

RUCKINGE WISH LIST – NOVEMBER 2003

The wishes have been compiled by the members of the Parish Council after consultation with the parishioners. The survey was issued to 260 households with a return of 112, a 43% response rate. The wishes have been listed in descending order of preference.

	RUCKINGE WISHES	WHY	WHERE	WHEN	HOW
1	Greenbelt along northern ridge to be retained as an outstanding feature which also divides the Parish from Ashford to enable enjoyment of the ancient woodland by residents and visitors along the Saxon shore and Greensand Ways.	To retain the communities of Bromley Green Road (Upper Ruckinge) and Ruckinge Village as separate settlements, buffered by green space from the Ashford growth and each other. It is important to maintain the diversity of wildlife by keeping the natural corridors which support the fauna and flora.	Retain the National Nature Reserve and AONB , green woods and spaces between the canal and northern edge of the parish.	Short term and in perpetuity.	By preserving the present green spaces with strong planning control by ABC and relevant environmental bodies.
2	Measures to reduce speeding on the B2067, especially through the village and other roads. Dangerous junctions at May Cross and Bromley Green crossroads also need attention.	To improve the environment for residents by reducing the noise and vibration from speeding and heavy vehicles. Noise and speeding cause anxiety and danger to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders using the narrow single track roads. For walkers and cyclists Dimon Hill is particularly dangerous since visibility is poor and there are no means of escape from on coming vehicles due to the high banks.	The village centre may Cross, Bromley Green crossroads, Bromley Green Road and Dimon Hill.	Medium term – 2005-2016.	Speed, weight and size restrictions on minor roads. Aim for 30mph on B2067 through village and at Bromley Green Road. Mini roundabout at Ham Street Road / Marsh Road junction and May Cross. Realign the junction at Bromley Green crossroads. Through ABC , KCC, and Highways Agency and the LDF.
3	Rubbish collection to include better provision for recycling. Fly tipping to be discouraged by Improving access to Cobbs Wood disposal facilities in Ashford.	Parish residents are concerned about their environment. They wish to dispose of rubbish in an environmentally sensitive fashion. Fly tipping is evidence of unsatisfactory facilities in the area.	Throughout the parish.	Short term – by 2005.	Extend the blue box scheme to the whole parish. Large rubbish item collection facilities should be provided every three months. Items to be placed at the property perimeter and collected by ABC.
4	Integrated public transport structure to be improved to enable access to Ashford for young and old.	It is considered essential to maintain a transport system for children, the elderly and disabled amongst others who have no other means of transport. Many would loose their independence without it, to travel to essential facilities e.g. surgeries and hospitals, schools and colleges, work and leisure activities.	The Ham Street bus should be extended to Ruckinge regularly particularly during the middle of the day.	Short term – by 2005.	Subsidies to continue to make the buses affordable. Ensure buses match train timetables and school / college hours. Extend the hours of service to weekends.
5	Improve sewerage system in Bromley Green area.	The present system is not adequately sealed. It is inefficient and it costs a great deal to manage the situation when floods occur.	Bromley Green area.	Short term – by 2005.	By pressure from ABC on Southern Water, Highways Agency to finish surface water drainage years 2-3.
6	A children's play area for Lower Ruckinge	No facility at present.	To be identified	Medium term 2005 – 2016.	Sponsorship and grants.
7	Downgrade byways to bridleways.	Made unusable to horse and pedestrian traffic by 4x4's.	Through woods. Gill Lane repairs	Medium term 2005 – 2016.	Pressure from local councils on government. and HA
8	Small business concerns to continue to benefit the existing community	The business community bring employment to the local area.	At present locations.	Medium term 2005 – 2016	Through the local development framework and planning process.
9	The character of the Royal Military Canal is valued by parishioners and needs maintaining.	Concern for preserving the peace and tranquillity of the environment for the residents and visitors (humans and wildlife).	At Royal Military Canal footpath.	Short term – by 2005.	ABC strategic planning
10	The parish is unanimous in not wanting any estate housing. There is a small need for affordable local housing.	To retain the rural aspect of the parish and enable young people to stay in the parish.	Village centre sewerage area	Medium/Long term – 2005 to infinity	Strong planning controls and enforcement via ABC.