

KENT ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCILS

Parish and Town Councils – Liaison with Police Survey

This survey is being sent to every Parish and Town Council in Kent by the Kent Association of Parish Councils as we are reviewing just how our strata of local government interfaces with the Police. At present we have a great deal of anecdotal information but we believe if there is to be a constructive dialogue in the context of the establishment and monitoring of Community Safety Plans we need to have as comprehensive a survey of the facts as possible. The results will only be released as statistics and no attribution to any Parish or Town will be made.

Respondent..... BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
Name..... JOHN E HILL ROLE... Councillor..... (Clerk/Chairman etc)

1. Does a Police representative attend Council meetings?

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Always | Y/N | |
| <u>Frequently</u> | <u>Y/N</u> | Approx how often.....? |
| <u>Occasionally</u> | <u>Y/N</u> | Approx how often... <u>Once a mo?</u> |
| Only when asked | Y/N | Approx how often.....? |

2. Do the Police submit a report for your Council meetings?

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Always | Y/N | |
| Frequently | Y/N | Approx how often.....? |
| <u>Occasionally</u> | <u>Y/N</u> | Approx how often.....? |
| <u>Only when asked</u> | <u>Y/N</u> | Approx how often.....? |

3. Does your Parish have the services of a "Special" designated as a Parish Constable? Y/N

If more than one then how many.....?

For approx how many hours per week.....?

What support do you as a Parish provide? (Please give details on a separate page, eg. money, equipment, office space, telephone etc.)

4. Is your Parish invited to some form of meeting/seminar/forum with the Police?

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Regularly | <u>Y/N</u> | Approx how often... <u>3 monthly?</u> |
| Occasionally | Y/N | Approx how often.....? |

5. Does your Parish attend the meetings identified in 4 above?

Whenever notified

Regularly
Occasionally

Y/N
Y/N

Approx how often.....?
Approx how often.....?

6. Please give us some detail on a separate page about the organisation of the meetings identified in 4? e.g. How many Parishes are invited, who establishes the agenda, who chairs the meetings, are the meetings able to recommend actions or are they only informative?

7. Again on a separate page please make a brief comment on your evaluation of these meetings and their effectiveness.

8. Finally - does your Parish have Neighbourhood Watch?

Y/N

Approx what % of your area is covered?

20.....%

Is it viewed as an effective contribution to safety? Y/N

Please add comments below or on an additional sheet if required:-

*6/ All local Parishes
Police establish agenda.
Police chair meeting - Chief Inspector.
Police - informative only.*

BRIDGE

.....PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL

17 May 2000

Councillor M Vye
The Dacha
Patixbourne Road
Bridge

Dear Martin

Thank you for your letter concerning your talk with Superintendent Chidley about traffic matters in the village.

Councillors were informed of his comments at their last meeting and were encouraged, as you were, by the change of position concerning speed limits. However councillors would prefer to see a 20 mph limit extended throughout the whole of the High Street and for the entire day, rather than for a limited time as mentioned in your letter.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the village in this connection.

Yours sincerely

J Potter (Mrs)
Parish Clerk



BARHAM DOWNS WARD

CANTERBURY SOUTH DIVISION

Councillor Martin Vye, The Dacha, Patricbourne Road, Bridge,
Canterbury, Kent CT4 5BL Telephone: 01227-830983

7.5.00

Dear Janet,

Just a brief note to say that I went to see Superintendent Chidley last week, for a regular talk about issues affecting my county division. Amongst other issues we talked about traffic measures in bridge, and I was pleased and heartened to hear him say that he considered a 20 mph limit, perhaps for certain limited period of the day, down the hill from Station Road to Conyngham Lane, a priority. This appears to be an advance on the police's comments on Bridge issues in the Traffic Regulation Review, and I'm pleased and encouraged by what he said.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin Vye".

Police Meeting

I mailed short notice of meeting at last one & no-one mentioned list of dates. I don't have original letter - could you get a copy.

As far as the meetings are concerned, I think they are useful & provide a forum for exchange of ideas. The disappointing turnout was partly due to appalling weather (gale + rain), the first meeting of the New Year (January) & the short notice (possibly!) of meeting.

John Cur

21/2/00

Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ
Fax: (01227) 817109

Mrs J Potter
Parish Clerk
50 Riverside Close
Bridge
Canterbury
Kent CT4 5TN

Our Ref: 2026/99/RKC/LCF

22nd December 1999

Dear Mrs Potter and members of the council,

Bridge - Vehicles and Children

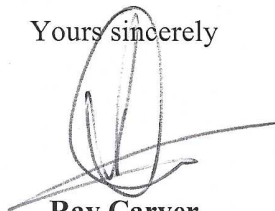
I refer to the above and your letter of 16th December.

On Wednesday 8th December I met with representatives of the Highway Authority to discuss forthcoming traffic issues. Bridge village was discussed and in particular the problems of Bridge Hill into the village from Canterbury and pedestrian crossing facilities. A number of possible solutions were discussed and Mr Andrew Phillips at Canterbury Highways may be able to help the council further.

With regard to the problem of nuisance youths, we do patrol the village on a regular basis and the Community Action team have in particular paid attention. The problem of interference with street furniture in particular, street lamps, might be alleviated if metal straps were installed by Seeboard on the electrical hatch.

Clearly there must be an expectation that parents and the village must take some responsibility for 'youths standing in groups' around the village, the Police can and do act where behaviour becomes unacceptable or offences occur. We cannot, however, be responsible for 'clearing the streets of children' and I believe that the Parish Council and villagers should explore what facilities are available and who might run them. In particular, ventures such as a drop-in coffee bar, youth club or similar might help to resolve some of the problems.

Yours sincerely



Ray Carver
INSPECTOR
Community and Crime Reduction



Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ
Fax: (01227) 817109

Mrs J. Potter,
Bridge Parish Council,
50, Riverside Close, Bridge,
Canterbury

Our Ref: J724BMK/BP

CT4 5TN

Date: 9th February 2000

Dear Mrs Potter,

I am the Special Constabulary Liaison Officer for the Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable area. Special Constables are volunteers who support the regular Police Force in a number of ways. They provide invaluable assistance with the day to day policing of our area and also at the many special events that take place, particularly during the summer months, e.g. Carnivals, Processions etc. They hold the same powers as a Police Constable when on duty and wear virtually the same uniform.

At present we are actively trying to recruit more Special Constables and as such I am writing to ask for your assistance. I enclose several copies of a poster advertising the Special Constabulary to be displayed around your Parish, i.e. on the Parish Noticeboard. Also, would it be possible to arrange an advert / article to appear in your Parish newsletter or magazine? (if you have one).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information, on 01227 817268.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,



WPC Becky PHILPOTT
Specials Liaison Officer



Janet

21/11/99

I went to Police meeting on 19th Nov
& I would like to report at the December
meeting if you feel in a plot.


They also want a letter from you
giving details of items of concern before
31.12.99. You might like to do this before
meeting or wait until after (but Christmas is
rather close then) Address it to Sgt Bob Pollard.
Also please exhibit the attached notice in notice bd.

Re Village Hall insurance.

I think you ought to write to Mervyn & get
him to write to Council & ask them to
note the interest of Bridge Parish Council as
owners of the property, & ask for copy of endorsement.
As discussed I also think you should ask to see
the Renewal Receipt every year before sending our
cheque.

Regarding contents, when the Council insured
the hall they also had the contents covered. Does
the VH Committee?

I can't understand why we insure same
contents - does not seem logical.



BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: John Anderson

Clerk: Janet Potter
16 December 1999

For the attention of Sgt Bob Pollard

Canterbury Police Station
Old Dover Road
CANTERBURY
Kent

Dear Sgt Pollard

As a result of a police liaison meeting attended by Cllr John Hill, I have been asked to write to you about the policing concerns of the parish council.

The two main concerns relate to vehicles speeding through the village and vandalism. The first problem I have been advised to take up with Kent Highways and so it is the matter of vandalism, which has the highest priority for the police, as far as the parish council is concerned. Much of the recent vandalism experienced in the village, has resulted in a charge on the parish for repair. Additionally, the practice of removing covers from lighting columns results in a 240 v cable being easily accessible to young children or others who don't appreciate the danger. Many of the youths who are involved in this vandalism regularly stand in groups around the village, and the parish council is of the opinion that they would be more responsible in their actions if a greater police presence was evident. Additionally, greater feedback on the results of reported acts of vandalism or notification of police patrols would allay the fears of residents that no action is taken.

I hope this will assist in focussing your limited resources.

Yours sincerely

J Potter (Mrs)
Parish Clerk

13 December 1999

For the attention of Sgt Bob Pollard

Canterbury Police Station
Old Dover Road
CANTERBURY
Kent

Dear Sgt Pollard

As a result of a police liaison meeting attended by Cllr John Hill, I have been asked to write to you about the policing concerns of the parish council.

The main concern relates to vandalism in the village, which never seems to be investigated or any feedback given to those who report such acts. Much of the recent vandalism that has been experienced, has resulted in a charge on the parish for repair. Additionally, the practice of removing covers from lighting columns results in a 240 v cable being easily accessible to young children or others who don't appreciate the danger. Many of the youths who are involved in this vandalism regularly stand in groups around the village, and the parish council is of the opinion that they would be more responsible in their actions if a greater police presence was evident.

I hope this will assist in focussing your limited resources.

Yours sincerely

J Potter (Mrs)
Parish Clerk

25 High Street
Bridge
Nr. Canterbury
Kent
CT4 5JZ
Tel: (01227) 830485

20 June 1997.

Dear Mr Church,

Thank you
very much for your letter of
18 June 1997, and all the
trouble you have taken in

this case.

The support of the Parish
Council is much appreciated,
and I feel certain will help

to contain the situation.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Hean.



Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ
Fax: (01227) 817109

Ms M. Church,
The Clerk,
72a, New House Lane,
Canterbury,
Kent
CT4 7BJ

Telephone: 817142

Our Ref: M136/BMK/HM

Your Ref:

Date: 24th June, 1997

Dear Ms Church,

RE: VANDALISM - BRIDGE HIGH STREET

Thank you for your letter dated 18th June 1997. I note with concern the incidents you have outlined. Certainly the night of Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th May came to our notice at our regular Tasking and Co-ordinating meetings and patrols were tasked to make their presence felt, in and around Bridge, in order to prevent any further crimes being committed and to arrest any offenders.

I fully accept the residents of Bridge concerns over this matter, and I will be asking Police Sergeant Pollard and my Community Sergeant, to review the policing of Bridge and ensure, in liaison with the management of the Bridge Country Club, that yourself and other residents the risk of being victimised further is diminished.

I have requested Police Sergeant Pollard to contact you direct.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Martyn
Acting Superintendent



Chairman: Meriel Connor

Clerk: Margaret Church

Superintendent John Grace
Kent County Constabulary
Police Station
Old Dover Road
Canterbury CT1 3JQ

18 June 1997

Dear Superintendent Grace,

VANDALISM - BRIDGE HIGH STREET

I have been asked to write to you concerning a series of incidents in Bridge High Street. The worst of these occurred on the night of Saturday/Sunday 24/25 May, when a number of apparently drunk youths smashed hanging baskets and tore off house name plates. This is yet another occurrence in a seemingly endless series of petty incidents which would appear to be linked to the clientele of Bridge Country Club. While no damage to persons is involved and the damage to property is mindless, it is nevertheless often expensive for the victims to repair - parked cars with aerials removed, paintwork scratched with keys, kicked etc.

While the Parish Council will be delighted to learn from your latest operational update that reported crime in falling, the perception of the residents of Bridge is not always in line with that. I have already spoken to PC Chandler who, I understand, does not habitually include the Country Club in his patrol on a Saturday night, but who will monitor the problem over the next few weeks. Nevertheless, I am asked to draw your attention to the problem with a view to having the village regularly patrolled when patrons are leaving Bridge County Club.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Church
Clerk to the Council

Please reply to: The Clerk, 72a New House Lane, Canterbury CT4 7BJ

Chairman: Meriel Connor

Clerk: Margaret Church

Col. R. F. Hearn,
25 High Street,
Bridge,
Canterbury CT45JZ

18 June 1997

Dear Colonel Hearn,

Your letter concerning vandalism in Bridge was tabled at last week's Parish Council meeting and discussed in the context of vandalism in the village. I have spoken to PC Chandler, the rural constable with responsibility for Bridge; he will include the Country Club in his patrol over the next few weeks and may then ask his superiors to arrange longer-term patrols.

Councillors have also asked me to write to Superintendent Grace, and I enclose a copy of my letter. The Parish Council did not feel that writing to the licensee of the Country Club would be of benefit, preferring to put the matter in the hands of the police.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Church
Clerk to the Council

Col. & Mrs. R. F. Hearn
25 High Street, Bridge, Nr. Canterbury, Kent CT4 5JZ
Tel: (0227) 830485

Sunday 25 May '97

Dear Mrs Church,

There has, of late, been a marked increase in the number of incidents, involving damage to property along the High Street of Bridge.

These occur, generally, at about 2 AM, mostly on Saturday / Sunday mornings, and involve parties of drunken youths, making their way back on foot to Canterbury, almost certainly from the Country Club.

There was a particularly unpleasant incident, early this morning, when a party of drunks, systematically smashed hanging baskets and tore

of House plates from various houses,
needless to say including ours. I'm
certain you agree, this type of
behaviour is quite unacceptable and
must be stopped.

It would be appreciated, therefore,
if a strongly worded letter could
please be sent to the manager of the
Country Club, and at the same time
the Canterbury Police advised of the
situation. Perhaps the Club could be
persuaded to make certain one of
their patrol cars tours the area at
this particular time.

The assistance of the Parish Council
in this matter would be much
appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Heam.

Chairman: Meriel Connor

Clerk: Margaret Church

Col. R. F. Hearn,
25 High Street,
Bridge,
Canterbury CT4 5JZ

29 May 1997

Dear Colonel Hearn,

Thank you for your letter about the vandalism in Bridge last Saturday night. I will put the matter on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Thursday 12th June and your suggestions will be tabled. In the meantime, I am contacting the police officer with responsibility for Bridge to discuss the problem with him.

I hope you yourselves will write to the police not only about the damage to your property but to the wider problems which occur in the village on Saturday nights. While the Parish Council can, and does very regularly, press for a greater police presence in rural areas, letters from individual residents add considerable weight to our case. Superintendent John Grace is the Canterbury Police Area Commander and can be reached at the Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3JQ.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Church
Clerk to the Council

Please reply to: The Clerk, 72a New House Lane, Canterbury CT4 7BJ

Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ
Fax: (01227) 817109

Mrs M.A. Church
Clerk to the Parish Council
72A New House Lane
Canterbury
CT4 7BJ

Our Ref: RKC/JEC

Date: 27th January 1997

Mrs Church

PARISH COUNCILLORS

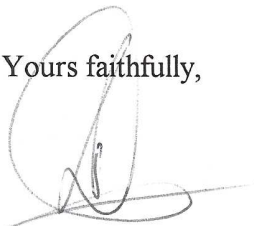
I am anxious to involve more fully local Councillors, Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in our efforts to identify crime trends, local problems, minor criminal acts and other local quality of life issues, which if not checked at an early stage escalate into serious problems which could and should have been avoided.

As part of the initiative I am keen for my Community Officers to be able to liaise on a regular basis with Parish Councillors on the officer's beat. I have contacted the City Council who were unable to provide up to date information concerning the exact composition of the Councils other than the Parish Clerk.

In order to assist me in my plan to understand your local problems and to target my resources effectively to target the problem and those responsible. I would be grateful for a list with telephone numbers of the Councillors on your Council. Clearly, the information supplied will not be passed outside my organisation. I do hope it will be possible for your Council members to agree to this proposal.

It is my sincere belief that by tasking my officers to contact County, Local and Parish Councillors, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, local shop keepers and other who can help, that we can become far more focused and effective in preventing and detecting crime and dealing with quality of life issues.

Yours faithfully,



R.K. CARVER, COMMUNITY INSPECTOR



Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ
Fax: (01227) 817109

Mrs M.A. Church
Clerk to the Parish Council
72A New House Lane
Canterbury
CT4 7BJ

Our Ref: RKC/JEC

Date: 12th December 1996

Dear Mrs Church,

PARISH CONSTABLES

As you are aware, the Home Office and Kent Police are keen to recruit members of the public as Special Constables and Parish Constables.

The clear aim of this recruitment is to supplement the Force's regular officers, and enhance contact with the local community.

It is my intention in early 1997 to launch a high profile recruitment campaign locally. My aim is to recruit at least one Parish Constable from each Parish Council Area. Clearly, your Council's support is essential in this aim.

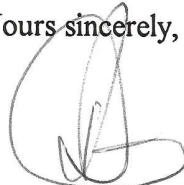
I would therefore be grateful if you could include a small item in your Parish newsletter. I enclose a copy of our recent recruitment pamphlet. Expectations and qualifications are as set out in the booklet, with the exception of duty expectations. We expect a commitment of three hours per week to training to give sufficient knowledge to carry out the most basic of tasks, in addition to the two to four hours duty per week.

Any help you can provide to increase our number would be appreciated.

I would also welcome the opportunity of meeting you and your colleagues at a future date to discuss your local concerns and our policing problems and plans.

May I wish you and all your members the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



RAY CARVER
COMMUNITY INSPECTOR



2 July 1996

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am asked to write on behalf of the Parish Council in appreciation of the swift response by the police to an incidence of vandalism on Bridge Recreation Ground last Tuesday 26 June. The matter was reported by the vice-chairman of the Council, Mr. J. Hill who was very pleased to see two officers talking to the youths concerned shortly afterwards.

The Parish Council very much hopes this signals a fresh approach to policing rural areas and to the allocation of greater resources to combat rural crime.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Church
Clerk to the Council

Chief Superintendent R Baker
Police Station
Old Dover Road
Canterbury CT1 3JQ

KENT



COUNTY CONSTABULARY

Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ
Fax: (01227) 817109

Mrs M. Church,
72a, New House Lane,
Thanington Without,
Canterbury,
Kent
CT4 7BJ

Telephone: 817142

Our Ref: S418/BMK/CMS

Your Ref:

Date: 8th July, 1996

Dear Mrs Church,

RE: VANDALISM ON BRIDGE RECREATION GROUND

Thank you for taking the trouble to write, expressing your support for our Officers.

I am always pleased to hear of incidents such as this where Police Officers have been of assistance.

A copy of your letter will be circulated to the officers concerned.

I would also like to reassure you and all of the residents of Bridge, of our continued commitment to policing the entire area.

If you have any difficulties which you think we may be able to assist you with, then please contact either myself or Police Sergeant Pollard.

Yours sincerely,



C.M. SPARKS
Acting Superintendent

Copy to:-

Police Sergeant POLLARD



NW,

KENT
COUNTY CONSTABULARY



Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ
Fax: (01227) 817109

Direct Dial: (01227) 817127

Our Ref: 4227/JEC

Your Ref:

Date: 30 May 1996

Dear *Mr* *Church*

Canterbury Police currently communicate with the network of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable area by an E Mail computer system. The system involves each participating Neighbourhood Watch Scheme having access to a simple home computer which is then connected via the B.T. phone line to a police computer. The system is a sealed and secure system which allows for fast, accurate information concerning crimes, crime trends, suspicious persons and vehicles being circulated to all participating Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. The E Mail system also allows schemes to communicate with the police and with each other.

Please note, this is not an "internet" system but a stand alone system between the police and Neighbourhood Watch. The cost need only be the price of a phone call lasting about 1½ minutes.

At this stage I would invite your Parish Council, along with all other Parish Councils in this police Area, to be included in the E Mail system.

It will require one person, not necessarily the Clerk, to have a simple IBM compatible computer, together with a modem to access the standard BT telephone line. Having obtained the appropriate software from me your Council will be able to access the system to view crime trends, offences and information for your area. The system will also allow communication between the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, Community Constables, and where appointed, Parish Constables for their area.



Police Station, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JQ

Mrs M.A. Church,
72a, New House Lane,
Canterbury,
Kent
CT4 7BJ

Telephone: 817142

Our Ref: B643/BMK/RB

Your Ref:

Date: 9th November, 1995

Dear Mrs Church,

PARISH & NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTABLES

You will be aware that the Home Secretary has introduced a new initiative in Community Policing using the Special Constabulary. Essentially, this scheme involves either the placing of established Special Constables in Parish areas to work primarily within the community, or the recruiting of suitable persons to the Special Constabulary and training them to fulfil this role.

I can see a lot of value in the scheme, and I want to introduce it in the Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable Police Area.

I shall not reduce the number of full-time Community Police Officers: My idea is that our new Parish Special Constables will supplement the work of these officers.

I anticipate that the first Parish Special Constable in this Area will take his post before Christmas, within the Parish of Chartham.

Inspector Gerry Skinner is the Liaison Officer for the Special Constabulary within this Area, and has developed a short presentation of about 30 minutes on this subject which your Council may wish to hear, as the first step in possibly setting up such a scheme within your Parish. He has already delivered this to the joint meeting of representatives of Parish Councils in the Canterbury Area which took place at Thanington Without recently.

Should you wish Inspector Skinner to visit one of your meetings and discuss this matter further, then I would be grateful if you would contact him direct at Canterbury Police Station, either by letter, or by telephone on 01227 817134. I do hope you can spare the time to listen to his presentation.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Baker
Chief Superintendent



PARISH COUNCIL OF BRIDGE

Chairman: Mervyn Gulvin
92 High Street,
Canterbury

Clerk: Margaret Church

24 November 1995

Dear Chief Superintendent Baker,

At the recent Parish Council meeting, councillors were extremely concerned to hear of the slow reponse times for non-urgent calls in rural areas.

An incident was reported to the police by Cllr. Hill on Monday 6 November. The councillor in question has considerable difficulty in so doing, being referred to three different telephone numbers. He received no response and, on Thursday 9 November asked me to take up the matter. I attempted to leave a message for either Sgt. Pollard or P C Gladwell but the ansaphone was not switched on. I eventually left a message at Canterbury with the desk officer and PC Gladwell contacted me in the afternoon, and subsequently attended part of that evening's parish council meeting.

In reporting non-urgent incidents, councillors appreciate that an immediate response will not be forthcoming. However, a lapse of 72 hours before any acknowledgement that the matter has been noted is not acceptable. Councillors would like confirmation that improved arrangements for handling this type of report will be put in place without delay and that details of the arrangements will be made available to us and to other parish councils in the rural areas as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Church
Clerk to the Council

Chief Superintendent R. Baker,
Kent County Constabulary
Canterbury Police Station,
Old Dover Road,
Canterbury CT1 3JQ

Mrs M Church
Clerk of Bridge Parish Council
72A New House Lane
Thanington Without
Canterbury
Kent CT4 7BJ

Our Ref: NC/LP

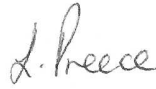
20 September 1995

Dear Mrs Church

Thank you for your letter of 4th September 1995, concerning parking in Bridge.

The matter has been passed on to the Traffic Wardens and is currently receiving the attention requested.

Yours sincerely


Nigel Chandler
APS 4393

