



BROMESWELL PARISH PLAN

2026-2030

BROMESWELL PARISH: GATEWAY TO 'THE SUFFOLK COASTS AND HEATHS' NATIONAL LANDSCAPE.

Summary

This Parish Plan is a community-driven document produced by Bromeswell Parish Council following consultation with, and feedback from, residents. It is the successor to previous Parish Council documents:

- 2006 Parish Plan;
- March 2007 response to the LDF consultation;
- 2012 Parish Plan;
- 2016-2020 Parish Plan
- 2021-2025 Parish Plan.

The 2026-2030 Parish Plan reflects the up-to-date opinions and aspirations of the Bromeswell community. These opinions are the result of a consultation process to identify the features of Bromeswell that the community wish to protect and those that require development. Bromeswell's residents were invited to submit their views in-person at the village hall on April 5th 2025, or in advance by email. The methodology and outcomes of this consultation are included in the report's annexe.

Following this latest consultation the Bromeswell community has reaffirmed common themes running through previous Parish Plans. The community asks its Parish Council to:

- Promote measures that will further improve road safety for road users and pedestrians.
- Protect the rural character of Bromeswell within the context of its classification as 'Countryside' and its setting as part of the 'The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths' National Landscape (previously AONB), and the Deben Estuary Peninsular.
- Support village events and facilities.

Outline of Bromeswell Parish: *Gateway to ‘The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths’ National Landscape.*

The parish of Bromeswell is located on the tidal Estuary of the River Deben, which is a designated Special Protection Area. Bromeswell is also within the district known as the Deben Peninsula and Natural England’s recognised Natural Character Area No. 82 and has several different protected wildlife habitats.

Within Bromeswell there are many important natural assets: a Local Nature Reserve [LNR] managed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, a Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI], a Wetland of International Importance [RAMSAR], a Special Protection Area, Conservation Area and a Grade One Listed Parish Church within designated Open Access Land of Suffolk Sandlings character.

The parish covers an area of around six square kilometres and despite its small spread-out population and marked lack of infrastructure (no mains drainage, street lighting, pavements, shops or school) there is a lively community spirit, which largely revolves around the Parish Church of St Edmund and well-maintained village hall.

The church of St Edmund dates back to Saxon times and is of historical importance. It also marks the heart of a Conservation Area as approved by Suffolk Coastal District Council in 2016 and endorsed by East Suffolk Council (ESC) following its creation in 2019. This Conservation Area is unique in ESC in that it is designed to protect the historic core of a dispersed heathland community. The ESC acceptance for Conservation Area status recognised Bromeswell as *“unusual amongst east Suffolk villages in that its wooded slopes and high hedges give the village a distinctive enclosed intimate atmosphere with few long views over the surrounding landscape.”*

Although just a few miles east of Woodbridge and the A12, when people enter this parish they have crossed over the natural dividing line formed by the River Deben. There is now a marked change in landscape and settlement character, which is objectively recognised by the official designations: ‘National Landscape’ and its protected ‘Setting’ which itself is a designated Special Landscape Area. This is within the environmentally sensitive district known as Suffolk Coasts and Heaths. Many well-used public footpaths and other public rights of way criss-cross this parish, including the Sandlings Walk. Bromeswell’s winding, narrow sunken lanes are very popular with ramblers, cyclists, horse riders and runners who use them all as access points to explore the wider National Landscape.

The parish is very close to the protected Heritage Coast and is within easy walking distance of the World Heritage Site of Sutton Hoo with the ancient burial ship of the 7th Century Saxon King Rædwald. The parish is also close to Snape Maltings and Aldeburgh, important cultural centres for the performing Arts.

Those of us privileged to live in Bromeswell recognise and vigorously protect this beautiful and important part of Suffolk, not just for our own benefit but also in the wider interests of the public as a whole.

Key Objectives for Bromeswell Parish Council

The community consultation exercise that is the basis for this Parish Plan identified three key objectives for the Parish Council during 2026-2030. These objectives were ranked in priority order by the community. The key objectives are:

1. Promote measures that will further improve road safety for road users and pedestrians.
2. Protect the rural character of Bromeswell within the context of its classification as 'Countryside' and its setting as part of 'The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths' National Landscape (previously AONB), and the Deben Estuary Peninsular.
3. Support village events and facilities

To uphold Bromeswell's concerns and promote mitigating measures for the benefit of residents and visitors, the Parish Council will engage with stakeholders at all levels in accordance with the following material documents and any subsequent revisions:

- [National Planning Policy Framework 2024](#) (NPPF), Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.
- [Suffolk Coastal Local Plan 2020](#) (SCLP) East Suffolk Council
- [Deben Estuary Plan 2015](#) (DEP), Deben Estuary Partnership
- [Suffolk Local Transport Plan 2025-2040](#) (SLTP), Suffolk County Council

In addition to these three key objectives, Bromeswell's residents recorded their support for the Parish Council's activity and inclusiveness over recent years as being most welcome. They also highlighted areas of strength for Bromeswell that are outside the scope of the Parish Plan but should be applauded:

- Bromeswell's friendliness and strong community spirit. This has been demonstrated through various community activities ranging from celebrations of commemorative events, through to conducting litter-picks and helping residents identify heat-loss from homes.
- Bromeswell's village hall and the village newsletter, 'The Bromeswell Warbler' were also praised as being a really useful and valued part of village life.
- Bromeswell continues to be an area of low crime. Whilst this is most welcome it is recognised parishioners should remain vigilant and not be complacent to the risks and threats that criminals present.

Key Objectives

1. PROMOTE MEASURES THAT WILL FURTHER IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY FOR ROAD USERS AND PEDESTRIANS.

The Bromeswell community expressed a strong desire to enhance safety for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists. Residents continue to value the Quiet Lanes initiative in Bromeswell but remain concerned by traffic speed on the A1152, B1083, B1084 and village centre lanes. This situation is particularly prevalent when traffic is diverted through the village as a result of road closures elsewhere. The impact of overgrown hedges on reducing the visibility of drivers was not referenced during the consultation exercise but has been raised at PC meetings and will be monitored to ensure risks are mitigated. Increased housing developments were also cited as a major concern due to the additional traffic these developments will generate.

To meet objective 1 the Parish Council will:

a) Work with relevant authorities to improve the safety of pedestrians when crossing the A1152

The safety of pedestrians crossing the A1152 was raised as the primary issue in the consultation exercise. Residents' concerns are driven by the speed and increased volume of traffic on the A1152. The greatest risk is considered to be for school children crossing the A1152 from School Lane to the bus shelter at periods of peak traffic flow on this stretch of road. Other persons considered to be at significant risk include aged residents and visitors using the Sandlings Walk and other footpaths that cross the A1152.

Bromeswell's residents acknowledge steps made by Suffolk Highways to improve road safety for drivers through hatched road markings along the A1152 but feel more needs to be done to prevent serious injury to pedestrians crossing the road.

b) Work with relevant authorities to reduce the number and severity of accidents at the junction of Eyke Road (A1152) and Orford Road (B1084)

An analysis of road traffic accidents in Bromeswell from 2000-2023 highlighted the junction of the A1152 and B1084 as a major accident hotspot. It is the belief of residents, backed by road traffic data and numerous near misses, that the layout of this junction leads to driver behaviours that result in multiple accidents causing serious injuries.

c) Monitor and maintain road drainage

Work conducted by the Parish Council between 2001-2025 has helped to significantly reduce flooding on Bromeswell's lanes. The PC will monitor and maintain road drainage systems to protect the road surface and ensure residents and visitors can pass unhindered by standing water.

- d) Engage with Suffolk Highways, East Suffolk Council and/or landowners to repair the parish highways and footpaths.

Bromeswell PC encourages all residents to report damage to the highways and footpaths using the Suffolk Highways [Report It tool](#). The PC will escalate reported damage when required to ensure public rights of way are repaired and accessible to residents and visitors.

2. PRESERVING BROMESWELL'S TRANQUIL AND RURAL SETTING

A desire by Bromeswell's community to preserve the rural nature and tranquil setting of the village featured strongly in the consultation for this Parish Plan. This priority is an on-going wish of the Bromeswell community and reflects the views submitted to the 2012, 2016-2020, and 2021-2025 Parish Plans. Preserving Bromeswell's tranquil and rural setting was also the underlying context of the Conservation Area as approved by the Suffolk Coastal District Council in September 2016 and adopted by East Suffolk Council in April 2019.

To meet objective 2 the Parish Council will:

- a) Respond to planning applications using material documents as evidence to support or object as appropriate.

The Parish Council aims to maintain Bromeswell's place as a parish where people like to live, make a contribution to the local economy and care for others and the environment. To implement this priority the Parish Council will respond to planning applications in keeping with Bromeswell's settlement type of 'Countryside' as per 'Policy SCLP3.2: Settlement Hierarchy'. Parish Council responses to planning applications will be underpinned by the core principles of national and local planning frameworks.

This Parish Plan is a community driven document that is based on responses received during a consultation with local residents. As such the plan supports:

- NPPF 2024 section 3.15, *"The planning system should be genuinely plan-led. Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings."*
- SCLP 2020 section 11.6, *"To help facilitate the understanding of local character and to support development that acknowledges and enhances the essence of local character it is important that the most appropriate information sources are referenced in relevant planning applications. Sources which may assist with identifying and assessing local character include Conservation Area Appraisals, Neighbourhood Plans, village / parish plans and the Suffolk Design Guide."*

b) Welcome visitors and support the local economy

To welcome visitors to the parish whilst ensuring the protection of the environment tourists wish to see in accordance with Policies SCLP6.3-6.5.

To support the local rural economy, including the small-scale residential and home-office/workshop use of existing properties as an environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative to executive style dormitory accommodation.

PC support to developing the local economy will be subject to the environmental and residential impact and to the proviso that benefits of rural development must not “*outweigh the negatives that arise from location and access arrangements*”, SCLP 4.34. It must always be demonstrated that the local road network is adequate, and that the proposal does not compromise road safety or the free flow of traffic.

c) Help to protect Bromeswell’s wildlife and natural environment

In accordance with ‘Policy SCLP10.1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity’, Bromeswell Parish Council will work to conserve and protect wildlife habitats and the natural environment of the parish. The Parish Council will:

- Support the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in the sensitive maintenance of the Bromeswell Common Nature Reserve and other protected Open Access Areas.
- Promote the maintenance of parish lanes, footpaths and bridleways and to retain them in their natural unlit state. Also, to promote a policy of the preservation of verges and banks of parish lanes and that their roadsides should not be treated as an extension of the highway, but protected for their own sake as important features of the countryside as well as being essential wildlife havens and green corridors.
- Maintain and protect the general atmosphere of open space, gaps and views that dominate and characterise the rural landscape of Bromeswell and promote its Environmental Protection status within:
 - i. The Suffolk Coasts and Heaths National Landscape and its Setting
 - ii. A designated Special Landscape Area
 - iii. The Deben Estuary and Deben Peninsular
 - iv. A Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI]
 - v. A Special Protection Area for Birds [SPA]
 - vi. A Wetland of International importance [RAMSAR]
 - vii. A SWT maintained Local Nature Reserve [LNR]
- Support the planting of trees and plants to enhance the natural environment.

d) Settlement hierarchy

Bromeswell PC will maintain its approach to promote only the restrained and sensitive alteration to existing housing. The PC will continue to promote a policy

of zero tolerance towards ‘Garden Grabbing / infill’, ‘Development Creep’ and ‘planning by stealth’, in accordance with:

- The SCLP designation of Bromeswell as ‘Countryside’,
- The location of Bromeswell within the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths National Landscape and its setting
- Its SSSI and RAMSAR status and Conservation Area.

e) Avoidance of light and noise pollution

In accordance with NPPF section 15 and policies SCLP6.3, 6.4, 10.3 and 11.1, development proposals will be expected to protect the quality of the environment and to minimise and, where possible, reduce all forms of pollution and contamination including light pollution and noise pollution.

3. Support village events and facilities

To meet objective 3 the Parish Council will:

a) Provide financial support to help maintain the village hall and the churchyard of St Edmund’s Church.

Bromeswell’s residents recognise the importance of the village hall as a community building and the churchyard of St Edmund’s church to honour the memory of previous residents. Bromeswell PC will continue to provide financial assistance through its annual budget to support auditable expenditure by the Village Hall Management Committee and Parish Church Council.

b) Reduce the effects of litter and dog-fouling

Bromeswell PC will support and promote village activity aimed at clearing litter from Bromeswell’s roads, verges and rights of way. Bromeswell PC will also assist dog owners to decrease incidents of dog fouling through the installation of dog-waste bins in suitable locations.

c) Work with residents to increase the number of community events in the village

Bromeswell PC will encourage and, where appropriate, provide financial support to residents wishing to run community events. Any financial support will be treated on an ad-hoc basis and will be dependent on available funds.

d) Help to enhance communications technology in Bromeswell

Bromeswell PC will look to promote the community’s need to exploit current and future advances in technology for domestic and commercial use through enhanced internet and mobile phone coverage.

ANNEXE: Methodology and results of the Bromeswell Consultation Process held in April 2025.

Methodology

In order to generate ideas for the 2026-2030 Parish Plan, parishioners were invited to submit their views on what they considered to be Bromeswell's:

- Strengths; aspects they like about the village that they wish to preserve
- Weaknesses; aspects that would benefit from change

Bromeswell's residents were invited to submit their views in-person at the village hall on April 5th 2025, or in advance by email.

Results

The combined input from the parishioners resulted in the following ideas which have been clustered into common topics. Each topic was scored to highlight the priority.

Topic Heading	Priority Score
Improvements to road safety	14
<p><i>Improve safety:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>At Eyke/Orford triangle A1152</i> • <i>Crossing A1152 School Lane – bus shelter</i> <p><i>Reduce speed limit on Orford Road – accident hotspots</i></p> <p><i>Traffic island needed to bus shelter</i></p> <p><i>Improve safety for pedestrians crossing the A1152 from School Lane to the bus shelter</i></p> <p><i>Suggestion – One way traffic through the village: In via Common Lane, out via School Lane</i></p> <p><i>Reduce speed limits between Sutton roundabout and rugby club to 30/40mph throughout.</i></p> <p><i>Entrance to School Lane very difficult:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Entering School Lane, drivers think you are turning to Eyke</i> • <i>Exiting School Lane, visibility blocked by trees and fencing</i> • <i>Children crossing – it's very difficult to see as more cars</i> <p><i>Enforcement of 20mph speed limit through the village (School Lane, Common Lane, Summer Lane)</i></p> <p><i>Pot holes down Common Lane and School Lane.</i></p> <p><i>Improve drainage to remove standing water in Common Lane and School Lane</i></p> <p><i>Improve traffic flow / reduce bottle neck from Sutton Hoo roundabout to Melton crossing. Traffic jams at peak times from Golf Club to Melton – adjust Melton traffic lights.</i></p>	

Maintain the rural character of Bromeswell	10
<p><i>The conservation area in Bromeswell is a strength – can this be expanded?</i></p> <p><i>The small, rural setting and low density of housing are strengths of Bromeswell</i></p> <p><i>Protect the night sky by preventing light pollution</i></p> <p><i>Retain the rural character through enforcement of planning regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Plant more trees and daffodils. Sutton Hoo Trust planting oak trees – might Spencer's Field be an option?</i></p>	
Support village events and facilities	10
<p><i>Increase the number of 'dog poo' bins</i></p> <p><i>Village events (quiz etc.)</i></p> <p><i>Improve the number of multi-generational events in the village; summer fete etc.</i></p> <p><i>Support the Village Hall and the Warbler</i></p> <p><i>The Big Lunch – national event by Eden Project (7-8 June)</i></p> <p><i>The mobile library visiting Bromeswell is a good thing.</i></p>	
Maintain footpaths	4
<p><i>Maintenance of footpaths</i></p> <p><i>The network of footpaths is a strength for Bromeswell</i></p> <p><i>Annual walk of footpaths and report issues</i></p>	
Family Facilities	2
<p><i>Improve family facilities, e.g. play area</i></p> <p><i>Playground type equipment at rear of the village hall</i></p>	
Improve wi-fi connections in Bromeswell	0
<p><i>WiFi in the village hall. Even a mobile hub unit. Approx. £100 + £10 a month.</i></p> <p><i>WiFi in the village hall</i></p>	