

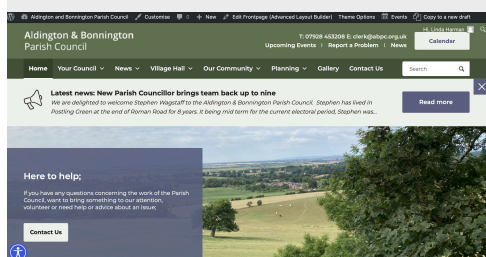


PARISH NEWS

The Aldington & Bonnington Parish Newsletter

New Parish Council website:

If you haven't done so yet, have a look at www.abpc.org.uk, the new improved website for our joint parishes. As always we are open to feedback and welcome suggestions for improvement.



Next Parish Meeting:

Aldington & Bonnington Parish Council meetings continue to be held online via Zoom until further notice.

Next meeting: **12th October 2020** starting at 7.30pm

If you have something to bring to our attention email Peter Setterfield: clerk@abpc.org.uk or tel: 07928 453208 (office hours 09.00-15.00hrs, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday)

or Councillor Linda Harman; tel: 07802 776779 email: lindaharman@abpc.org.uk

The results are in!

A very BIG thank you to everyone who responded to Questionnaire 1 from the Neighbourhood Planning Team.

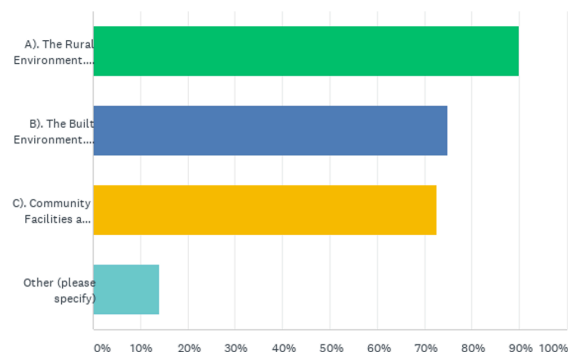
There are 550 properties altogether in Aldington and Bonnington. We sent 2 questionnaires to each house, as everyone's view counts and we received 210 responses, covering all postcodes within the joint parish. This is great for a first survey, so *thank you* — though we would, of course, be very happy to see a response from *every* house!

The Steering Team are now busy deciphering your responses. It's intriguing to see the similarities and differences of view from the various age groups and segments of the community: those that live in the middle of the village, for example, versus those that reside in the more outlying areas.

One thing that is very clear, being in the countryside is what we all love about living in Aldington and Bonnington; 90% of respondents felt that our Neighbourhood Plan should consider how we protect our countryside, with 75% thinking that it should consider what is built in the village and 71% thinking that our Plan should address community services. What cannot be fitted into a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered by Aldington & Bonnington Parish Council and shape future actions, activities and events. Watch the new website www.abpc.org.uk for publication of more details.

Q4: What do you consider to be the most important matters to consider in preparing the Aldington & Bonnington Neighbourhood Plan? Tick as many as apply to you.

Answered: 208 Skipped: 0



New Parish Councillor

We are delighted to welcome



Stephen Wagstaff to the Parish Council. Stephen lives at Postling Green, Roman Road, and was co-opted onto the Council by fellow Councillors at the September meeting. We had two wonderful candidates and thank both for coming forward.

War Memorial

Councillor Boulding recently met with some members of the Aldington and Bonnington Gardeners to review the planting of the memorial garden. A plan has been drawn up to replace some of the planting and to enhance the area. This has been costed and Cllr Harman has agreed to cover the cost from her Borough Council Ward Member Grant. Aldington Primary School will be assisting with the planting.

Remembrance Sunday

Unless Government guidelines indicate otherwise: Gerry Newson Rev. Aldington Christians Together, will be holding a service at the Memorial on **Sunday 8th November** to pay our respects in a socially distanced manner. All attendees are requested to stand in family groups of no more than 6 and to remain well clear of others.

Nature, trees, fields and...the pond...

This summer, as many will be aware, the pond water levels were seriously affected by the lack of rain. The pond has a complicated history; being a deliberately created nature pond, it does not have a natural water source, beyond collecting ground water from beneath Reynold's Field, of which there is none during long dry spells.



We have been working with local ecologist Martin Newcombe and The Kentish Stour Countryside Project to review the entire Reynold's and Quarry Wood, Quarry Field area, including the pond. Our action plan will start with pond clearance this Autumn and will continue hereafter with a review of planting and grass cutting

regimes with the aim of enhancing the natural environment that we are lucky to have at the core of Aldington.

We would like to form a dedicated volunteer group to help with environmental projects. The group will work alongside Martin Newcombe and the Parish Council. If you'd be interested to get involved in a little manual labour contact clerk@abpc.org.uk

My Favourite View: Enter our photography competition. Closing date December 20th

Talking of nature... If you are out walking, do take a camera or mobile phone with you to record the many stunning views that can be enjoyed in and around our parishes. The Neighbourhood Planning Team are inviting you to photograph and nominate important views (public) both into and out from key viewpoints to help to document the character of the landscape around Aldington and Bonnington. We need you to record the point from which it was taken and the direction of the view. Look out for posters and more information on the website. We'll share the best images and the photographers of the very best 10 shots will win a large print of their image.