



Littlebourne

Village Design Statement



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Littlebourne

Village Design Statement

The statement has been prepared through an open process of public consultation with the villagers and stakeholders through the Village Appraisal - a survey of local residents' opinions and priorities, discussions, workshops and projects.

All age groups took part from Pensioners to our primary school children.

Village Intent

The purpose of the Littlebourne Village Design Statement (VDS) is to describe the distinctive character of Littlebourne, derived from its history, its geographical setting and its sense of community.

Change through development and conservation is inevitable. The VDS is intended to inform and guide change in ways that will enhance rather than detract from Littlebourne's uniqueness and add to the quality of life within the village.

The statement has been prepared through an open process of public consultation with the villagers and stakeholders through the Village Appraisal - a survey of local residents' opinions and priorities, discussions, workshops and projects. The outcomes of Parish Meetings to discuss specific issues including Jubilee Road development and the land between the List and the Hill have been included. All age groups took part from Pensioners to our primary school children.

It is intended to provide guidance to those applying for planning consent so that they can take into account the wishes of local people at the earliest possible stage of developing their plans.

The Village Design Statement was adopted, in December 2005, as Supplementary Planning Guidance by Littlebourne Parish Council and by Canterbury City Council as a material consideration when determining planning applications. It will be taken into account both by developers and planning authorities when considering planning applications within the village boundaries. We also hope other people considering alterations or additions to their Littlebourne property will find the principles here a useful guide so together we will enhance the character of our village for our own and our neighbours' benefit, even when formal planning consent is not required.



First Principles

The village of Littlebourne should be a pleasant place to live, supporting personal and family growth within a balanced and vibrant community. Littlebourne should provide a stable place to live through all stages and changes in life-circumstances without the need to move away, so far as is possible.

Half the residents of Littlebourne think the quality of life in Littlebourne is worse than it was 10 years ago.

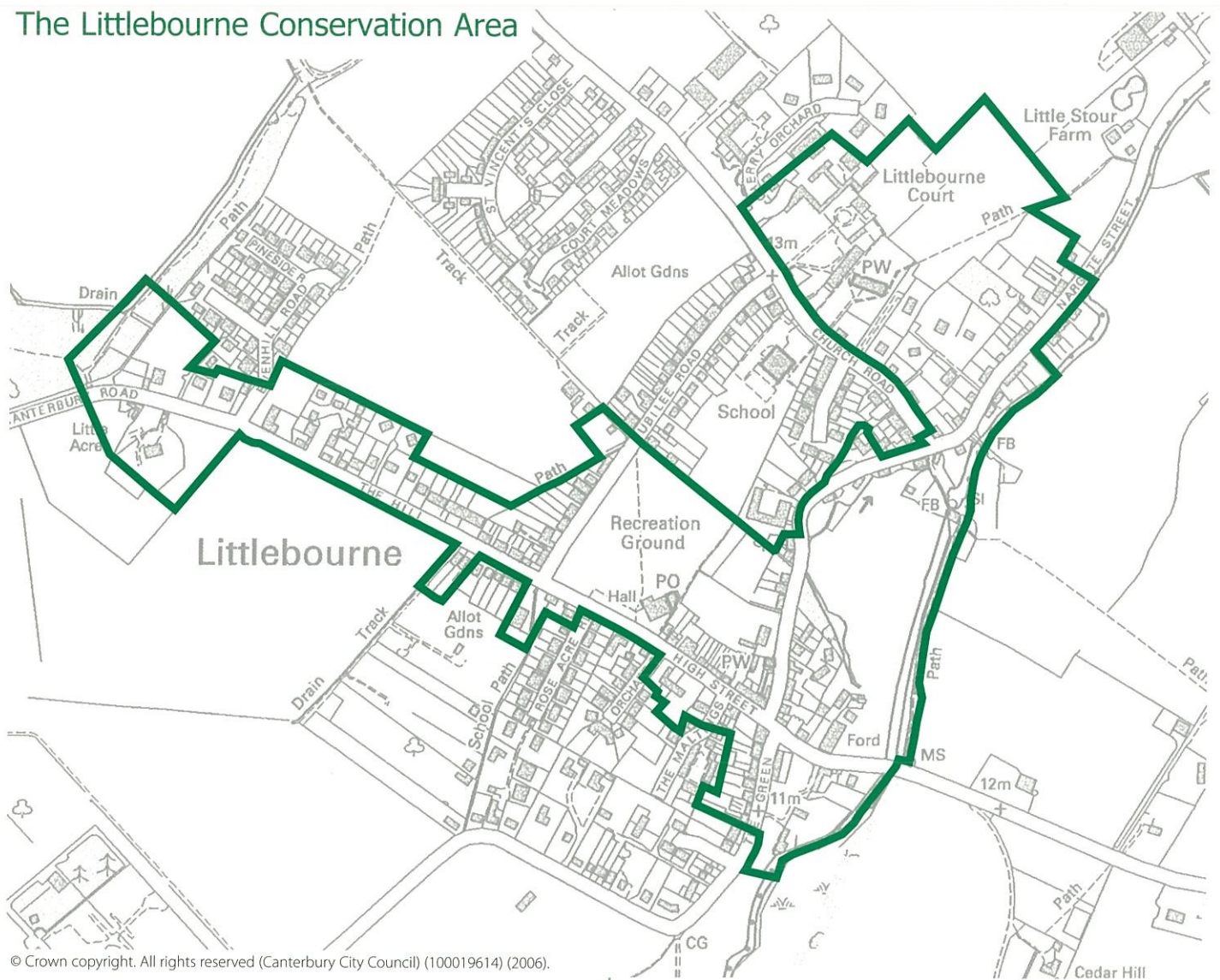
That which is the best of the character of Littlebourne should be preserved to be enjoyed by future generations whilst that which does not should be discouraged as each opportunity for change arises. Traditions and history form an important aspect of the village's heritage as well as more tangible features such as buildings and hedgerows. Nevertheless, Littlebourne has seen many changes over the centuries and successive innovations have made Littlebourne the interesting and vibrant village that it is. Each proposal for development will be considered on its own merits.

All development proposals should include a statement and illustrations demonstrating how the principles and the following guidelines have been addressed. The detail required would depend upon the scale of the proposed development ranging from a few words for a small extension to an existing house to a full Design Statement for a row of houses.

The spacious feel of the village is of paramount importance to its character and therefore any development of green field sites is not acceptable. All new buildings should follow in the traditions of their setting, reflecting the intrinsic characteristics that make each character area special and distinct from other places.

Particular care should be taken in the Conservation Area to ensure that alterations and new buildings harmonise in architecture and scale with their surroundings and make a positive contribution to the historic core of the village.

The Littlebourne Conservation Area



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Landscape and Setting

95% of Littlebourne residents consider it is important to preserve the rural setting of Littlebourne from significant development at or near its boundaries

The countryside around the A257 entering Littlebourne from Canterbury reflects the diverse use of the variable soils. On the left and right of Fish Pool Hill are woodlands, becoming chestnut coppicing behind Firdowns Cottage. The Roman Road departs from the modern line of the A257 and crosses an arable field and enters Pine Wood, believed to be chestnut coppice since the early 16th century, although nowadays it provides fodder for elephants at the nearby zoo. Much of the cut timber is left to rot, but provides a safe haven for small rodents such as dormice which inhabit this wood.

On the Southern side of the A257 lies one of the last orchards of Woolton Farm with its familiar crab apple pollination, where further along the road, on Downham field all the orchards have been grubbed to be replaced by cereals and rape.

Wildlife of the woodland includes rabbits, foxes, weasels, stoat, dormice, field mice etc. Grey squirrels are common. Birds include the Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker and most of the Tit family.

In the wood can also be seen bomb craters — legacies of WWII, including one resulting from a land mine explosion, which is 60' across and 15' deep. There are hideaways and tunnels intended for use by the Resistance in the event of England being overrun by the German forces.

In October/November the Pinewood is a welcome source of chestnuts from 'nurse' trees for many visitors. The countryside around Littlebourne has been used to grow food for many centuries. Over this period,



changes have occurred. The forest has been cleared, fields made (their boundaries marked out with hedges) and roads and settlements have developed.

93% of villagers said the woods around Littlebourne are important features of the countryside to them

There is evidence around us to show man has been here since the Neolithic period - over 7,000 years ago. Grain was threshed and crops stored in the Littlebourne Barn, as we know it, from the 14th century. In the last hundred years farming has changed greatly. In the 1950s the consumer wanted cheaper food so, with bigger tractors pulling larger machinery, hedges were taken out to produce larger fields. The traditional hop gardens that once surrounded Littlebourne are nearly all gone. At one time sixteen working oasts could be seen from Garrington - today there are none. Cheap imports of hops, and the growing consumption of continental lager have seen the demand for local hops fall.

The orchards that once surrounded Littlebourne are being grubbed out — this is again the changing face of agriculture.

93% of villagers said the orchards around Littlebourne are important features to them



Cattle and sheep breeds changed — in particular native cattle gave way to continental.

The Littlebourne stretch of the Nailbourne Valley is rich in native wildlife. With the Nailbourne and the Little Stour drying up in parts during some years, movement of fish and other aquatic animals can be difficult but local pockets of trout, local crayfish and waterfowl are still to be found. With the growing use of river and ground water for drinking and the irrigation of crops there is concern for the future of our river. Conversely the need to take precautions against flooding requires more invasive management of our watercourses.

Over the last twenty years more than a hundred and forty species of birds have been recorded in Littlebourne, including red kites, kingfishers, nightjars, water pipits, peregrine falcons and little egrets.

98% of villagers believe the birds of Littlebourne are an important priority

Over thirty species of butterflies have been seen and the list of moths and other insects seems endless. The largest of the British beetles, the stag beetle, breeds in Littlebourne.

Mammals and reptiles abound. Most villagers have seen one of the numerous local foxes around the roads whilst very few have seen a live badger. However, these are also relatively common within our boundaries. There are still a lot of rabbits around. Its cousin the hare is also seen frequently. There are also smaller mammals in the valley including evidence of

otters visiting the river. Unfortunately, a recent introduction, the mink, has also been around and these can be devastating to wildlife. Our only flying mammal, the bat, also abounds but unfortunately numbers have dropped over the past twenty years. There are at least five species in Littlebourne and it is hoped, with present legislation that these animals can increase in number. Reptiles including grass snake, slowworm, common and sand lizard are also to be found.

96% of villagers regard the local wild animals as important

With the changing face of agriculture, more herbicides have been used and this has caused the loss of many

98% of villagers say that the pastures and water meadows are important features for them

of the meadow flowers seen in fields prior to the 1960s. Now, these flowers are confined to field margins and other uncultivated land.

98% of villagers say that wild flowers are an important priority

Changes to working practices, with the help of grants, can allow farmers to diversify and plant up poor cropping areas to increase habitat for wildlife. This is happening on some farms in Littlebourne. On one, three kilometres of mixed hedging has been planted in recent years and this can only encourage wildlife.

95% of villagers say hedges are important features of the countryside to them



- Proposed developments submitted for approval must give appropriate environmental impact information and demonstrate that local flora and fauna will be unaffected, depending upon the scale of the scheme.
- Entrances to the village should be visually welcoming and care should be taken that traffic-management measures do not adversely impact on the environment.
- Existing green, wooded and other open spaces within the village and on the entrances and exits to the village should be preserved including farmland between the Hill and the List.
- The existing network of rural lanes, tracks and footpaths which criss-cross the village should be maintained and enhanced to provide easy and safe access to all parts of the village by foot.
- Full advantage should be taken of natural features and attention should be paid to maintaining sensitive views within the village, such as the village green, the river banks and the views of open countryside.
- Existing traditional boundary hedging or other local boundary treatments should be incorporated into new developments. Hedging with native species (not fast growing conifers) rather than fencing should normally be utilised. Designs for new development should provide details of hard and soft landscaping.
- Opportunities should be taken, whenever possible, to route new and existing public utility services underground.
- Developers should read the "Blean Woods and Great & Little Stour Landscape Appraisal" document about the landscape setting of Littlebourne. This is also approved supplementary planning guidance and should be referred to in addition to the Littlebourne Village Design Statement.

Character Areas:

The Hill



Approaching Littlebourne from Canterbury, the curving main road passing orchards on the right and woods on the left, bends severely before descending into The Hill. Mature hedging on the right of the A257 sheltering farmland behind, provides a welcome rural feel to this entrance to the village, with the left side featuring the Evenhill Public House before giving way to a mixture of buildings through 17th to 20th century, most built of brick with Kent peg tiles or slate roofs.



The front of Holly Lodge is faced with weatherboarding and attractive conversions of the Oast house, the former Foresters' Inn and The Old School House have been carried out. This re-use of commercial/community buildings is a recurring theme throughout the village with many houses retaining the names of their former existences such as the Brewery cottages and the Basketmakers in Nargate Street.

There are three blocks of four terraced 19th century cottages, brick with slate roofs. Unfortunately some of the modern replacement windows and doors jar with the period feel.

Scale: One and two storey; terraced cottages and many detached houses

Roofs: Predominantly slate and kent peg

Walls: Brick, Victorian red, rendered.

Windows: Four pane and multi-pane sash, shutters, white casements, modern replacement.

Gardens: Some have a long frontage behind small walls or fencing, or open onto the road whilst cottages stand right on the pavement.

The Green and Bokesbourne Lane



The village green is bordered on its eastern side by a number of interesting dwellings, backed by the Little Stour. In the heart of the old village, the cottages, built circa 1650 with Flemish gables and dormers sit comfortably with the Manor Oast and the 20th century Old Police House. Manor Farm House, at right angles to the other buildings and partially hidden, has cambered arches typical of Littlebourne.

As one exits from the high street into Bokesbourne Lane at the site of the Anchor pub, the pleasant mix of predominantly 18th and 19th century houses and cottages, acts as an excellent foil for the older houses opposite on the green. As one continues past the

Green, the buildings give way to modern bungalows and houses and Cornerways, dominates the bend with an open garden, opposite the entrance to Garrington.

Scale: Two-storey terraced cottages with some detached houses and an Oast house.

Roofs: Kent peg tiles with dormers, three oast cowl.

Walls: Mainly red brick, with The House on the Green, rendered, some decorative brickwork, weather-boarding.

Windows: Multi-paned sash windows and casements painted white.

Gardens: Open and fronting on to the green or gravel to front. Traditional brick walling to the rear of the detached houses.

Jubilee Road



Jubilee Road is a testament to the variety of different housing styles used in the village as it grew from the late 19th century onwards. The handsome St Vincent's house adjacent to the old Hall gives way to the Victorian terraced Jubilee cottages. Newer houses and bungalows tend to predominate as one approaches Church Road.

Scale: One and two storey

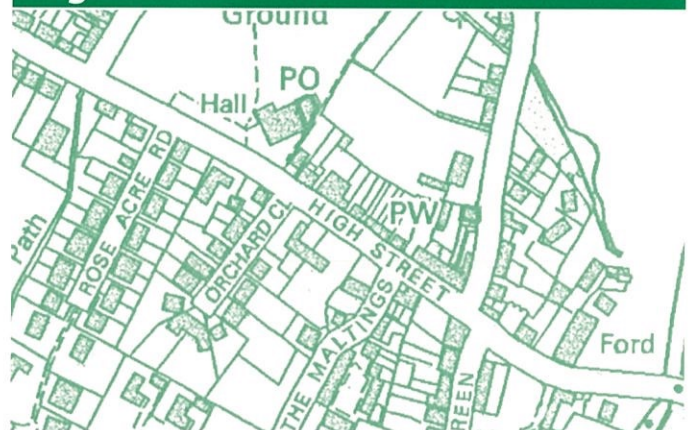
Roofs: Slate and Kent peg, dormer windows

Walls: brick nogging, natural or painted, rendered

Windows: two pane sash, modern windows

Gardens: Larger frontages are mainly gravelled, bordered by small walls.

High Street



The High Street has a large number of interesting buildings which fall within the conservation area. Serving the community, in close proximity are found the 15th century Bow Window Hotel, the 16th century Anchor Inn with its impressive Flemish gable, and the 17th century King William.

The old Post Office and Post Office cottages have been recently refurbished to a high standard retaining their historical outward appearance. A traditional high brick wall hides the 17th century Little Howletts, set back from the road. Planning permission has recently been granted to construct three dwellings on the garage site.

- Scale:** Two and three storey dwellings
- Roofs:** Slate and kent peg, gabled and flat-roofed dormer windows
- Walls:** Red brick
- Windows:** Multi-paned sash, square-headed casement and bay and bow.
- Gardens:** In this part of the village, the houses sit on the pavement or on the street.

Nargate Street



This is one of the old areas of settlement along the old course of the river which formed the boundary with Ickham parish. The earliest surviving buildings are timber-framed and date from the 16th century; Tudor cottage, Riverbank, Grove and Devon; the three thatched cottages and Brewery House cottages. In each subsequent century further buildings were constructed, many displaying typical Littlebourne features such as cambered arches, steep pitched roofs, and ornate brickwork. Many of the houses spill out

onto the road or have small open gardens. Unsuitable replacement windows in some of the Victorian cottages and a number of bungalows of pattern book design impact upon the harmonious scene.

- Scale:** Mixed one, two storey. Old Rectory, Old Vicarage three
- Roofs:** Thatch, peg tile, slate, concrete. Deep steep pitch except for bungalows
- Walls:** Brick noggin, natural or painted/rendered. Ranging from mellow tudor brick to Victorian red.
- Windows:** Iron casements, timber sash and latterly plastic
- Gardens:** Some houses have none at the front, others very small, and the majority have open entrances

Church Road



Church road completes the village square and is another old settlement round the church and manor house. The older houses are on the north side; Grey Cottage dating from 1642, with gable ends and built using bricks from the Archbishop's Palace in

(continued on page 13)

Architectural and Boundary Treatments

Littlebourne's six distinct character areas offer a wealth of architectural detailing and boundary treatments, that can inform any new development within them. This reference 'palette' is illustrated here with examples from these identified areas within Littlebourne.

Photographs of detailing from the character areas are colour coded below to match the corresponding roads on the village map on the centre pages. Each of the post war estates (marked yellow on the map) was built to a consistent design, and hence, individual features do not need to be highlighted. For this reason they are not illustrated in this section.

The Hill



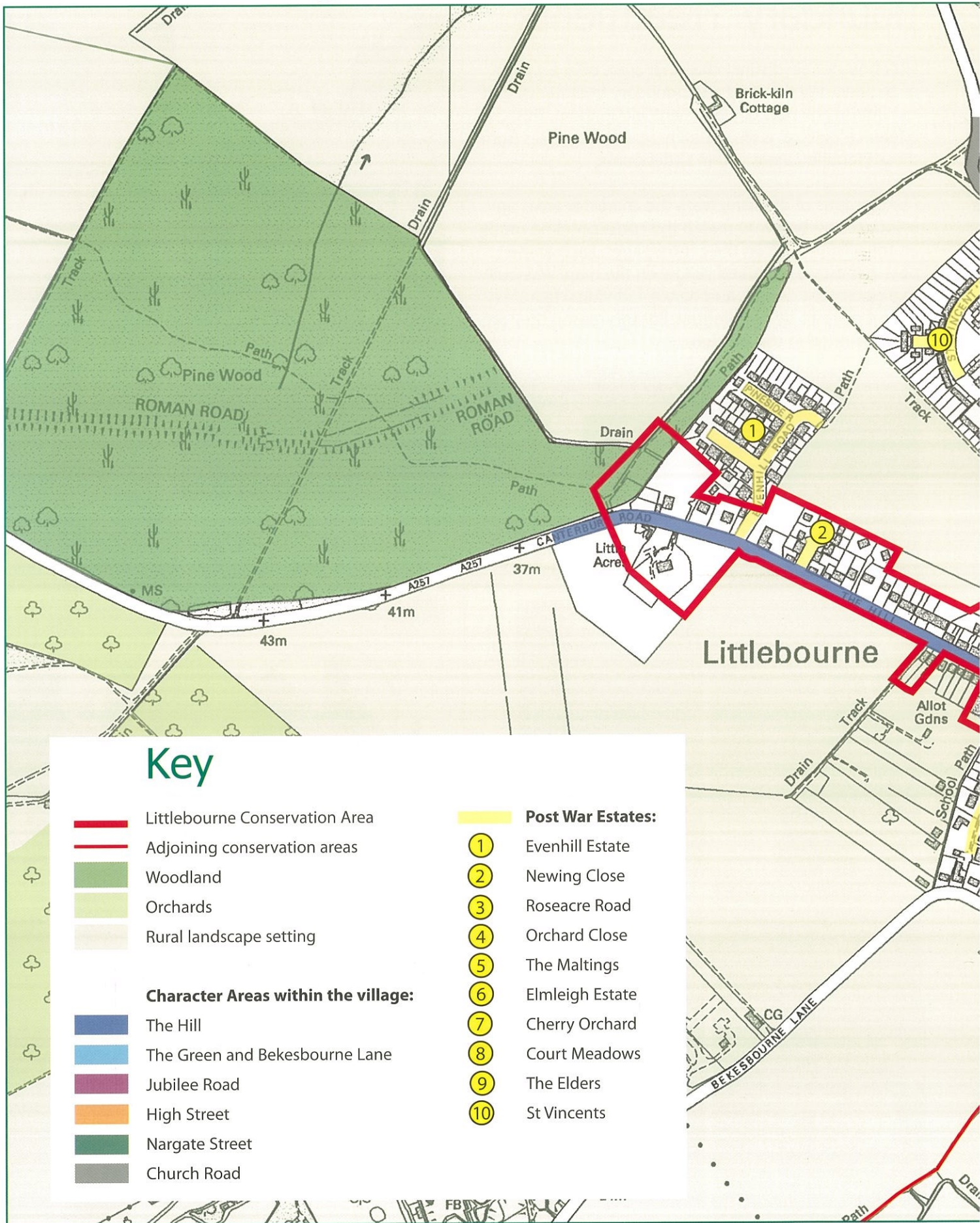
The Green and Bekesbourne Lane

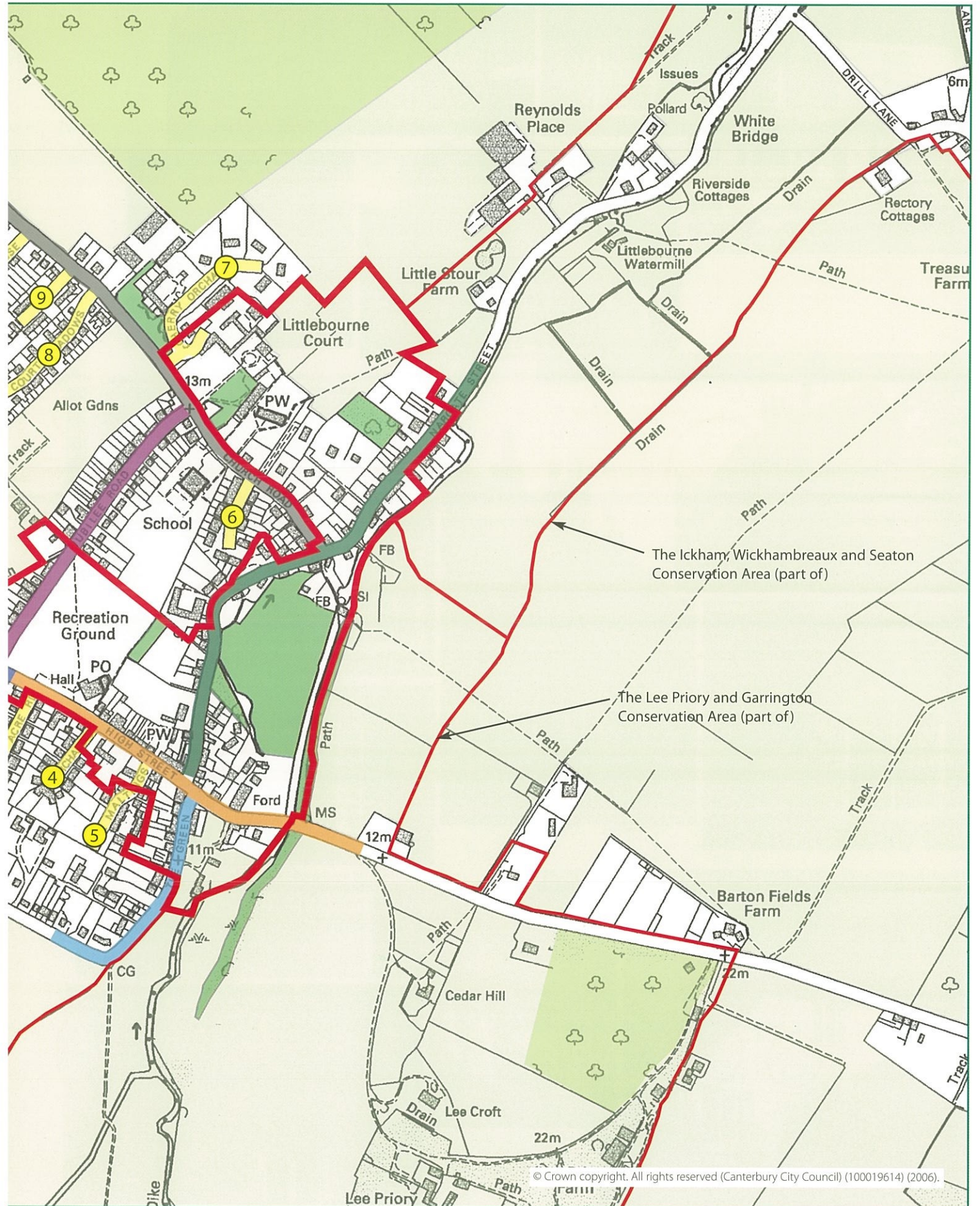


Jubilee Road



Littlebourne Village





High Street



Nargate Street



Church Road



Bekesbourne and Littlebourne Court, the manor house of the village, built in 1743. The Old Granary, built late 18th, early 19th century, as the granary to Littlebourne Court hides the thatched Tithe Barn from view. This grade one listed building was built c 1320-40 and is 170 ft long. Court Hill cottages were built for Littlebourne Court farm workers in the early 20th century with bricks from Cherville Ickham. The mature beech hedge is an attractive feature whilst the open entrances link the gardens with the village.

Scale: One and two storey

Roofs: Kent peg tile, dormer windows, steep pitch, cat slide

Walls: Brick painted/rendered or plain

Windows: Casement, timber, dormer, sash

Gardens: Front, some none, some small but all with views to the back gardens.

Post War Estates

Although there was little development in the village between the wars (1918-1939), the last 50 years saw the development of estates off the main road and on the perimeter of the village. Initially these were mainly bungalows but towards the tail end of the 20th century, more houses were built, including low-cost in Court Meadows and executive- style in Newing Close.

Evenhill Estate was completed in 1963 and consists of Evenhill road, Pineside and Hillcrest. The 38 bungalows and 12 houses (6 at the apex of each of the two roads) were built on orchard land belonging to Holly Lodge and Newing's farm. The gardens are all open fronted and some of the bungalows have roof extensions.



Newing Close is a small development of ten detached houses built in 1992/3 on the land formerly occupied by Jelly's garage. The Old Laundry stood on the same site in earlier times.



Roseacre Road consists of 18 semi-detached bungalows, and four houses built on land and orchard belonging to Rose Cottage. In the 1990s the road was extended further into the orchard adding four bungalows.



Orchard Close was built in 1965 on orchard land belonging to Little Howletts. It is a mix of chalet bungalows, with different coloured wash brickwork, double-fronted bungalows and four detached houses.



The Maltings were developed in the 1970s on the Old Malthouse site by Canterbury District Council. This development successfully retained the traditional street scene by building close to the back of the pavement on one side of the cul-de-sac. It comprises terraced housing which at the end furthest from the High Street face inwards onto a grassed area. This design won a Civic Trust Award.



Elmleigh Estate was built on the garden of the old Rectory and consisted of two and three bedroomed bungalows in Church Road, Nargate Street and Elmleigh Road, completed in 1962. In Elmleigh Road, the gardens are open-fronted. Part of the old garden wall still remains in Nargate Street, together with some of the trees including the Acer Brilliantissimum. The oldest part of the rectory was demolished and the rest converted into flats. The old gardener's cottage was saved by local intervention.



Cherry Orchard was built on land belonging to Littlebourne Court farm. Villagers decided that they would prefer houses on the site than industrial buildings with consequential heavy vehicles. Following a public enquiry, five large houses were built in 2000, and then, later, eight smaller houses in a shaped terrace. The two cottages at the entrance were built in 1954 by Mounts for farm workers. The land bordering Court hill was donated by Sunley for the establishment of a Local Nature Reserve.



Court Meadows was initiated by the Parish Council to address local need and comprises 47 dwellings in all; two shared equity, the rest rented. A twisting road, thoughtful planting and grasscrete car parking makes this an attractive and appropriate environment with a path connecting with the List and village centre. At the time of writing a third phase of 13 mixed bungalows and two storey houses has been approved.



The Elders was built in 1978 on land sold to Canterbury City Council by the Parish Council for local housing. There are five bungalows for older people and 19 houses grouped around a green with trees.



Although the first sixteen houses in **St Vincents** were built in 1937, on land bought by the Parish Council in 1925 to provide allotments. The bulk of the dwellings were post-war. In 1955, a number of three bedroom and two bedroom houses were built and additional ones followed in 1960. In the same year, 8 flats were built. Altogether there are 44 houses and eight flats.



Design

- Planning applications should, where appropriate, include a statement detailing how the principles and recommendations in this Littlebourne Village Design Statement have been addressed.
- The design of any new building should harmonise with those dwellings present, adopting local design characteristics where possible. However, designs based on a confused mix of architectural styles or buildings that mimic but lack the integrity of genuine historic buildings, should be resisted if harm occurs.
- High quality contemporary architecture and designs, which compliment their surroundings and incorporate variations in geometric form, mass and scale will be encouraged.
- Features to conserve natural resources such as energy and water should be encouraged in the design of new buildings, when and wherever possible.
- Design layouts should incorporate local treatments of boundaries such as hedges, walls, fences, gates and open frontages, in keeping with those in each character area.

- Within the Conservation Area, any building must reflect the form, scale and architectural style of its surroundings; roof heights, spans, pitches, number of storeys, chimneys, roofing materials, brick colour and window treatments should be in keeping with neighbouring dwellings.
- Maintenance in the Conservation Area and of listed buildings: original details should be retained and repaired where feasible: as far as possible traditional techniques and sympathetic materials should be used. Particular care should be taken with the designs and materials used for extensions and for alterations such as replacement doors and windows.

Materials

- Building materials play an important part in determining local character.
- All materials, whether modern or traditional, should be appropriate to their context.
- Materials that harmonise with neighbouring buildings should be used for both new developments and alterations. For older buildings and for new ones in the Conservation Area, materials should be strictly limited to those, which closely match the traditional fabric of other nearby buildings in colour, texture and appearance. They should include light red brick, Kent peg tiles (or similar), slates, hanging tiles, and weather boarding in keeping with properties nearby. Architectural features such as decorative barge boards, finials etc that are characteristic of the Village or nearby buildings would be welcomed.
- Materials such as concrete block walls, mock Georgian Fanlights, Tyrolean render should be discouraged.
- Principles of sustainability should be encouraged in the choice and source of materials.

Layout

- The scale and density of any planned development should be in keeping with neighbouring buildings and plot sizes.
- Particular care should be taken to design the layout and density of new developments so as to ensure privacy and freedom from excessive noise for residents in surrounding gardens and dwellings, especially in back-land and infill sites.
- The design and materials used for boundaries and street furniture, including signs, lighting and seats, should be selected with care to reflect Littlebourne's traditional styles and to reflect the rural character of the village.
- Where parking is an issue, adequate off-street parking should be provided for all new buildings, particularly those within the Conservation Area.
- New developments should not be dominated by highways and parking. Design layout should be in keeping with the traditional pattern of streets in Littlebourne.
- Development proposals should include provision for enhancing the character of the location with soft landscaping.

Utilities and Infrastructure

The essential components to achieving a supportive, well-balanced range of facilities and infrastructure are encompassed within the following sections:

Water and Drainage

There have been some serious floods within the village. Whilst substantial preventative measures have been put in place, it is our intention to further reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

Any significant development, including increased roof or paved areas will have to demonstrate how the displaced water will be managed.

Highways, Access and Movement

We strive to further develop our effective and safe network of pathways, bridleways and roads to meet the needs of the community, whether on foot, bike, horse or car. In so doing the environmental impact on

the quality of life and appearance of the village is taken into consideration.

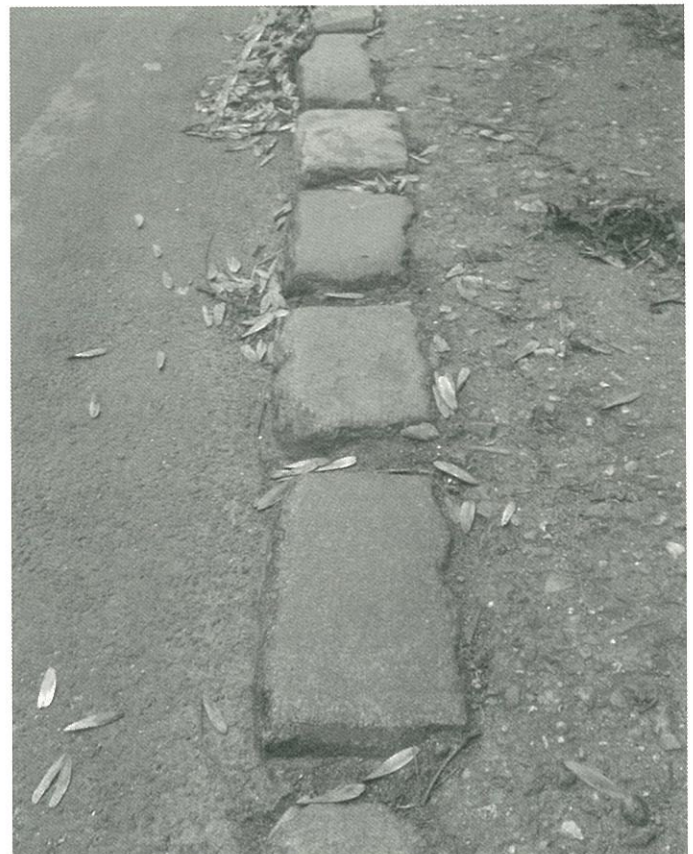
Routes, particularly the roads and pavements should have an uncluttered appearance with modern facilities, which are in keeping with the historical aspects of the village.

The village benefits from a network of footpaths which allow people to get around the village and out into surrounding countryside without the need to walk adjacent to roads.

72% of villagers consider facilities for pedestrians to be good or reasonable but significant numbers of villagers reported difficulties from time to time when walking along these footpaths with nettles, bushes and mud being the most important causes

The footpaths link to pavements allowing other areas of to be reached. These pavements, in the main, are of tarmac with modern concrete kerb stones. These are out of character with older zones of the village.

We would encourage their replacement wherever reasonably practical with more in keeping materials (note example kerb stones).



Unlike the footpaths, the pavements benefit from street lighting throughout the night.

Any development needs to consider the impact of pedestrian safety.

Some residents keep horses and these are encouraged to use the bridleways. We wish to further develop bridleways and cycle paths to provide additional safe routes, away from both pedestrians using footpaths and traffic.

57% of villagers believe provision for local cyclists is poor (73% of those who expressed an opinion) and 37% indicated they would be prepared to cycle to work if there was a suitable, safe cycle route

The A257 dominates and divides the village. Whilst the volume, speed and noise of traffic it carries is unwelcome, we wish to ensure its safe, efficient and courteous passage through the village.

Almost all Littlebourne residents feel in danger from traffic in Jubilee Road, Nargate Street and especially The Hill and High Street

To mitigate the risks associated with speed and volume of traffic, we have already introduced measures to reduce speed, noise and have introduced a pelican crossing close to the shop. We now have gateways to remind drivers they are leaving an open highway and entering a community. The other roads and in particular the 'through routes' in the village (Bekesbourne Lane, Nargate Street, Jubilee Road and Court Hill) have similarly seen such traffic issues and have been addressed with a continuing programme of traffic calming measures.

The level and impact of signage to achieve this has changed the character of the streets themselves. This impact needs to be counterbalanced with features more consistent with a village and the reduction of less necessary signage.

Parking exacerbates the traffic issues and it is important to reduce on-road parking wherever possible. This would allow existing drives and garages to be used and adults and children could then cross the road safely in view of the cars.

We would not wish to encourage additional volumes of traffic or street parking.

We would desire all roads to have pavements and cycle lanes and would actively support the introduction of cycle paths.

We would look favourably upon measures which divert through traffic away from the village, subject to environmental and amenity impact.

For all roads, the volume of traffic in combination with the width of roads and their proximity to houses continues to be a concern. Littlebourne is community and should not end up split by the A257 or be seen as ribbon development along this road.

Street furniture (post boxes, telephone boxes and shelters) should be in keeping with the character of the zone within which they are situated. The visual impact of telegraph poles, light stands and suspended cables is undesirable and new development proposals should state how these items would be concealed. Road and village signage should be appropriate for a village setting and consistent with the zone.

Public Open Spaces

The village has a series of open spaces allowing good views across the village; many of these are public areas. Such areas are important for meeting, exercising and enjoying the village community activities. The recreation ground is at the heart of the village and offers a range of facilities supporting our aims: a children's play area, a sports ground used for formal cricket and football matches by the village teams. It also encourages a variety of informal sports including football, cricket and basketball, kite flying etc.

The provision of a sports club gives changing rooms and a social/meeting place for members. The orchard provides a quiet area set aside for wild flowers and personal reflection, and family picnics. In addition to the normal open-air activities, the village green provides paddling and a series of mature trees.

Any significant new development should maintain the current ratio of such useful public open spaces to housing.

This combination of publicly accessible open spaces for a range of individual and group pursuits is one of the defining characteristics of the village.

It is recognised that additional trees/woodland would enhance the appearance whilst skate boarding, a BMX track and youth shelter would extend the range of activities catered for.

Commercial Life

The historical busy commercial life of Littlebourne is an important traditional feature of the village, which we wish to encourage in appropriate settings in trades sympathetic to the character of this village. A healthy rural commercial life provides local services and employment bringing activity and interest to the community. This is important to avoid becoming a dormitory community.

Currently the village benefits from workshops, farms, Antiques & Garden Furniture, shop, hairdressers and pubs and small hotels. Rural industry e.g. Nailbourne Forge, K&T Glass, farm working, funeral director.

86% of villagers want to encourage businesses engaged in preserving local wildlife and countryside

Such low impact industry and commerce are all considered to be sympathetic.

Community Facilities

We endeavour to maintain a healthy community, which works, plays and lives together in a diversity of ways without needing to leave the village. A range of facilities currently encourage this:

- Allotments
- Barn
- Bus services
- Churches
- Club
- Doctors surgery
- Hairdresser
- Hotel
- Post office and general store owned by the community
- Public seating
- Pubs
- School
- Visiting blood van
- Visiting fish & chips
- Visiting library

All villagers believe the Littlebourne CofE Primary School is important to the community

- War Memorial Hall
- Any significant development within the village would need to respect these and ideally increase the capacity and range of the recreational and community facilities in keeping with the character of the village.

Views of Littlebourne Children

Likes:

"We like the rivers in Littlebourne because they are beautiful and peaceful and wildlife creatures float and swim about, around you."

"We like the Orchard we have in Littlebourne because in summer you can go and pick fruit and you can have a peaceful time with trees shading the sun."

"We like the woods because there is a lot of space where you can go and walk your dogs and have a look at Littlebourne's amazing countryside."

"The Littlebourne Lakes are a very tranquil place where fishermen go to relax, enjoy themselves and generally get away from work. There are many different types of fish lurking in the lakes: mirror-carp, tench, common carp and cray-fish.

On Sundays Canterbury Boat Club take their model boats down to Bramble Lake to practise skills and have small races. Fortunately a special jetty was made so access to the water would be easier and safer.

There are a few wooden benches by Bramble Lake which Canterbury Boat Club use to keep electrical equipment off the damp ground and for supporting their boats when they are working on them. The fishermen use them for resting their rods and supporting their tackle or maggot boxes."

William Nicholls (Aged 9)



Dislikes:

"We dislike the footpath that connects the road in Court Meadows to Jubilee Road. It is in need of re-tarmacing and there are no lights at all for night-time. It is full of litter!"

"We dislike lorries coming through our village. They should not be allowed to come up narrow roads such as Nargate Street and Jubilee Road."

"There should be more bins on the recreation ground because it is a lovely place to play in, but it is spoilt by all the litter."

"There are lots of things for kids between the ages of 4 and 12 to do such as Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts, but nothing for teenagers. If someone could organize a couple of clubs for them it might stop some of them getting into trouble."

In summary, we recognize that the village of Littlebourne is for its occupants, current and future and as you can see we feel strongly about maintaining AND enhancing it! Please help us achieve this.

The current villagers

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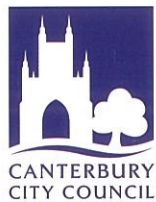
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