainable development aligned with community values.

1 Introduction

- GPC reviews all planning applications submitted to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC).
- The GPC Planning Committee meets twice monthly.
- The document explains how residents can influence planning decisions and how GPC monitors enforcement.

2 GPC's Role in Planning

- GPC is a consultee, not a decision-maker.
- It reviews applications for local relevance, raises awareness, and flags anomalies.
- GPC can request that contentious applications be “called-in” for public discussion at TWBC Planning Committee meetings.

3 Determining Planning Applications

- Applications are judged against:
 - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
 - TWBC Local Plan
 - Goudhurst Neighbourhood Plan (NDP)
- Emphasis is on sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental.
- Only material planning considerations (e.g., design, traffic, biodiversity) are valid for objections.
- Non-material considerations (e.g., property value, personal motives, private views) are excluded.

4 Enforcement

- TWBC is responsible for enforcement; GPC monitors and escalates based on risk.
- Breaches are assessed using a risk matrix considering community and environmental impact.
- GPC budgets for professional advice in high-risk cases and shares findings with residents and TWBC.

Section 2 Introduction

*How local voices
can be heard
and have impact
in the planning
process*

1. There is a constant flow of planning applications submitted by residents and businesses across the Parish which vary in size, scale, ambition and impact. Every application in the Parish submitted to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) is reviewed by the Planning Committee of Goudhurst Parish Council (GPC).
2. The Planning Committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. There
3. This document details the Parish Councils role in the planning process and our approach to management of planning applications and planning enforcement. The document will detail:
 - The planning process and the role we play
 - How local voices can have an impact on decisions
 - How decisions are made and the rules that govern those decisions
 - Our role in monitoring of planning activity and planning enforcement

2.1 Supporting Documents

4. All planning applications are controlled by legislation set out in the following document:
5. [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#). The National Planning Policy Framework is a land-use planning policy in England. It was originally published by the UK's Department of Communities and Local Government in March 2012, consolidating over two dozen previously issued documents called Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance Notes for use in England. It has since been revised in 2018, 2019, 2021, twice in 2023 and once in 2024
6. [Town and Country Planning Act](#). The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom regulating the development of land in England and Wales. It is a central part of English land law in that it concerns town and country planning in the United Kingdom. Repealed in parts by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, it is now also complemented by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
7. [TWBC Local Plan](#). The TWBC plan is under review but may not be updated prior to activities around unitary authorities in Kent.
8. [Goudhurst Neighbourhood Plan](#). The Goudhurst plan was developed by a committee of local residents led by Colin Willis and passed referendum in 2022.
9. Any other supporting documents are shown as links throughout the document.

Section 3 Our role in Planning

As a Parish Council we have no formal power in the planning process

We are a consultee and our view provides local knowledge of sites and the environment

Contentious applications discussed at the TWBC planning meeting

10. As a Parish Council we have no formal powers in the planning process. We are though a consultee on the majority of planning applications and we review planning applications and assess them as soon as is possible after a planning application has been validated by TWBC and added to their [planning portal](#). We are normally given between 14 or 21 days to respond although, on occasion, this can be extended. Applications are reviewed by GPC's planning committee and the agenda is published on our website at least 4 days before the meeting.
11. <https://goudhurst-pc.gov.uk/planningcommittee/>
12. We review applications because:
 - TWBC no longer consult neighbours directly so this gives the opportunity to make people aware of any proposed in their area.
 - For significant or contentious development it allows residents to discuss their concerns directly with the Parish committee.
 - We have local knowledge and can highlight any anomalies in the application which may not be readily apparent on a site visit.
 - It enables the Parish Council to notify TWBC of any suspected significant unauthorised development using the Council's procedures.
13. The Parish Council is consulted on the following applications:
 - Planning permission (outline and full)
 - Listed building consent
 - Application for planning permission for relevant demolition in a conservation area
 - Reserved matters approval following outline permission
 - Variation/removal of conditions (S.73 Applications)
 - Advertisement consent
14. Our comments, along with any others, form the evidence base that supports the decision process of the case officer. Most applications are decided by the case officer and their colleagues who make their recommendations to the TWBC Planning Committee. Anyone can make a comment on a planning application through the TWBC website. To make a comment you will need to register an account. Note: for enforcement – reporting a breach of planning - no login is required)
15. For more contentious applications, GPC can instruct our Borough Councillor to request that an application be 'called-in' to the TWBC planning committee for discussion. In this case the recommendation from the case officer is noted but the committee will formally discuss and decide the application in a public meeting of the TWBC Planning Committee. GPC councillors and members of the public can then register to speak at these meetings with each afforded 3 minutes to make their case to the committee.
16. Once an application is decided it will not be reversed. Although is technically a process to reverse a decision it is extremely unlikely to be reversed as there is potentially a substantial cost to the borough in doing so. There are no examples of a reversal in the last 25 years.

3.1 Where we are not consulted

There are activities where we are not consulted

17. The following activities are delegated to case officers for decision and we are not consulted.

- Certificates of Lawfulness Existing or Proposed
- Prior Approval/Prior Notification – all types
- Approval of details reserved by condition
- Any applications for works to trees

Section 4 Determining Planning Applications

All applications are judged against the National Planning Policy Framework, TWBC policies and our Neighbourhood Development plan

All development should be sustainable Three perspectives: economic, social and environmental

18. Planning in GPC is viewed as a positive process where we look for reasons to support and approve an application with or without conditions.
19. In simple terms of a decision: Development that accords with our Neighbourhood Plan and TWBC Local Plan should be approved and development that conflicts should be refused - unless there are overriding material considerations. Applications are decided using the following policy frameworks:
 - [The National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) and the [Planning Practice Guidance \(PPG\)](#). The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The NPPF is important but it does not change the statutory status of the local development plans
 - Borough policy – the Development Plan is prepared by the TWBC is in development. The last made plan was in [2006](#) and a [new plan](#) is being completed having passed its first inspection.
 - Neighbourhood policies in [Goudhurst's Neighbourhood Plan \(NDP\) published in 2022](#). This details the policies agreed at referendum. NDP policies have primacy over the local plan and, if agreed, the NPPF. We have one such policy related to the conservation area. A summary of our policies can be found in paragraph 6.1

4.1 Sustainable development

20. At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of 'sustainable development', which is to be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking. There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. How the Goudhurst **NDP** supports sustainable development can be found in section 7.1

Determining Planning Applications

4.2 Material Planning Considerations

Material Planning Considerations relate only to development and the use of land

21. Material considerations must be related to the development and use of land in the public interest. The considerations must also fairly and reasonably relate to the application concerned. Although anything could be a material consideration the courts have determined a practical list. This helps support decisions that are objective and made within the rules of the planning system.
22. Where an application is rejected convincing evidence in support any decision to refuse an application is very important. If an application is rejected then it is important to remember that the decision may need to be defended against an appeal. Without a robust justification not only could the development be approved on appeal with less stringent conditions than TWBC might have wished, but it could be faced with paying the appellant's costs if its own case or the reasons for refusal are considered to be weak or unreasonable. There is more risk where planning permission has been refused against the advice of officers or statutory consultees.

4.3 Core Material Planning Considerations?

Material considerations have been defined over time in the courts

All objections should directly reference 'Material Planning Considerations' to be included in the decision process

23. Comments on a planning application can only be taken into account if they relate to material planning considerations. It is common for neighbours to object to applications for a variety of reason but the Parish Council can only consider relevant planning matters and try to help residents understand the limits of development management.
24. Material planning considerations include the following:
 - The [TWBC Local Plan](#) and any [Supplementary Planning Documents](#)
 - The Goudhurst Neighbourhood Plan See 6.1.
 - The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)
 - Location – in or outside the limits to build. See Section 8
 - Effect on Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and archaeology
 - Effect on the High Weald National Landscape Area (formerly the AONB)
 - The economy, including job creation/retention.
 - The environmental qualities of the surrounding area, the visual character of a street and the amenity.
 - Design, appearance, materials, size, layout, density and appearance of the development
 - Highway safety, access, car parking and traffic generation
 - Drainage and flood risk in identified areas at risk
 - Living conditions such as Loss of light, overshadowing, privacy, noise and odour.
 - Impact and loss of trees and landscape
 - Effect on amenities and the existing use of land and buildings which ought to be protected in the public interest.
 - Biodiversity/Nature Conservation
 - Noise, disturbance, smells – but not from construction.
 - Disabled access
 - Previous planning decisions (including appeals)

Determining Planning Applications

- Consideration of what could, otherwise, be undertaken as permitted development without the need for a specific permission.
25. This is not an exhaustive list and materiality can be very specific to an application.

4.4 Matters that are *not* Planning Considerations

26. There are matters that many see as Planning Considerations however they cannot be used in reviewing planning applications:

There are also matters that do not constitute a planning consideration

Subjects that are not considered as planning considerations are often the most quoted by residents.

- Retrospective Applications. Development carried out without the necessary planning permission is generally not an offence and planning applications can be made retrospectively. Retrospective applications should be judged on individual merit alone.
- Commercial competition between businesses and any impact
- An applicant's motivations or future intentions
- The history or character of an application
- Moral objections for example against betting shops etc. though there may be genuine planning reasons for refusal such as noise and disturbance.
- Impact on Private Views e.g. across the road or to the rear of an objector's house. Note: privacy, overlooking and wider public views are material.
- Perceived impact on property values.
- Land Ownership. An applicant does not have to own the land to make an application. Further a tenant who may object has no grounds for objection because of their tenancy.
- Covenants. The impact on restrictive covenants, property maintenance, party wall issues, private rights of way or boundary disputes are not material. These are legal or contractual matters outside of planning.
- Personal, for example in relation to perceived financial loss/gain.
- Construction. Any problems associated with the construction e.g. hours of work, noise, dust, construction vehicles – these are generally controlled by condition.
- Other legislation for example Building Regulations, Fire Regulations or Health and Safety, etc. which are managed outside of the planning process.
- Opposition to the principle of development when this has been settled by an outline planning permission or appeal. This would apply to alternate schemes for an approved project.
- Previously made objections/representations regarding another site or application
- Factual misrepresentation of the proposal
- The extent of public support or opposition for a proposal alone

4.5 Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

Determining Planning Applications

All changes to listed buildings require permission

There is a dedicated conservation officer who grants listed building consent

Conditions can be applied to all applications if required

Conditions provide controls in areas such as construction noise etc.

27. The Parish Council will be notified of applications for Listed Building Consent. Often these will be submitted in conjunction with a planning (or advertisement application) but in many cases works that require Listed Building Consent will not require planning permission.
28. Different criteria apply to listed building applications from planning applications. The role is to consider the acceptability or otherwise of the works in terms of the character of the building as one of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. In general GPC will support the recommendation of the TWBC Conservation officer.
29. The following matters are material considerations for applications for Listed Building Consent:
 - Impact on historic fabric either through its loss or its reinstatement
 - Impact on the historic plan form of the building
 - Impact on the setting of the building
30. For Conservation Areas, there is special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.
31. In terms of enforcement, unauthorised alterations to Listed Buildings are criminal offences.

4.6 Planning Conditions and Obligations

32. Conditions are imposed on the development process. Obligations mitigate the impacts of a development proposal and are legally binding. In TWBC these are section 106 agreements as TWBC do not support the infrastructure levy described in NPPF.
33. When granting planning permission conditions can be imposed where there is a clear land-use planning justification for doing so. Where GPC has concerns with applications and make the decision to reject we often ask for conditions to be imposed if, regardless of our recommendation, an application is approved by borough. The tests for conditions are set out in the Paragraph 55-56 of the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance and require that every condition must be:
 - necessary;
 - relevant to planning;
 - relevant to the development to be permitted;
 - enforceable;
 - precise; and
 - reasonable in all other respects.
34. A planning obligation is secured via a legal agreement and the tests for these are set out in the Paragraph 57-58 of the National Planning Policy Framework, National Planning Practice Guidance and Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 and require that an obligation must be:
 1. Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
 2. Directly related to the development; and
 3. Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development

Determining Planning Applications

35. One way of testing whether a particular condition is necessary is if planning permission would have to be refused if the condition were not imposed. Otherwise, such a condition would need special and precise justification.
36. In general, a planning permission runs with the land.¹
37. Where it is not possible to include in a planning condition matters that are necessary for a development to proceed, developers may seek to negotiate a planning obligation under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991). Planning obligations should meet the same statutory tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 above.
38. It is not legitimate for development to be permitted because of benefits or inducements offered by a developer which are not in planning terms.

¹ In very exceptional circumstances permission may be granted a condition that it is personal to the applicant. However arguments will seldom outweigh the more general planning considerations. We had examples of this at Crowbourne Orchard

Section 5 Enforcement – How it works

Enforcement are engaged when development does not have permission or conditions are not being met

Development without permission is not illegal!

TWBC are responsible for enforcement who have defined policies and strategies

There are a number of legal options for TWBC including

39. A breach of planning control is defined in section 171A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as ‘the carrying out of development without the required planning permission; or failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted’.
40. The carrying out of development without planning permission is not ‘illegal’ unless the person undertaking the work has failed to comply with an enforcement notice: there is always a judgement to be made as to whether the unauthorised activity causes such harm that it is ‘expedient’ to take formal action to deal with it.
41. Any contravention of the limitations on, or conditions belonging to, permitted development rights constitutes a breach of planning control against which enforcement action may be taken.
42. Full details of the enforcement tools available to a borough council like TWBC can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ensuring-effective-enforcement>
43. TWBC have a discretionary power to take enforcement action where unauthorised development has taken place. This includes building works, changes in the use of buildings or land, the appearance of buildings or land, advertisements, works to Listed Buildings, or works to trees that are protected.
44. TWBC has adopted a [Planning Enforcement Policy](#) that sets out the Council’s approach to investigating unauthorised development and the decision-making process when deciding whether to take enforcement action. Further they also have a [strategy for enforcement](#).
45. Planning breaches can be reported to TWBC at [Planning enforcement](#)
46. There is a limited range of circumstances where rapid action is possible. These might include work to protected trees or a breach of a planning condition. In the latter case a Breach of Condition Notice can be used, against which there is no right of appeal. However, such a notice should only be used in respect of a clear breach. In exceptional circumstances where a breach of planning control is having a serious adverse effect on an area a Stop Notice or Injunction may be possible.
47. In some cases, the appropriate action is the service of an Enforcement Notice. This will state the alleged breach of control and set a reasonable period within which the breach is to be remedied.
48. There is a right of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, in the same way as the refusal of, or imposition of conditions on, a planning application. The considerations which come into play are similar and the timescale is similar to that for an appeal on a planning application, i.e. several months. Assuming that the Planning Inspector upholds the Notice, there is still the possibility that it will not be complied with. This may then result in the need for appropriate action through the courts.

Enforcement – How it works

*Not all breaches
will result in
enforcement*

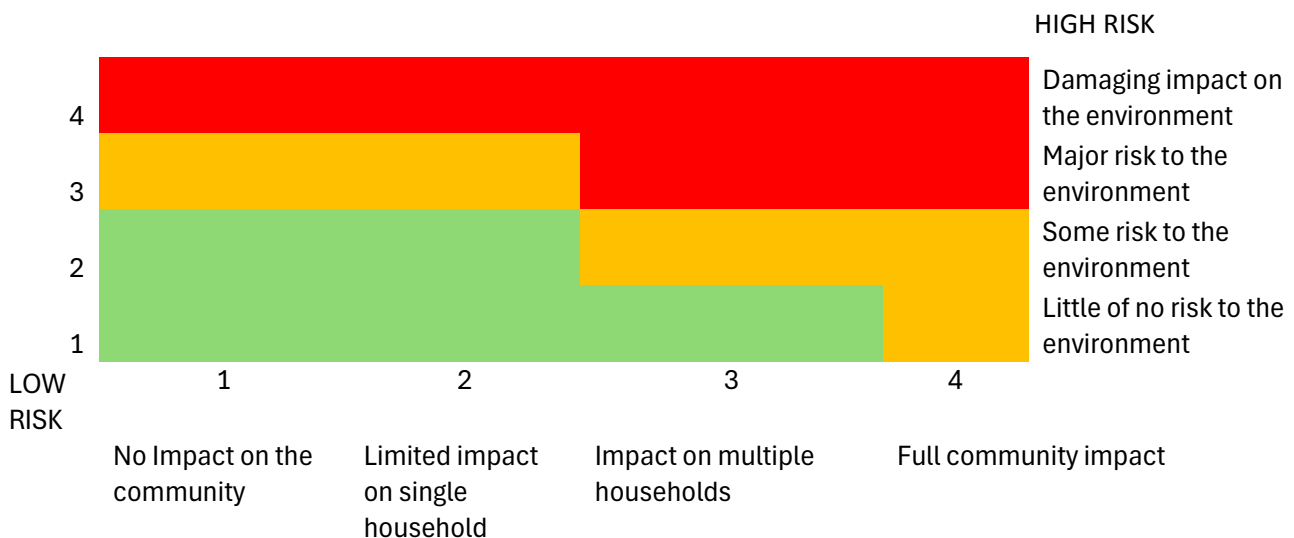
49. TWBC is not able to monitor all completed developments and it must be borne in mind that if a breach of control has taken place, but there is no harm to the public interest, then it is not normally appropriate to take action.
50. It is therefore quite possible for development to be neither authorised, nor the subject of enforcement action.
51. Many breaches of control are successfully dealt with informally through the co-operation of the owner or developer.
52. Undertaking works to trees with preservation orders close to listed buildings is a criminal offence

5.1 Enforcement and Goudhurst Parish Council

The majority of breaches will be reported by residents and neighbours

GPC involvement is based on the risk to the community

53. Although GPC have no formal role in granting planning or actively managing enforcement actions both can have an impact on our environment and our community.
54. It is not our role to police the planning process but our involvement is important where there is the potential for material impact on our community or our environment.
55. In general the reporting breaches of planning or unapproved development falls to residents and neighbours' of the development. There is a process for reporting such breaches through [Planning enforcement](#). This can either be a formal or an anonymous report.
56. GPC will monitor enforcement notices and these will be reviewed at our planning meetings.
57. Enforcement notices will be reviewed against the risk based below:



5.2 Definition of Risk

Community	Definition	Ownership	Reported by	Risk Level
No Impact on the community	Although there may be information around how a condition is managed or the breach of condition there is no direct impact on the community	Discretion of the planning officer no GPC action unless a new application is submitted and managed through existing planning processes	Resident	Green
Limited impact on single household	There is a breach of condition or planning that materially impacts neighbours	Discretion of the planning officer	Resident	Green
Impact on multiple households	There is a breach of condition or planning that materially impacts many neighbouring households	Escalation to borough councilors and head of planning	Resident	Green
Full community impact	A breach of planning that affects a whole community	Further escalation TWBC chairman	Resident/GPC	Amber
Environment	Definition	Ownership	Reported by	Risk Level
Little of no risk to the environment	There is no or very limited risk of harm to the environment	Discretion of the planning officer	Resident	Amber/Green
Some risk to the environment	There is harm or risk of harm to the environment	Escalation to environmental officer	Resident	Amber/Green
Major risk to the environment	There is material harm or risk of material harm to the environment	Escalation to borough councilors and head of planning	Resident/GPC	Red/Amber
Damaging impact on the environment	There is serious material harm or risk of serious material harm to the environment	Further escalation TWBC chairman	Resident/GPC	Red

Where there is are breaches of planning laws or permissions GPC will not normally report any breach directly unless there is a clear and broad community wide concern.

GPC will budget for professional support

58. GPC does not have any specialist planning resources and so will seek expert advice when it is needed. GPC does budget a contingency for professional fees in its annual budget cycle to support such activity.

Professional advice will be shared with local groups

59. Where, as a result of a breach there is a high level of impact on our community or environment, GPC will take advice from professionals and share that advice with residents, local organisations and the borough as appropriate.

60. For activities that are high-risk GPC will monitor progress and escalate through the TWBC emergency contact process, our Borough councillors and through our normal escalation channels with the TWBC planning team.

Section 6 Our Parish

61. Goudhurst Parish comprises Goudhurst village, Kilndown and Curtisden Green. The Parish is in West Kent and forms a part of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells. It lies to the east of Tunbridge Wells town and has boundaries with the Parishes of Horsmonden, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst, Hawkhurst, and Lamberhurst.
62. To the south there is a boundary with Ticehurst in East Sussex and with Marden and Staplehurst, both in Maidstone Borough, to the north.

Goudhurst is one of the largest geographic parishes in the country one of a number of rural parishes in the Borough

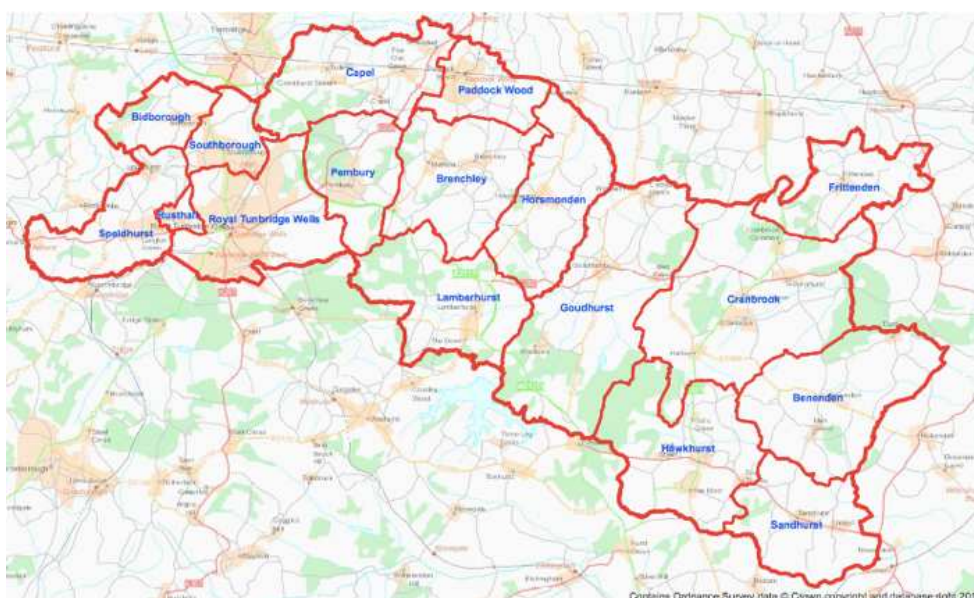


Figure 1 Parishes in Tunbridge Wells Borough

6.1 Our Neighbourhood Plan Policies

63. This is a summary of the policies detailed in the remainder of this document. Each policy is summarised and the overall intent of the policy is also outlined. This summary is merely a guide and does not replace or change the meaning of the full policy.
64. Please note AONB now replaced by National Landscape

Policy Area	Policy	Policy Intent
Landscape and Environment.	L1 Development within the AONB.	To ensure that any development complements the AONB and improves the rural environment.
	L2 Development Outside the AONB.	To ensure that development in areas of the Parish that adjoin the AONB are of appropriate high quality.
	L3 Retain the Profile of our Hilltop Villages.	To manage development on the slopes of our settlements and in prominent positions and to maintain a distinct green gap between our settlements.

Policy Area	Policy	Policy Intent
Community and Wellbeing.	L4 Conserve Landscape and Heritage Assets.	To protect, celebrate and pass on for future generations, the area of rich landscape and heritage in which we live.
	L5 Retention of the Gap between Goudhurst LBDs.	To retain the gap between the two Goudhurst Limits-to-Built-Development (LBDs) from coalescence or erosion.
	L6 Biodiversity.	To ensure new development provides a net gain in biodiversity and does not adversely impact the natural environment.
	L7 Trees.	To protect the important trees and ancient woodland in the Parish.
	L8 Protection of the Rural Landscape at Night ('Nightscape').	To protect the intrinsically dark rural landscape and dark skies ('nightscape') by considering the impact of new building and alterations on the 'nightscape'.
	L9 Local Green Spaces.	To identify Local Green Spaces in our community that will be protected from future development.
	L10 Views.	To limit the visual impact of any development in the landscape and views are important considerations when making planning decisions.
	C1 Community Facilities.	To support improvements in facilities and amenities.
	C2 Accessibility.	To ensure new development is accessible to all.
	C3 Important Community Resources.	To protect significant assets in the Parish from change or loss.
	C4 Broadband/Communications Infrastructure.	To support the provision of improved service within the Parish.
	C5 Protecting and improving Public Rights of Way (PROW)	To protect and, where possible, enhance the existing public rights of way network and its setting.
Housing.	H1 Housing Mix.	To require mixed development with an emphasis on smaller homes to meet local need.
	H2 Rural Exception Sites.	To provide guidance and to control the size and scope of replacement dwellings.
	H3 Replacing or combining Existing Dwellings	To provide more commercial or residential properties using redundant buildings.
	H4 Conversion of Existing Buildings	There are buildings in the community that are suitable for conversion to either residential or commercial uses.
Business.	B1 New Business Space	To encourage the development of businesses and employment, making Goudhurst a good place to invest.
	B2 Retention of Business Premises	To support and retain shops and businesses in our community.
	B3 Adapting Existing Buildings for Live/Work	To provide guidance around developments intended for live/work use.

Policy Area	Policy	Policy Intent
Design.	D1 Design Considerations	To provide guidance on our expectations of good design in our community.
	D2 Boundary Treatments	To set expectations on how boundaries in new development should be treated.
	D3 Climate Change	To require new homes to be more efficient and future-proofed with regard to drainage, the collection and re-use of water, and power generation and storage.
	D4 Inside Conservation Areas	To provide guidance on development within the conservation areas.
	D5 Extensions	To provide guidance around the size and scale of developments.
Traffic.	T1 Parking in New Development	To ensure higher standards of parking in new developments within the commercial centre of Goudhurst village.
	T2 Safe Access and Sustainable Transport	To ensure that new developments do not inhibit free-flow of traffic or increase parking on local roads; and to seek mitigation where needed.
	T3 Traffic Mitigation	To ensure that where possible new developments provide safe pedestrian access to bus stops, schools and other village facilities.

Full details of these policies can be found in the [Goudhurst Neighbourhood Plan](#).

Section 7 Delivering Sustainable Development

Our NDP positively supports the needs of our Parish 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

7.1 Supporting Sustainable Development

65. Our Neighbourhood Plan is designed to positively support the development needs of our Parish. The Plan sets out a vision, objectives and policies for the Parish that reflect the goals and ambitions of the local community in conserving our Parish and managing change and improvements over the coming years.

66. The central theme of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Sustainable development means 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

67. The three 'dimensions' set out in the NPPF - economic, social and environment are used to measure sustainable development. Our plan therefore is required to:

- Economic** Contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy,
- Social** Support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of quality housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations reflecting the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being;
- Environment** Contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; helping to improve biodiversity, making better use of natural resources, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy

68. A more detailed analysis of how the Goudhurst Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable development can be found in the [Basic Conditions Statement](#).

69. The Goudhurst Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by:

Measure	GNDP Policy Context	Summary
Economic.	B1 New Business Space.	To encourage the development of businesses and employment, making Goudhurst a good place to invest.
	B2 Retention of Business premises.	To retain shops and businesses in our community.
	B3 Adaption for Live/Work.	To provide guidance around developments intended for live/work
	C1 Community Facilities & Amenities.	To support improvements in facilities and amenities.
	C4 Assets of value within the community.	To maintain a thriving community.
	C5 Broadband and Mobile Infrastructure.	To support the provision of improved service within the Parish.
	H3 Conversion of Existing Buildings.	To provide more commercial or residential properties using redundant buildings.
	T1 Parking in New Development.	To ensure one parking space for every bedroom in new developments to reduce impact of parking on the roads.

Delivering Sustainable Development

Measure	GNDP Policy Context	Summary
Social.	C1 Community Facilities & Amenities	To support improvements in facilities and amenities.
	C2 Accessibility	To ensure new development is accessible to all.
	C3 Assets of Value within the Community.	To protect significant assets in the Parish from change or loss.
	C4 Broadband and Mobile Infrastructure.	To support provision of infrastructure to support business and working practices
	H1 Housing Mix	To deliver and better balance in our housing stock.
	H2 Rural Exception Sites	To actively seek suitable rural exception sites.
	T1 Parking in new Development	To ensure one parking space for every bedroom in new developments to reduce impact of parking on the roads .
	T2 Safe and Sustainable Transport	To ensure that new developments do not inhibit free flow of traffic or increase parking on local roads; and to seek mitigation where needed
	T3 Traffic Mitigation	To ensure that where possible new developments provide safe pedestrian access to bus stops, schools and other village facilities.
Environment.	L1 Development within the AONB	To ensure that any development complements the AONB and improves the rural environment
	L2 Development Outside the AONB	To place constraints on development in areas of the Parish that adjoin the AONB.
	L3 Retain the Profile of our Hilltop Settlements	To limit development on the slopes of our settlements and in prominent positions and to maintain a distinct green gap between our settlements
	L4 Conserve Landscape and Heritage Assets	To protect, for future generations, the area of rich landscape and heritage in which we live
	L5 Gap between Goudhurst LBDs'	To protect the gap between the two Goudhurst Limits-to-Built Development (LBD) from coalescence or erosion
	L6 Biodiversity	To ensure new development does not adversely impact the natural environment
	L7 Trees	To protect the important trees and ancient woodland in the Parish.
	L8 Light Pollution.	To remain a dark skies community and continue to minimise the impact of light pollution whether from public or private sources.
	L9 Green Spaces.	To identify Green Spaces in our community that will be protected from future development.
	L10 Views.	To protect the important views that are the essence of what it means to live in the Parish and which are so valued by residents and visitors.
	C6 Protecting & improving Public Rights of Way.	To protect and, where possible, enhance the existing PROW network and its setting.
	D1 Design Standards.	To provide guidance on our expectations of good design in our community.
	D2 Boundary Treatments.	To set expectations of how boundaries in new development should be treated.
	D3 Climate Change.	To require new homes to be more efficient and future proofed including in drainage and the collection and re-use of water.

Limits-to-Built Development (LBDs)

Measure	GNDP Policy Context	Summary
	T2 Safe and Sustainable Transport.	To ensure that new developments do not inhibit free flow of traffic or increase parking on local roads; and to seek mitigation where needed.
	T3 Traffic Mitigation.	To ensure that where possible new developments provide safe pedestrian access to bus stops, schools and other village facilities.

Section 8 Limits-to-Built Development (LBDs)

70. The built-up edges of our settlements have historically set the limit, or boundary, for development. These are known as Limits-to-Built-Development (LBDs).
71. The LBD boundaries are agreed by TWBC and GPC and changes to them can only be made with their joint agreement. The LBD boundaries will be reviewed as a part of the Local Plan process.
72. LBDs are not fixed boundaries and have changed a number of times to incorporate new development. There have been developments adjacent to the existing LBDs that are not included within their boundaries. Rural exception sites in the Parish, for example Culpepers, have historically not been included within the LBDs. This situation will be addressed as part of the NDP and Borough Local Plan activities.
73. There are currently three LBDs in the Parish. Two of these are in Goudhurst and the third is in Kilndown. There are no LBDs in Curtisden Green. The LBDs are outlined in red on the adjacent maps.

Goudhurst has two limits to build sandwiching the conservation area



74. The first Goudhurst LBD includes the historic heart of the village and follows the western ridge line encompassing the development of the 1970's-1990's to the south of the village and then follows the historical line of build towards Tattlebury.

The second LBD is known as little Goudhurst

Management of Planning in our Parish
Adopted by Planning Committee 8th July 2025

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Limits-to-Built Development (LBDs)

75. The second LBD in Goudhurst is to the east of the original settlement and encompasses the development that dates primarily from 1900 – described below as “the Chequers area.”
76. The conservation area in Goudhurst (shaded pink) overlaps the LBD covering the Glebe Field, Lower Glebe, Old Cricket Pitch, Five-Fields, the churchyard, and the surrounding fields.



Kilndown has a single LBD

77. Kilndown currently has its own LBD, which covers the majority of the developed area of Kilndown and incorporates the conservation area. TWBC's LBD Topic Paper proposes *'The whole of this LBD boundary is to be removed as it is considered to be an unsustainable settlement for further development with a small number of facilities and services and limited bus services.'* This plan would support this proposal.

8.1 The Important Gap between the Goudhurst LBDs

78. The characters of Goudhurst village and the Chequers area are distinct. Goudhurst village is defined by its medieval High Street whereas the Chequers area consists of primarily Victorian and later houses. The gap separating them is made up of a large triangle of land to the south and an open field, crossed by two footpaths to the north, which afford views to the Greensand Ridge some 25 miles to the north. The gap, with its winding road, provides road users with a strong sense of transition as they pass through the area.

The gap between the two LBD in Goudhurst separates the original village from later 19th and 20 century development

Limits-to-Built Development (LBDs)



		Focus								
		Full Council	Planning	Amenities	Highways	Youth and Housing Committee	Finance Committee	Burial Authority	Biodiversity	Community Engagement?
This Year Done	Purchase of the Office			New defibs Tourist Board GH sign repainted Duck house repaired		Pavilion ventilation fixed			Grass Management Program	
				Christmas Tree Pond drainage history report documented Bike rack moving Lower Glebe bench				Memorial testing Training legaility questions - Caroline and Kat Simplicifation of regs (FAQ list)		
This Year Outstanding				CCTV Unification	Traffic Orders SID investigation A262.	Pavilion Painted Goals for Dynamos		Removal of Saplings in Victorian	The Lizard boxes	Working with the School to educate and encourage habitat
Projects Budgeted but dropped					more 30 mile an hour signs Parking spaces Tattlebury Triangle Grass Management Program - Tattlebury Triangle					
Next Year Achieveable	Design Guidelines Review Plannning Law/eviction Constultant Training for planning			Outdoor Gym War memorial cleaning The Lower Glebe cultivation	Parking Consultant - planning and spaces constultations	Pavilion Painted branded Thoughts around Lurkins Rise Lease for The Village Green		New landscape contractor Probing vacant plots Review Grass Management Plan, and St Mary's		
				Petonque Village green matting	Moving of the church wall	Teenage play equipment (Spider)	Riltus training upgrade to software?	Expansion - possibility		
Next Year Aspirations										

fob
0503

Dear Goudhurst Parish Council

I hope you are well and looking forward to the summer break, if you are having one.

At the beginning of my term, I visited Parish Councils across the Tunbridge Wells constituency and one issue that was raised consistently with me was speeding in villages.

Therefore, I'm really pleased to say that, following work between my office, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council, Goudhurst Parish Council will be eligible to receive £25,000 to implement traffic calming measures in their local villages. The funding will come from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and Parish Councils will also be able to top up this grant from their own funds. I know this is something that Parish Councillors and their communities have been campaigning for, and I hope this new funding will make villages that bit safer for their residents.

You should have received an email from Tunbridge Wells Borough Councillors, detailing the proposal and submission process, and timeframe. I've attached a Highway Improvement Plan Information Pack from Kent County Council in this email, which sets out the costs of different traffic calming measures, for your interest. I understand that Parishes may already have specific ideas set out in Highways Improvement Plans (HIPs), so it would be good to see one or more of those implemented. Some HIPs may need to be updated or amended to reflect current Highway Code and Kent County Council policy. You're also very welcome to submit new proposals from scratch.

Your local KCC councillor, Mark Munday, and I are very happy to work through proposals with you and visit your Parish to run a town-hall style event where we can solicit ideas for Highways Improvement. Please respond to this email if this is something of interest.

As you know, the initial proposal deadline is at the end of October, so time is quite short. Therefore, I would advise councillors to begin this process imminently, particularly in anticipation of some back and forth between KCC and Parish Councillors regarding feasibility. I am also happy to assist parishes in negotiating with KCC on feasibilities.

I will also be running an online consultation for residents to submit their ideas for what Highways Improvements they'd like to see in their village. I will then share relevant village data with each Parish Council to help them reach a decision. I will follow up with more details of this in due course, but it would be great if you could share this consultation with your communities when it is published.

Thank you again for all your hard work developing your HIPs and representing the concerns of your communities. I look forward to working with you.

Best wishes,

Planning Application Determined in July 2025

	Application	Address	Proposal	GPC	TWBC	Decision
	25/00810/FULL	Paygate Winchet Hill Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent	Single storey extension		Approved	02/07/2025
	25/01146/FUL	The Pump House North Road Goudhurst Cranbrook Kent TN17 1JN	Erection of ancillary building for single garage & home office with associated works.		Approved	04/07/2025
	25/01199/FULL	Windy Ridge , Balcombes Hill, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 1AT	Amendments to external fenestration; insertion of rooflights: enlarged porch: removal of chimney & insertion of PV panels to flat garage roof.		Approved	16/07/2025
	25/01346/FULL	Elm Tree, Summerhill, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 1JU	Proposed new entrance, fencing & gate		Refused	25/07/2025

Clerk Report

Key Details

Village Green Pavilion is installed.

Matters being addressed

- Securing the benches to the base
- Updating the camera on the PreSchool
- Addition of a CCTV sign in the Pavilion
- The pavilion being added to the insurance

Painting of the Chequer Field Pavilion -

Pictures attached and the logo to be installed before the start of the new season. A preseason launch to mark the pavilion to be organised.

Victory Over Japan Day (15th August)

The British Legion are marking this Day by a small ceremony by the war memorial. A two minute silence is also being observed at 12pm. Timings of the Ceremony to be announced

Christmas Fair (plans so far)

The office is working with the Friends of Goudhurst St Marys and others, who are continuing to organise the event. The Office will support where required and in regular contact.

Key Dates: Saturday 29th November from 12-6pm timings as following:

Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School Fair - 12-2pm Friends of St Mary's Christmas Fair, the Village Hall and the Club 1-6pm

Stalls will be in the Church and the Village Hall. There will be three food stalls so far on the Plain area: Pancakes, Burgers and Vietnamese and potentially Nigerian (TBC)

The road from Back Lane to the High Street will be requested to be closed from 12-7pm

Performances to be confirmed but the usual have been requested.

Pavilion Painting – July 2025

The interior of the Chequer Field pavilion has been repainted using the colours of the Dynamos team. Please see the photos below for the updated look.





Antony/ Kat/ Phil

I just wanted to drop you an 'official' line to let you know I'm stepping down as Group Lead Volunteer at Goudhurst Scouts at the end of the term. Four fetes and three and a half years has been amazing.

I just wanted to say thank you for the Council's support over that time. The financial support you've provided the group has also been really gratefully received.

I will continue to support from a distance (not least because I work for Scout HQ) but I've decided it's time to hand on the baton so I can spend a bit more time with Claire and the boys.

We will have a new lead volunteer, Cathy our Scout leader picking up from where I leave off and I think she will continue to use this email address.