

ASH PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Regulation 16 consultation

Prepared in accordance with the Localism Act 2011
and the Neighbourhood Planning (General)
Regulations 2012 (as amended 2018)

November 2020

Contents

Foreword	4
1 Introduction	4
2 Planning Context	9
3 Vision for Ash	11
3.1 Locality and history	11
3.2 Vision statement for Ash	11
3.3 Community led themes	11
3.4 Objectives	12
4 Plan Strategy	13
4.1 Strategy	13
4.2 Testing the plan with public engagement	14
4.3 Objectives	14
4.4 Planning policies	14
4.5 Community action projects	14
5 Plan Policies	15
5.1 Environmental	15
P1 Policy ANP1 – Development in the countryside	25
Areas of Green and Open Space in and around the village	26
P2 Policy ANP2 – Designated local green and open spaces	29
P3 Policy ANP3 Green and open spaces in new developments	29
Biodiversity	30
P4 Policy ANP4 – Biodiversity	31
Climate Change	32
P5 Policy ANP5 Climate Change	33
Design of new developments and conservation	34
P6 Policy ANP6 – Developments and Conservation	36
5.2 Housing	37
Background Ash Now	37
Current Housing Needs	40
Allocation of development sites	44
Existing sites from DDC Local Plan 2015 (not reassessed)	45
New site allocation 2018 - 2037	46
Selected Sites	47
Dover District Council Assessed Sites 2020	48

	Description of sites selected -----	48
	Agri / Cowans site-----	48
P7	ANP7a) Agri / Cowans land brought forward from DDC 2015 Land Allocation -----	50
	Former Council Yard – Molland Lea -----	51
P8	ANP7b) Old Council Yard, land allocated from DDC 2015 Land Allocation -----	51
	Chequer Lane Site -----	52
	White Post Farm -----	52
	HELAA 152 Land to adjacent to Saunders-----	52
P9	Policy ANP7c) - HELAA 45 Land South of Mill Field -----	54
P10	Policy ANP7d) - HELAA 95 Land north of Molland Lane -----	57
P11	Policy ANP7e) HELAA 163 Land South of Gilton -----	59
5.3	Leisure & Well-being, Health Care, Education -----	61
P12	Policy ANP8 – Retention of Community Facilities-----	64
P13	Policy ANP9 – Health and social care -----	66
5.4	Local Economy-----	67
P14	Policy ANP10 – Village Shops and Public Houses -----	69
P15	Policy ANP11 - Conversion of rural buildings to business use, tourist accommodation and tourist attractions-----	71
P16	Policy ANP 12 - Working from home -----	72
5.5	Local Infrastructure-----	73
P17	Policy ANP13 - Off-Street Parking -----	75
P18	Policy ANP14 - Communications -----	77
P19	Policy ANP15 - Transport-----	79
P20	Policy ANP16 - Infrastructure -----	80
6	Monitoring Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan-----	81
7	Appendices -----	82
	Appendix I - Mitigation required re nutrient neutrality calculation -----	82
	Appendix II - Community Projects -----	83
	Appendix III – Climate Change Matrix -----	84
	Glossary -----	86
	Acknowledgements -----	89

Maps

Map 1	Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan Designated Area	5
Map 2	Ash Settlement Boundary 2015	13
Map 3	Ash Six Rural Character Areas NI, N2, R1, R2, H1, H2	17
Map 4	Government Flood map for planning.....	18
Map 5	Areas of green spaces.in the village of Ash.....	19
Map 6	Key views in and around the village of Ash.....	21
Map 7	Designated European Sites (from HRA Fig 1)	22

Map 8 Green and Open Spaces ANP2	28
Map 9 Three conservation areas in Ash	34
Map 10 Ash Village Character Areas	35
Map 11 Sites identified in the Dover District Call for Sites for Ash.....	46
Map 12 Agri / Cowan site ANP7a)	48
Map 13 Former council Yard - Molland Lea ANP7b)	51
Map 14 Land South of Millfield ANP7c)	53
Map 15 Land North of Molland Lane ANP7d)	55
Map 16 Land south of Guilton ANP7e).....	58
Map 17 Facilities in Ash ANP8	63
Map 18 Broadband speeds. Source: KCC Broadband Team Nov 2018	76

Foreword

This Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out how our community wishes to see the village, hamlets and wider parish develop in the future.

The Plan has been prepared by the Parish Council of Ash with the support of the community.

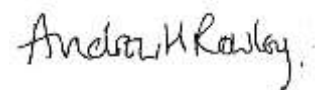
It will represent your views and aspirations for the planning period 2018 to 2037. While this may seem a long time, in the history of a parish that was established in 1282 and redefined as a civil parish in 1894, it is only a short window.



It is vital that in these times of rapid change, that we meet the needs of those who work and live in our parish and provide as much certainty as we can over their futures. Throughout its development, it has been very clear from the response we have received that you care deeply about the future of our community. The Plan gives us a vision for that future, and how this can be achieved through robust forward planning.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have given so much of their time and energy over the course of the last five years supporting its creation. Whilst it has been a monumental effort, without the Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan we would, I am sure, be a much less prosperous community.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Andrew Harris-Rowley'. The script is cursive and fluid.

Andrew Harris-Rowley
28 November 2020

1 Introduction

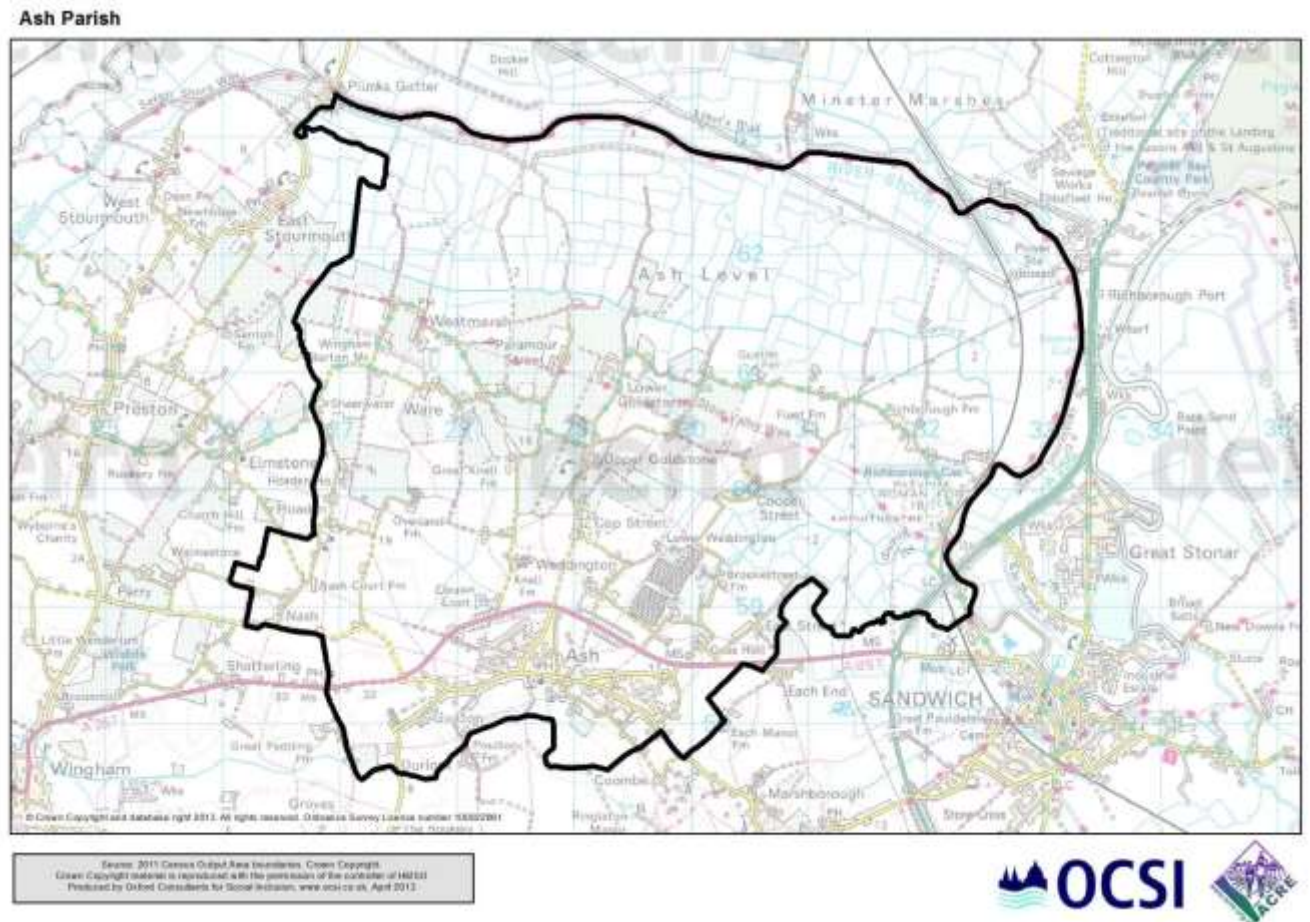
1. Neighbourhood Development Plans were introduced as part of the Government's approach in the Localism Act 2011 to give local people more say in what happens in their locality.
2. The adopted Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan, alongside district and national policies, will be used when determining planning applications in the Parish of Ash.
3. The Ash plan provides the local community with a powerful tool to guide the long-term future of Ash village and its surrounding countryside. It contains a vision for the future of Ash and sets out clear objectives and planning policies to realise and deliver this vision.
4. Ash Parish Council established a steering committee and standing committee to co-ordinate the delivery of the plan and oversee the processes in line with national guidance.
5. This plan is a community led process and there has been continuous public engagement, as well as a number of public events, to encourage people to give their views at all stages of the development of the plan
6. Public engagement included scoping events; engagement with the local primary school, housing needs event; number of open days to inform the public about the NDP process; site assessment and indicative housing requirements; public meeting with Q/A session to explain housing sites and indicative numbers and take the views of public; public meeting to take views before issuing to DDC; Reg 14 and 16 consultations; referendum.
7. Some of the policies are general and apply across the parish, whilst others are site or area specific and only apply to the relevant areas illustrated on the associated maps. Nevertheless, in considering proposals for development, the Ash Parish Council and Dover District Council will apply all the relevant policies of the Plan. It is therefore assumed that the plan will be read as a whole and cross-referencing between the Plan's policies has been minimised.
8. The reference points for this plan are the:
 - National Planning Policy Framework 2018 (revised Feb 2019) and its accompanying National Planning Practical Guidance (2014 onwards)
 - Saved policies of the Dover District Local Plan (2002) or those superseding them up to 2040
 - Dover District Core Strategy (2010) or the strategies superseding it up to 2040
 - Dover District Land Allocations Local Plan (2015) or the plans superseding it up to 2040
 - The District Council is preparing a new local plan, looking forward to 2040 which is due for publication 2021. A range of documents have already been published by DDC, as it builds up evidence and technical work for their new local plan and these have been used as guidance.

The Area Covered by the Plan

9. The area covered by the plan is the Civil Parish of Ash that includes the main settlement of Ash Village and the hamlets of Westmarsh, Ware, Cop Street, Upper and Lower Goldstone, Richborough, Paramour Street, Hoaden.
10. The Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan area designation was approved by Dover District Council Cabinet on 4th February 2013 (CAB Min 76 4.2.13).

Section 1

Map 1 Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan Designated Area



Involvement in the Plan Process

Who has been involved in writing the plan and the consultation process?

11. From the start of the process our guiding principles in engaging local people with the preparation of Ash NDP have been:
 - to commence community consultation early on and to seek a clear understanding of the issues and concerns that are of most importance to the local community
 - to offer further opportunities for comment as our vision, objectives and planning policies evolved
 - to offer a range of different ways for people to engage with the NDP process. We have tried to make our arrangements appropriate and proportionate for a rural community. This has included residents' surveys, workshops, school participation and debates, discussions, information on the parish council web site, parish newsletters, public notice boards, and direct contact with key groups in the local community
 - to tap into the knowledge and experience available in the local community wherever possible, by making the process as open and inclusive as possible. The competition for the children of the two local primary schools asking them to describe what their village should look like in 2037 was particularly rewarding. This was followed by a debate for the older children in the church hall with prizes being awarded to the best entrant in each year group.
12. Due to a number of issues outside the parish council's control, there was a significant time delay from the start of the process in 2013 to 2016. It was important to have a public event (5th March 2016) to ask the residents again whether to undertake a revised Parish Plan, a Neighbourhood

Section 1

Development Plan or do nothing. The workshop was well attended by a diverse range of residents, from parents and children, young adults and retired people.

13. The recommendation from those attending the event was overwhelmingly to develop an Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan.
14. Following the above recommendation, a number of public events were held to scope the NDP and to start to collect evidence to support the plan.
15. Since the workshops, there have been a number of other issues that have delayed the progress of the plan. These included:
 - the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), July 2018 (amended Feb 2019)
 - the Office for National Statistics Household Projections, Sept 2018
 - the modified Standard Method of calculating housing needs, Dec 2018
 - the Planning Appeal decisions for Sandwich Road, Jan 2018, and White Post Farm, Oct 2018. The decisions on both appeals could have substantially changed the direction of travel for the plan
 - the Dover District Council requirement in January 2020 to have a Strategic Environment Assessment and a Habitats Regulations Assessment. In June 2020, the initial work on the HRA established that a district wide air quality assessment would be required.
16. These delays made the completion date of the NDP closer to the emerging DDC local plan (2022). The parish council considered the implications of completing the NDP before DDC, and the parish council received guidance on two key matters:
 - the overall amount of development to be accommodated in the new local plan
 - the overall planning strategy to accommodate planned growth in Dover District and the role that Ash Parish will play in delivering its allocation.





How does the Plan fit into the planning system?

17. The government's intention is for local people to decide what goes on in their area. However, all Neighbourhood Plans must be in line with higher level planning policies; that is, within the constraints imposed by national guidance (NPPF) and local policy (DDC). Neighbourhoods should develop plans that support the strategic development needs set out in Local Plans, including policies for housing and economic development, social objectives and plan positively to support local development, shaping and directing development in their area.
18. The plan has been developed with input from Dover District Council to ensure that while our plan is likely to be published before the new DDC Local Plan, it is in line with their emerging policies and general strategic direction of travel. The original timeframe for the development plan was 2017 to 2037, however after the Regulation 14 consultation and during 2020, the emerging Dover Local Plan timeframe was amended to cover the years 2020 to 2040.

Section 1

19. The Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan policies must be used by Dover District Council to determine planning applications in the Parish of Ash.

What period does the Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan cover?

20. The Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the period from 2018-2037 and would overlap the period for the emerging Dover District Local Plan likely to be issued in 2022.
21. After a successful referendum, Dover District Council, the local authority, will reach a decision 'to make' the plan that would allow for a plan covering the remaining years of the Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2037.

Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitats' Regulations Assessments

22. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required under European legislation for all neighbourhood development plans that may have significant effects on the environment and where a plan identifies sites for development.
23. It was necessary to screen the proposals to assess if they would result in significant environmental effects and therefore require a SEA. Dover District Council is legally required to do this assessment. As part of the process, it was necessary to consult the statutory consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) to get their opinions on whether or not a plan is likely to result in significant environmental effects.
24. DDC reviewed the NDP and the screening report concluded that a SEA and HRA was required. This report is in the evidence documents.
25. The Habitats' Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the appropriate assessment required for any plan to assess the potential implications for European sites. This was carried out alongside the SEA process by AECOM. These two reports are in the Plan submission documents.

How the Plan is organised

26. The Plan is divided into six sections.

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Planning Context

Section 3: The Vision for Ash - a long-term vision for the parish up to 2037.

Section 4: Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategy - the broad planning approach for Ash Parish and how it conforms to higher level planning policy.

Section 5: Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies - the background that sets out the scene for the objectives, evidence and policies that supports the overall vision, including site specific allocations for new developments.

Section 6: Monitoring Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan - it is important that there are robust processes to monitor the implementation and outcomes of the plan during its life. A number of reporting / monitoring processes have been put in place by the parish council.

2 Planning Context

27. The Neighbourhood Development Plan is a one of a number of planning documents that should be read in conjunction with each other.
28. The role of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) in the planning system is to provide a local view. The planning system is complex and there is a hierarchy that developments must adhere to in Ash. This is: National, Kent County Council, Dover District Council, then the Ash NDP. The key documents that the Ash NDP must be in line with are set out below.
29. The starting point for the Ash NDP was to take the views of the community and develop these into strategies, objectives and planning policies to be delivered over the life of the plan. The policies within the plan are in line with the hierarchy set out below.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019)

30. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced.
31. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plans (local authority neighbourhood plans) that are in force. The NPPF must be considered in preparing the development plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions.
32. The NPPF states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level the objective of sustainability can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (4 Resolution 42/187 of United Nations General Assembly).
33. All references in this plan to Dover District policies were considered at the time the plan was written. It is accepted that these policies may be superseded when the local plan reviews are completed.

Dover District Local Plan (2002) "Saved Policies" (or those superseding them)

34. The DDC local plan saved policies provided detailed policies for given topics and / or sites and these set out the conditions that should be met to enable development to take place.

Dover District Core Strategy (2010) (or that superseding it)

35. This is an overarching document and is about shaping the future of the district as a place to live and work. It sets out the local framework for the settlement hierarchy and how each will be developed; how the transport network will be developed and how employment opportunities will be harnessed and how the natural environment will be managed. It also sets out the key policies for each of the topics. It should be read in conjunction with the more detailed documents and policies within the Local Development Framework.

Dover District Land Allocation Local Plan (2015) (or that superseding it)

36. This document identifies the land allocated for development across the district. The land identified in Ash has been through a rigorous assessment process. The new DDC land allocation and the NDP will identify sites for development for the period 2018-2037.

The emerging Dover District Local Plan (2020-2040)

37. Local Plans have to be reviewed to ensure they are relevant and consider changes to the NPPF and local trends. This usually takes place every 7 years. Dover started reviewing its Plan in 2017 in line with the regular review process, commencing with a call for sites. The revised plan will identify a new core strategy for the district, identify development sites and will have updated policies for these and other key elements of the plan. The Ash NDP has taken these identified development sites and policies into account and in some cases enhanced the policies to reflect the local community's views.

Kent Minerals and Waste Plan (2016) (or that superseding it)

38. This document sets out the Kent vision for the access to minerals and waste management. Ash lies within the Petroleum Exploration and Development License 252. While no applications had been made up to 2019, the plan sets out policies for the mitigation and impact during exploration and recovery, then restoration phases. It also sets out policies for the Sandwich / Richborough, Non-Hazardous Transfer/Treatment and Organic Treatment site and the management of HGVs to and from the site.

Section 2

39. Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan - key points raised by the community are:

- Right type of houses in the right place
- Improved community facilities
- Transport
- Employment
- Environment

40. Planning applications should be determined in accordance with the NDP unless material considerations indicate otherwise. When the NDP is adopted, the Parish Council (as a statutory consultee) and District Council (as the determining authority) will apply the relevant policies of the NPPF, the Local Plan and the NDP in considering proposals for development within the parish.



3 Vision for Ash

This section sets out the vision for Ash from 2018 to 2037 the plan period.

3.1 Locality and history

41. Ash is a large rural parish which sits in the corner of East Kent between the city of Canterbury and the old Cinque Port of Sandwich, to the north is the port of Ramsgate and to the south is the port of Dover. The parish is in an area known as the “Garden of England” and is one of the largest in Kent with over 7,000 acres of mainly Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land which produces some of the best crops in the country. The Ash Levels to the north are mainly drained marsh land used for summer grazing for sheep and cattle.
42. The parish consists of the Ash village and hamlets (Westmarsh, Ware, Cop Street, Upper and Lower Goldstone, Richborough, Paramour Street and Hoaden). The village sits on a long, low sandy ridge that runs north-west to south-east. The village is situated in the south-west corner of the parish and is divided from the main agricultural area and hamlets by the A257 trunk road, (Ash bypass) which is the main link road between Canterbury and Sandwich and surrounding towns. The north boundary of the parish is the River Stour.

3.2 Vision statement for Ash

By 2037, we envision a rural community with green spaces, safe spaces, adequate medical services, and the right kind of houses in the right place, with good biodiversity (also a community pub, a thriving church and schools).

43. The vision was developed in the workshops by the residents and reflects their wishes for the village. From this vision, the community developed five themes and a number of key objectives that have been used as the basis of this plan. The parish council used these themes to provide a framework from which the NDP could be developed to achieve the vision.

3.3 Community led themes

44. Theme 1: Enhancing the range of housing to allow all types and ages of residents to remain within the parish for life, by compassionate and sustainable planning, enhancing and protecting the built heritage by design / build quality to retain the visual impacts and retain the rural feel to the village, adaption to climate change minimising pollution.
45. The NPPF states a social objective as – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of the present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support the communities’ health, social and cultural well-being.
46. Theme 2: Safe spaces, access to the Public Rights of Way network, traffic management, community facilities, social support and net-works.
47. The NPPF states to promote safe communities with appropriate facilities objective as - to achieve healthy inclusive and safe places that promote social interaction, safe and accessible areas, enable and support healthy lifestyles, to provide social recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs.
48. Theme 3: Maintain and enhance the open green spaces and improve the landscape, environment, biodiversity, heritage and reduce the impacts of climate change within the village and wider parish.
49. The NPPF states an environmental objective as – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
50. Theme 4: Retain and enhance medical services, ensuring good care is delivered locally for the elderly within the community and increasing accessibility to external (health care) services.

Section 3

51. The NPPF does not directly include healthcare policies as these are outside the planning framework but does state a healthy, inclusive and safe place as – one that promotes social interaction, accessible high quality public spaces that support healthy lifestyles.
52. Theme 5: Retain existing and create opportunities for existing/ new employers and businesses within the parish along with improved infrastructure (broadband) to support these, including homeworkers.
53. The NPPF states an economic objective as – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure and communications.
54. It can be seen from the above themes and quotes from the NPPF that the vision for Ash, albeit developed before the publication of the NPPF 2019, is broadly in line with national planning policy aims.

3.4 Objectives

55. From the above themes, the Ash NDP Steering Group re-organised the headings into clearly defined deliverable objectives, with outcomes that could be delivered through the planning policies and / or objectives. The background, evidence and objectives for the key areas are contained in each of the planning policy sections, to ensure there is a clear understanding of how the policy has been derived. The following are the high-level objectives from the community led themes.

Objective 1: Environmental (landscape, open spaces, biodiversity and climate change)

56. The objective is to protect the parish's historic landscape and heritage, promote a healthy and safe environment, secure existing and promote new green and open spaces, improve and reduce the loss of biodiversity and wild-life habitats, address climate change through sensitive site developments, good design, building techniques and sustainable transport. This will be achieved through a mixture of planning policies and community actions over the lifetime of the plan.

Objective 2: Housing, requirements, design, built environment, site allocations, sustainability and climate change resilience

57. The objective will ensure that the housing requirements of the parish are sustainable i.e. number, type, design quality and built quality, built environment, sensitive site allocations and how they will respond to climate change resilience. These will be achieved through the planning policies over the life-time of the plan.

Objective 3: Leisure, Well-being, Education and Healthcare

58. The objective will ensure that leisure, well-being, education and healthcare provision will be protected and enhanced through new developments. This will be achieved by Section 106 agreements support improved education, healthcare and community facilities over the life-time of this plan. This will be managed by ensuring the service providers are engaged and pro-active in delivering the improvements.

Objective 4: Employment in the local economy

59. The objective is to enhance the local economy by encouraging local business to expand and / or new businesses to become established. This will increase the diversity of services provided and used in Ash and will employ more local people and sustain the economic viability of the parish and surrounding area.

Objective 5 - Traffic and Infrastructure

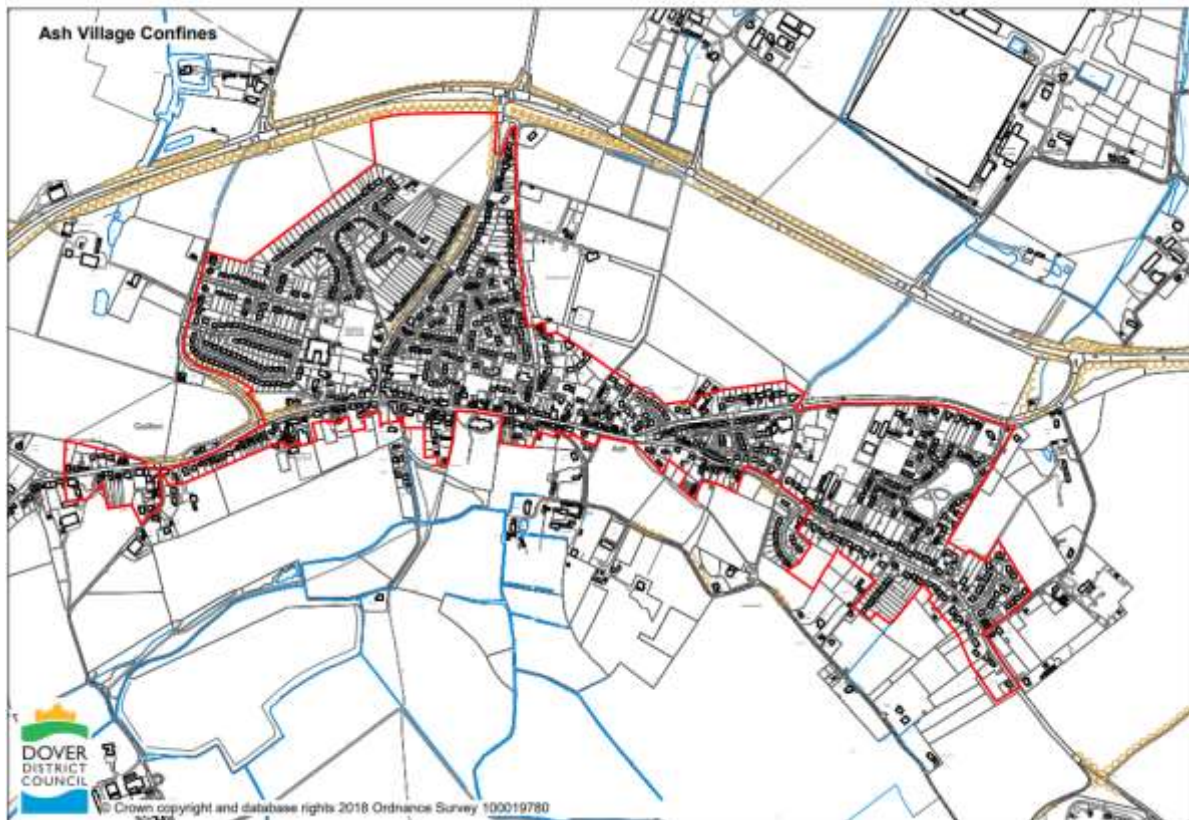
60. The objective is to improve traffic flows and reduce climate impact within the parish so as to reduce the reliance on private cars and to improve the infrastructure and traffic management by ensuring developments are located within easy reach of local amenities to encourage walking and cycling. To encourage the use of electric vehicles by ensuring the necessary charging points are installed in each development and the village centre, if and when developments take place. This will be achieved through a mixture of planning policies and local initiatives:
 - to improve access to the village and rural areas (car parking)
 - improved traffic management
 - improved I.T technologies and associated infrastructure to reduce travel
 - increase the number of people working from home by ensuring new dwellings support these activities.

4 Plan Strategy

4.1 Strategy

61. The Parish of Ash has continued to thrive by adapting and evolving since Saxon times. Necessary development to provide new homes, businesses and community facilities for Ash have and will continue to come forward. The Neighbourhood Plan is looking to ensure that any development needed to sustain the parish, is of an appropriate scale, well located and designed/built, is sustainable and responds to climate change and the distinctive local character.
62. All plans should be based on and reflect the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) presumption in favour of sustainable development with clear deliverable objectives and policies. The NPPF background to each of the Neighbourhood Plan topics is set out in the relevant sections of this Plan.
63. The Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to the national planning policies, contribute to achievement of sustainable development, be in general conformity with DDC's strategic policies and be compatible with any relevant EU regulations (such as the Habitat Regulations).
64. As the Neighbourhood Plan is being undertaken at the time of an emerging Local Plan, collaboration between the community and the local authority is critical. In developing the Ash Neighbourhood Plan, Dover District Council has taken an active role in advising and supporting the neighbourhood plan group, sharing evidence, information and giving guidance and ensuring the Ash Neighbourhood Plan fits with relevant up-to-date evidence of the strategic needs of the emerging local plan.
65. The Ash Local Housing Needs Survey 2017 and the Housing Needs Assessment (April 2019) has identified a need for a range of housing including, affordable and social housing, and smaller housing to enable downsizing and specialist housing to meet the needs of the elderly within the community. The Neighbourhood Plan policies have been developed to support these needs.
66. The 2015 settlement boundary will be the subject of a review when Dover District Council carries out its consultations on the emerging Local Plan.

Map 2 Ash Settlement Boundary 2015



Section 4

67. The plan seeks to allow limited development within the countryside by allowing suitable conversion for housing (under permitted development), business or tourist use to enable the expansion of existing business premises.
68. The plan recognises the importance of the community networks in the parish and seeks to protect the social and economic hubs, 'The Street' village centre, and other community facilities and open spaces that are important to the social fabric of the community.
69. This Plan has been discussed with infrastructure providers to test whether proposed development can be supported by sufficient infrastructure to ensure the quality of life of existing and future residents can be maintained.
70. Any development permitted will be expected to ensure provision of the necessary infrastructure. (NPPF para 98) This includes improving or increasing the access to the Public Rights of Way network, taking into account the Kent County Council (KCC) policies in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 1 (ROWIP). This plan aims to improve and upgrade the PRoW network with links to amenities, public transport nodes, work and education to increase the attractiveness of walking and cycling as an alternative to driving. It also includes the provision of the social, physical and green spaces needed to support the community and to ensure that they will be sustainable. KCC has a statutory duty to ensure the network is recorded, protected and maintained.

4.2 Testing the plan with public engagement

71. To enable the plan to reflect the views of the community the plan was taken to five key public events.
72. Event 1 - July 2018. A public exhibition attended by 198 residents, where the evidence documents and the wildlife photographs were displayed.
73. Event 2 - September 2019. A display of the sites chosen by the parish council based upon the AECOM Site Assessment, the number of housing units identified by the AECOM housing assessment adjusted to meet the independent review by DDC and the display of the draft NDP and DDC planning policies for each site and the wider parish. A flyer was delivered to every household.. The event was attended by 216 residents and 138 questionnaires were completed by attendees
74. Event 3 - October 2019. This public meeting was attended by 52 residents. It was based upon a high-level explanation of the planning process and how this impacted Ash; and how the number of housing units and site selection were arrived at. This was hosted by an independent town planner. This was followed by a question and answer session that was analysed after the event and added to the first event's outcomes to provide an indication as to the direction of travel for the NDP.
75. Event 4/5 - November 2019 every household in Ash again received a flyer with the details about the two exhibitions held on the 7th and 14th December 2019 (180 and 32 residents attended) and also were asked to comment on the Regulation 14 Draft Plan. These comments along with the Regulation 14 consultation have been incorporated into the Plan in preparation for the Regulation 16 consultation in preparation for the examination.

4.3 Objectives

76. These set out how we intend to deliver our vision for Ash over the period up to 2037. Delivery of the objectives will be through both planning policies and community action projects that are detailed in the Appendix II Community Projects.

4.4 Planning policies

77. These are measures will be achieved through the planning system. When formally adopted, the plan policies will be used as a basis for considering planning applications submitted for development in the parish, alongside national policies in the NPPF and KCC and DDC's planning policies.
78. The text above each planning policy provides the explanation and justification for the policy.

4.5 Community action projects

79. These are actions outside the planning system and are listed in Appendix II. They may be actions undertaken by the parish council or local community, or where it is necessary to lobby other organisations to act using powers outside the planning system. (For example, KCC's powers as the highways authority and the local education authority, or DDC's powers as a housing authority, or the NHS Coastal Clinical & Care Commissioning Group Strategy on primary health care).

5 Plan Policies

80. In this section, are the planning policies that will seek to deliver the Neighbourhood Development Plan's objectives. Although the objectives and planning policies should be seen as a package, it is important to distinguish the different role each plays.
81. For consistency, this section is set out in the order of the high-level objectives in Section 3. This is:-
- 5.1 Environmental (Landscape, Heritage, Biodiversity and Climate Change)
 - 5.2 Housing
 - 5.3 Leisure, Well-being, Health Care and Education
 - 5.4 Employment and Local Economy
 - 5.5 Traffic management and Infrastructure

5.1 Environmental

Landscape, Heritage, Biodiversity and Climate Change

82. Due to the location of the parish, the environment is very important to the local residents and the character of the village and wider parish. The term "environmental" covers a wide spectrum of topics. The key areas addressed in this section of the plan are landscape (and key views), parish characteristics, heritage (and design), wildlife and biodiversity, access to green and open spaces and the wider countryside and climate change resilience.

Historical Context

83. The ecclesiastical parish was established in 1282 having previously been part of the Archbishops of Canterbury great manor of Wingham. However due to its location, its history goes much further back with evidence of early human habitation. There is the well-documented history of the Roman period and the Roman Fort of Richborough dates back to 43 AD. The presence of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery in the village continues the historical time-line. The parish continued growing during the Medieval period with 12th century historic manor houses being built, sites of some are occupied today. St Nicholas Church dates from the 12th century and contains one of the best collections of medieval stone effigies and brasses of any parish church in Kent. These show a number of knights and ladies from the 14th and 15th centuries and is evidence of the wealth of the parish during these times.



1 View from the spire of St Nicholas Church of The Street at the centre of the village and surrounding countryside

National and Local Planning Policies

84. The NPPF (Section 15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment para 170-177) states that planning policies should contribute to enhancing the natural and local environment, to protect and enhance valued landscapes, recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits from the natural capital and ecosystem services including economic benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land and biodiversity and aim to achieve healthy and inclusive places.
85. Dover District Planning Policies
- DD Local Plan Policies (2002) saved policies - C08 Protection of Hedgerows,
 - DD Core Strategy Policies (2010)
 - DM1 Settlement boundaries
 - DM15 Protection of the countryside
 - DM16 Landscape character
 - DM25 Open spaces
 - DD Land Allocation Local Plan Section 3.5.1 Ash and policies LA20-LA 23

Evidence

Landscape

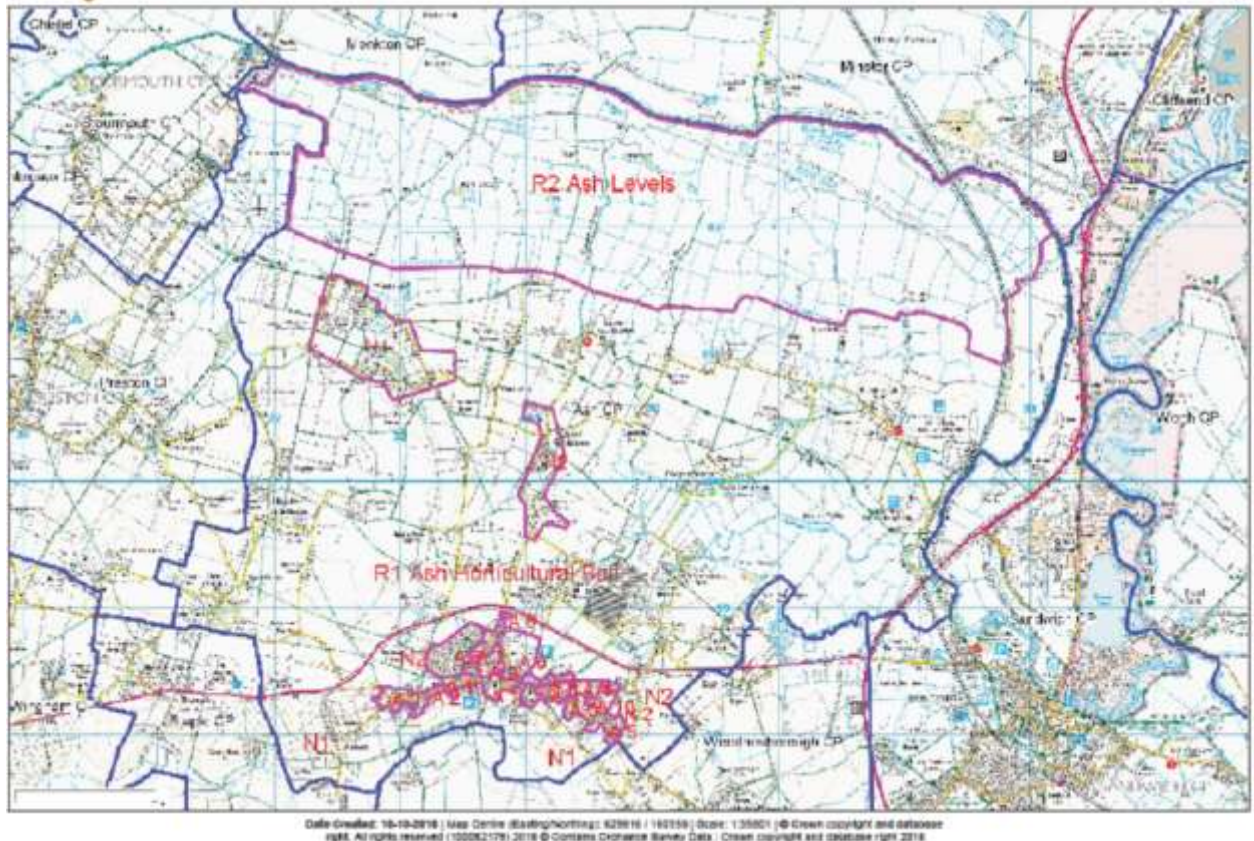
86. The historic character of the landscape is a key element of Ash (particularly the green fringes of existing development or on green field sites). The landscape visible today is the result of many centuries of evolution, and the patterns of roads, tracks, field boundaries and hedgerows that gives the modern landscape its character. The Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation (2001) has identified the broad historic character of the landscape of Kent and this study is an essential resource for consideration of the landscape impact of new developments.



Section 5

87. One of the most distinctive landscapes of the parish are the Ash Levels, as described in the Ash Character Assessment. The Levels are the marshland of the former Wantsum Sea Channel which forms the northern end of the Parish, bordered by the River Stour. The drainage ditches run along the field boundaries providing a strong pattern to the landscape and are the reason that the area can be used for summer grazing, a tradition that stretches back many years. The Roman fort of Richborough Castle can be seen from the Levels. This is one of three scheduled monuments in the parish. The Levels are one example of the combination of landscape, heritage and current agricultural use in the parish.

Map 3 Ash Six Rural Character Areas NI, N2, R1, R2, H1, H2



Section 5

88. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Dover (2019) does not specifically relate to any allocated sites within the parish. However, there are areas of the village that do have surface-water run off issues.
89. The government's Flood Map for planning shows the area to the south of the village / Moat Farm along the Old Wingham River is substantially within Flood Zone 3. The Ash Levels, to the north of the parish, is within Zone 3b (the highest category risk of flooding) and Zone 2 and some parts of the hamlet of Westmarsh are within Flood Zone 3.

Map 4 Government Flood map for planning



Legend: Dark Blue Flood Zone 3; Pale Blue Flood Zone 2

90. The parish is made up from a mixture of grade 1 and 2 agricultural land and orchards and is in what is known as the 'Garden of England'. It produces some of the best vegetables and fruit in England. The Ash Levels are grade 4 agricultural land, part down to grass, some arable crops and the flood plain for the River Stour.
91. The parish has a rich and diverse bio-diversity with a number of sites containing some of the priority species as listed in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 41. There are a number of important biodiversity areas and a number of rare and endangered species.¹
92. Key species on the red list: turtledove, woodpecker, grey partridge, yellowhammer, herring gull, house sparrow, linnet, dunnoek, starling.

Green and Open Spaces

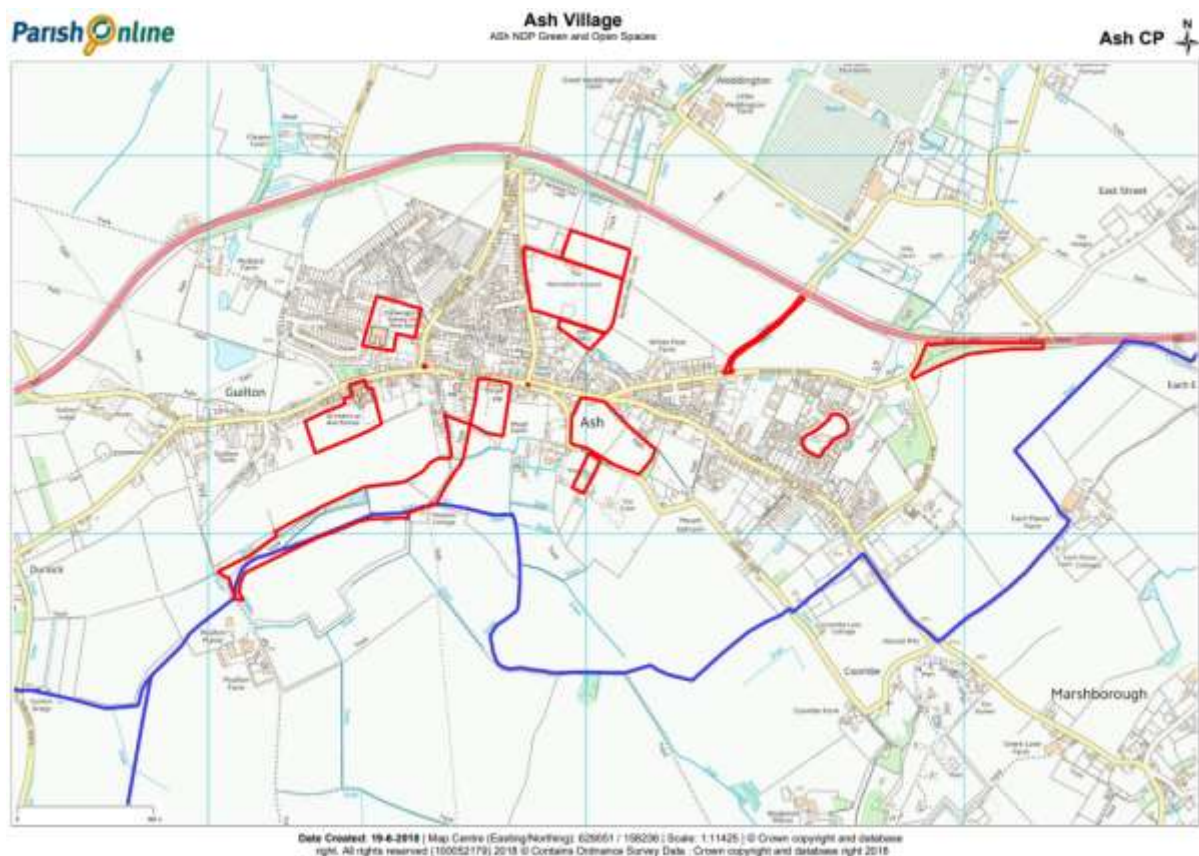
93. One of the distinctive features of Ash village is the amount of green and open spaces identified by the local residents.
94. The parish has 13 ha of green spaces. These include the Ash Recreational Ground which consists of open space used for rugby, soccer, cricket pitches, tennis courts, an equipped children's play area and the sports' pavilion and the allotments. The allotments are well used and there is generally a waiting list for them.

¹ See the Ash NDP Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Report for details on rare and endangered species.

Section 5

95. The sports facilities are well used, with Ash having senior rugby union and mini teams. One of the rugby pitches is floodlit in winter. Soccer is regularly played on the grounds in the winter and cricket in the summer. The tennis club is well supported and the courts are used most of the year as they are hard surfaced.
96. There is also a Bowls Club at Moat Lane and a considerable number of smaller open spaces within the village settlement boundary.
97. The green spaces also include the three central parcels of land held by the Jack Foat Trust on The Street and to the south of the village, off Pudding Lane.
98. There are around 100 miles (726 km) of Public Rights of Way (PRoW)² including numerous Public Bridleways within the parish. Kent County Council has a statutory duty to ensure the network is recorded, protected and maintained and welcomes the opportunity to work with the parish's active Footpaths' group who regularly walk and inspect the PRoW's.
99. The Ash NDP Group has undertaken a green spaces assessment that identified the areas of green spaces and where there is a need to enhance or increase them. The group has identified the importance of these spaces being linked to ensure people can walk or cycle to and between open spaces. (Open and Green Spaces Assessment in Evidence documents).

Map 5 Areas of green spaces in the village of Ash



Heritage

100. The importance of the heritage of the parish is reflected by the active Heritage Group with over 100 members. The group, with the help of many residents, raised the funds to build the Ash Heritage Centre based at the Ash village hall. This houses the detailed historical archives of the parish in written and pictorial forms. In addition, the NDP has produced an Archaeological Review that has been drawn from the Kent Historic Environment Record as baseline evidence of the rich history of the parish. Information from these valuable sources has been used within this plan. These archives are accessible to the public through the Heritage Centre and are a useful reference point to understanding the history of the parish.

² Kent County Council Explore Kent <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploreKent.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx>

Section 5

101. This history of the parish is formally reflected in the Historic England List of the parish's 105 Listed Buildings. There are two Grade I buildings – the Norman Church (St Nicholas circa 1190) in the village and Richborough Castle to the north-east of the parish and there are four Grade II* and 99 Grade II listings. In addition, there are 789 records of archaeological sites, historic buildings and artefactual discoveries in the parish that are not legally protected, but which nonetheless contribute to the historic character of Ash.
102. The parish also contains three scheduled monuments, Richborough Roman Fort in the north east of the parish, the Anglo-Saxon burial ground at Ash Mill in Gilton at the western end of the village and the Medieval moated site at Chequer Court to the north west of the village (see Historic England list
103. The village has three conservation areas within the village shown in Map 6. The Ash Design Guide looks at how the existing buildings can influence new development.
104. In addition, the NDP group has undertaken a Character Area Assessment of the parish. This has identified 16 areas of distinctive character in the parish, 10 within the village and 6 covering the hamlets and the farmed rural land.



Archaeological Assessment

105. The Ash NDP's Archaeological Review 2018 provides a helpful review of the archaeological history of Ash. It has been primarily drawn from the Kent Historic Environment Record and is evidence of the rich history of the parish. Information from these valuable sources has been used within this plan.
106. Due to the location of this area of Kent, close to mainland Europe and the changing coastline, it is not surprising that its history is one of long human habitation with archaeological finds from the key stages of human development. These are: Palaeolithic age (flint knappings); Mesolithic (hand axe Cop Street / Belle-Vue Farm); Neolithic (ditches and pits at Richborough); Bronze Age (Hoard from Hoaden found in 1971); Iron Age (gold found at Goss Hall); Roman (Richborough Roman Fort, and a burial ground under the old Gardners Brewery site); Anglo Saxon (brooch from cemetery and grave goods at Ash Mill, Gilton) protected as scheduled Ancient Monument); Medieval (St Nicholas Church, six remaining Manor houses). In December 2019, there was a Bronze Age find of artefacts on the Chequer Lane development site. This was the first such find within the village.
107. There are a number of well documented areas of known archaeological interest and many other areas with archaeological potential around the parish. According to the Historic Environmental Record (HER) for Kent ³, there are 417 records relating to Ash, including iron-age, roman, anglo-saxon, medieval/ post-medieval (including a significant number of hay stack stances) and WWII records/ finds.
108. Dover District's Heritage Strategy 2013 (pg 21) says that 'although there are only four proven [Roman] villas in Dover District, an additional fifth possible villa site has recently been identified on aerial photographs near Ash.' The rich archaeological history is an important context in which new developments are undertaken. It is likely that the majority of new developments will uncover more artefacts and information about the life of the parish because of the density of finds to date.
109. Due to Ash's history and the number of archaeological finds, it is advisable that any developments with the potential to impact archaeological sites are discussed with the Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Team at the earliest opportunity. Where the archaeological site is a Scheduled Monument (or believed to be of equivalent significance) or effects Grade I or II listed buildings, the applicant should also contact Historic England at the earliest opportunity.



Anglo Saxon Brooch

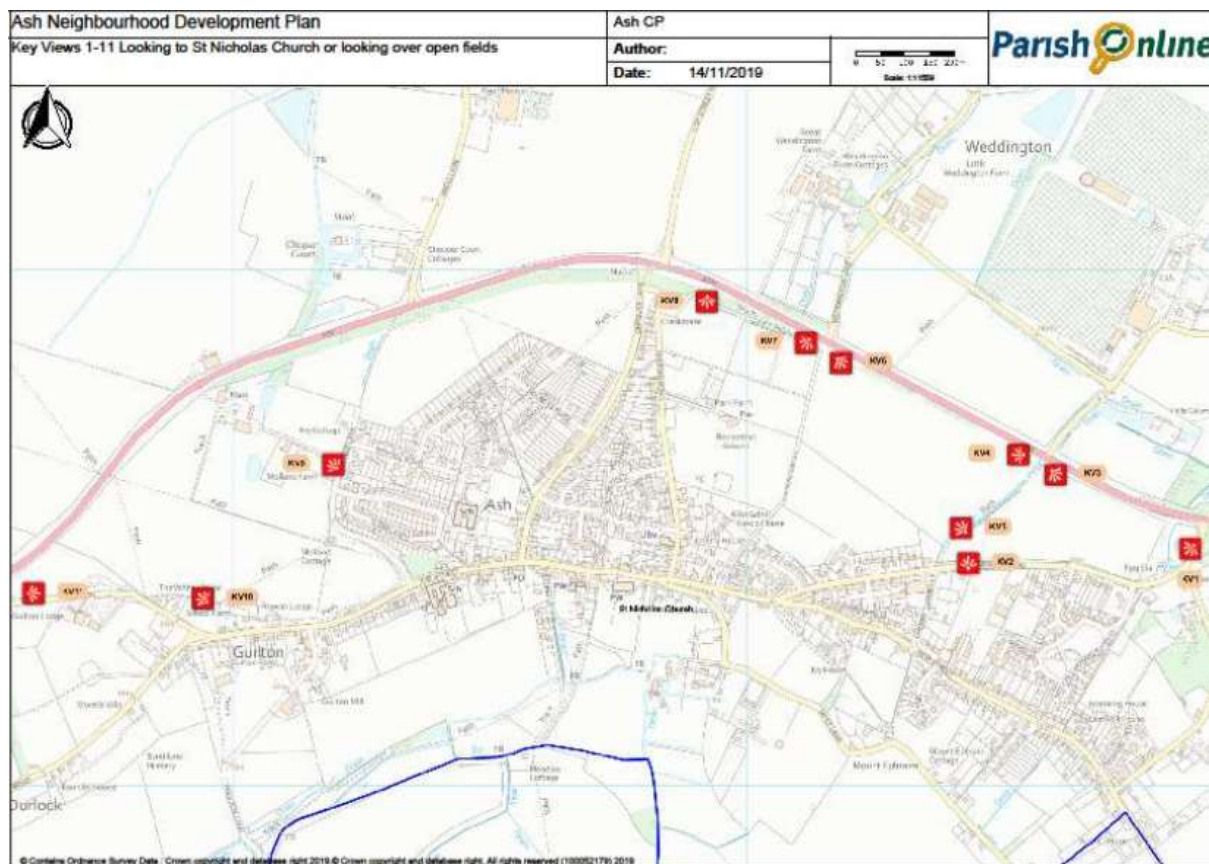
³ Kent County Council (2020): 'Historic Environmental Record – Exploring Kent's Past [online] available at: <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ExploringKentsPast.Web.Sites.Public/MultiResults.aspx?firstrec=101&lastrec=120>

Section 5

Key Views

110. In Ash, the landscape forms an intrinsic part of the character and setting of the parish and provides a backdrop that contributes to the attractiveness of the village as a place to live and visit.
111. Due to the location of the village on a ridge, the rural views from and into the village across the open land towards the Ash Levels and inland towards Sandwich and the villages of Staple and Wingham are an intrinsic part of the charm of the village and its position. In addition, there has been little change in the historic route ways within the parish. It contains a rich heritage of attractive historic lanes, often enclosed by hedges and trees that contribute to the distinctive character of the countryside whilst providing natural habitats.
112. The distinctive character and sensitive landscape would be under threat from development of an inappropriate scale, location and / or design that would interrupt these views.
113. One of the distinctive features of Ash village is the visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from public places. The NDP has identified 11 important views. All views fall into two principal groups, those looking into the village and those looking out. The key views are indicated on Map 6. (Key Views Report including photos of each of the views is in the Evidence Documents)

Map 6 Key views in and around the village of Ash

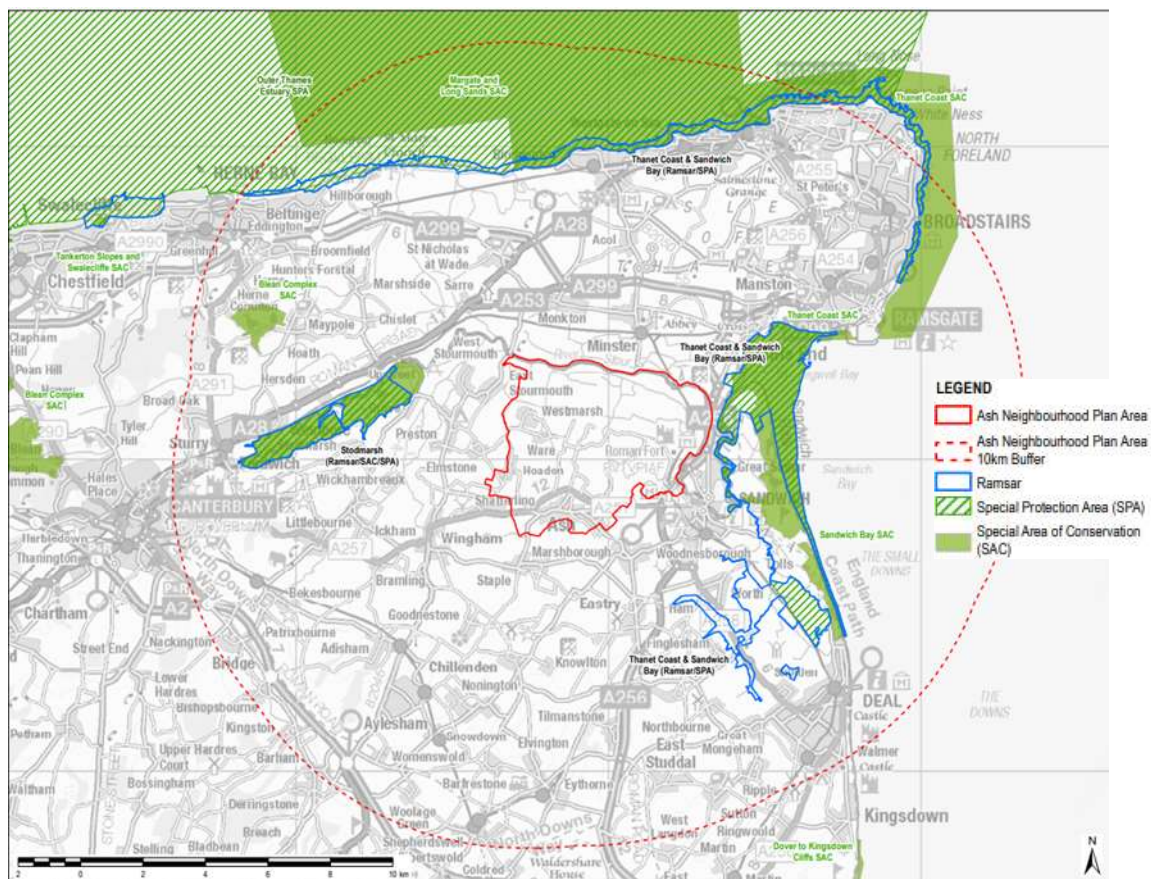


- 1 Sandwich Rd field gate to west
- 2 Sandwich Rd bus shelter to north
- 3 A257 end PRoW EE466 to the SSE
- 4 A257 end of PRoW EE466 to west
- 5 Middle of PRoW EE466 to NNW
- 6 A257 end of PRoW EE465 to SSE
- 7 A257 end of PRoW EE465 to WSW
- 8 Weddington Lane path 500 yds from Queens Road to SW
- 9 Molland Lane to Molland House to NNW
- 10 PRoW EE123A to NW
- 11 A257 end Guiton (road) to ENE

Biodiversity

114. The location of Ash and its considerable (7,000) acres of agricultural land naturally leads to a wide range of biodiversity. The employment this land brings to the area also heightens the community's awareness of the environment and biodiversity issues and the effect these have upon their life-styles and impact upon the economy.
115. The Natural England's maps indicate there are no nationally important nature conservation sites within Ash Parish. However, Ash lies wholly within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Ramsar Site (SSSI), and Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR and Sandwich Bay Special Area of Conservation (also a SSSI). These sites have the highest level of legal protection of their wildlife and nature conservation value at both national and international level. Much of the Stour Valley marshes close to the river are under the government environmental scheme (Countryside Stewardship). These areas provide a vital corridor for birds migrating across England to and from mainland Europe and therefore has a wide range of biodiversity that supports them.

Map 7 Designated European Sites (from HRA Fig 1)



116. District Council confirmed that it would be necessary to have a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the potential adverse effect of the Ash Parish Neighbourhood Plan on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, otherwise known as European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), potential SPAs (pSPAs) and, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The HRA would also advise on appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects were identified. The report and the policy recommendations are referenced in the Consultation Statement Nov 2020 and are part of the Regulation 16 submission documents
117. There are a number of areas within the village that are high in biodiversity and the Public Bridleway EE466 (Hills Court Nature Trail off Sandwich Road, Ash) is maintained by the local community with the support and guidance of the KCC and DDC Natural Environmental Officers. These areas are regularly visited and the wildlife recorded over the four season by local residents.
118. The Ash NDP group worked with Buglife and the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory undertaking an extensive study of the eastern end of the village (Hills Court / Saunders Wood areas). This study identified over 140 species of invertebrates, birds, mammals, snakes, lizards and wildflowers. It also

Section 5

highlighted a number of rare species of insects and plants that are nationally identified as protected priority and red listed species. These include the turtle dove, yellow hammer, woodpecker, linnet, marsh harrier, common lizard, dot moth, grass snake, bats, hares. These require additional protection. (Ash Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Report in Evidence Documents).

119. There has been a desk top study of the rest of the village that has highlighted significant wildlife and further investigation work is planned. The key areas in the village will be assessed so that the impact of future development or changes to landscape can be considered . This is likely to be undertaken as a community project and details are in Appendices – Community Projects.



Climate change

2 Public Bridleway EE466 (Hills Court Nature Trail)

120. People have become more aware of the impact that climate change has on their lives. It is now becoming a national and world-wide topic and there is a realisation that we all must take steps to alter the way we live. The plan has highlighted positive actions to be taken to improve people's lives..
121. There are two key ways this plan is influencing climate change. Firstly, through the use of improved design, building materials and techniques to ensure developments are sustainable and reduce carbon emissions, so that people's life styles are improved by better wellbeing and air quality.
122. Secondly, the link between landscape, biodiversity and habitats cannot be ignored as these can have a positive impact upon carbon sequestration. Where possible additional habitats should be encouraged as an opportunity to sequester carbon to reduce the effects of climate change.

Summary of evidence on environmental issues.

123. Landscape - the vision statement includes “a rural community with green spaces”. The general level of interest placed upon this by the community shows that there is keen interest in accessing these public areas on a regular basis. The parish has a number of walking groups and many people with a very keen interest in wildlife and biodiversity who track activities within the parish. As many of the community earn their living from the land, there is a greater awareness of the impact the environment has on their livelihoods and the wider community. Refer Ash Character Assessment and Ash Green and Open Spaces Report.
124. Key Views – the value of the rural setting of the village was identified by residents as contributing to their sense of well-being. Key views have been identified by the NDP Group based upon an analysis of each view and the photo has been given a location using east / west co-ordinates and/or next to a prominent landmark, a street sign etc, to ensure their position is identifiable. Refer to Key Views Report
125. Heritage - Historic England List records 105 Listed Buildings, three scheduled monuments and numerous archaeological finds in Ash. The desire by the community to record the valued, distinctive character of the parish and to protect its archaeological record is reflected in the work volunteers carried out for all the Ash reports and assessments. Refer to the Archaeological Report and the Character Assessment.
126. Heritage and Design – reflecting the heritage of the existing buildings in influencing new development is important to residents so that the distinctive character of Ash is retained. Refer to the Ash Design Guide.
127. Biodiversity – the location of Ash and the considerable hectares of agricultural land naturally leads to a wide range of biodiversity. In addition, it lies wholly inside the SSI impact zone and borders the inland marshes of the River Stour. Refer to the Green Infrastructure Report and the Green and Open Spaces Report, the Habitats Regulation Report and Strategic Environment Assessment.
128. Climate change – the impact upon people’s lives is now nationally recognised and it is accepted that action must be taken to reduce the impact of climate change. Refer to the Habitats Regulation Report and Strategic Environment Assessment.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

129. They are:
 - to improve the built environment through good design and sensitive development
 - to preserve and enhance, where appropriate, the landscape, heritage and character of the area
 - to maintain the distinctive, locally valued and historic views and visual connectivity of the village with the surrounding countryside
 - to deliver net gains to biodiversity
 - to improve climate change resilience

P1 Policy ANP1 – Development in the countryside

Development in the countryside beyond the village settlement boundary will only be permitted where:

- 1.1 Development provides for a local business or community need on a site that is adjacent to or beyond the existing village settlement area and is physically well related to the existing settlement boundaries, The use of previously developed land and sites that are physically well connected to the existing village settlement will be encouraged where suitable opportunities exist.
- 1.2 All development works should review the possibilities of archaeological finds within the site confines and seek early discussions with the Kent County Council Heritage Conservation team.
- 1.3 There is regard to the purposes of conserving and improving the physical surroundings and the natural beauty by enhancing and expanding the trees and hedgerows, preferably native / indigenous, and landscape within the designated area;
- 1.4 It would not have an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Ash including the Conservation Areas (Map 6);
- 1.5 It would maintain the distinctive views and visual connectivity of the village with the surrounding countryside from public vantage points within, and adjacent to, the built-up area, in particular those defined on Map 7 Key views;
- 1.6 It would protect and enhance the following features:
 - Biodiversity of the Parish: by improving habitats for rare species of flora and fauna and by identifying and pursuing opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity as set out by DEFFA metric to enable improvements to be measured and as required by the NPPF 2019.
- 1.7 In areas where there would be significant effect on Public Rights of Way, the network must also be included in the landscape planning of the infra-structure as a whole.

Nature Conservation

- 1.8 Developments should respect the natural environment within the designated site and adjacent land by enhancing and re-connecting the existing natural features such as veteran trees, hedges, protecting wildlife corridors/ watercourses.
- 1.9 Where necessary and appropriate, proposed development should demonstrate that the conservation of protected species will be maintained, including that of their foraging habitat
- 1.10 Where necessary and appropriate, development should incorporate additional features for the support of protected species, such as bird and bat boxes, swift bricks and roosting sites and access routes for wildlife (e.g. hedgehogs).
- 1.11 Lighting should only be directed where necessary and there should be no loss of night-time dark skies due to light pollution.
- 1.12 Development will only be supported if it complies with the most recent Mitigation strategies relating to Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and Sandwich Bay SAC, where applicable; and
- 1.13 The development can evidence it will not cause an adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site in the proximity of the parish.

Areas of Green and Open Space in and around the village

Background Ash Now⁴

130. Green and open spaces are vitally important spaces within the built-up areas of the village for the residents' well-being and are given as one of the reasons to live in the village environment. Dover District Council has their own Green Infrastructure Strategy PS17 and Open Space Designations 2010. The Ash NDP Group worked closely with DDC on the development of the Ash Open and Green Spaces Assessment and strategy.

Open Spaces of Historic Importance

131. The relationship of buildings and open spaces within Conservation Areas is important in creating their special character and in some cases, contributing to the setting of listed buildings.

Open Space of Local Visual Amenity Value

132. A number of open spaces within the built-up area provide important visual amenity for their beauty, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife.
133. The Ash NDP Green Spaces assessment identified 13 green spaces and a number of green corridors within the parish these are indicated on Map 5 Areas of green space in the village of Ash.
134. There are over a 100 miles (726 km) of PRoW's, including Public Bridleways, within the parish and these are well used by the public. The Ash Footpaths Group monitors the paths by regularly walking them and reporting back their general condition and accessibility to the Ash Parish Council Footpaths Committee and KCC. In addition, the conditions of the rights of way are raised at the monthly parish council meeting and reported to the responsible landowner or KCC which has a statutory duty to ensure the network is maintained.



Planning Policies

135. The NPPF (para's 91-101) states "access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sports and physical activity is important to the health and well-being of communities" and these should be protected.

DD Local Plan (2002) saved policies

- C08 Protection of hedgerows
- OS7 Proposals for outdoor sports and recreation facilities

DD Core strategy Policies (2010)

- CP7 Green infrastructure network
- DM25 Open spaces

DD Land Allocation Plan (2015) Section 3.5.1- Ash and policies LA20-LA23

⁴ This re-iterates paras 93 – 99 with additional information that is specific to policies ANP2 and ANP3

Evidence

136. One of the distinctive features of Ash Village is the amount of green and open spaces identified by local residents. Ash Green and Opens Spaces Report identifies and details the areas to be protected.
137. The residents high-lighted the importance of open spaces in the Ash NDP survey 2016, with 94% saying that access to the countryside was important / very important.
138. The regular reporting on the condition of the PRoW's is a clear indication that the paths are used and enjoyed by the public.
139. The high usage of the sports' facilities, recreation ground, allotments and general open spaces is a clear indication of how the community appreciates and benefits from then.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

140. They are:

- To protect identified green and open spaces (as per assessment)
- To create and / or enhance green and open spaces within new developments
- To provide green corridor links between new developments and existing settlements.

Table 1 Designation of the spaces (as defined by NPPF 2018 para 100)

Site	Priority	Area (hectare)	Type	DDC Designated	Amount of Use
Saunders Wood	2	1.08	Accessible green space	No	High
Collar Makers Green	2	0.05	Children' equipped play area	No	Medium
Collar Makers Green	2	0.64	Accessible green space	No	Medium
Hills Court Path	2		Green corridor	No	High
Street Field	1	1.59	Accessible green space	Yes	High
Discovery Field	1	1.0	Accessible green space	No	High
Ash War Memorial	1	0.002	Character area	No	High
St Nicholas Church Yard	1	1.2	Character area	Yes	High
Ash Recreation Ground	1	1.55	Outdoor sports facilities – shared with accessible green space	Yes	High
As Recreation Ground	1	0.75	Children's equipped play space		High
Ash Recreation Ground	1	1.5	Accessible green space – shared with outdoor sports facilities		High
Ash Allotments	1	0.44	Allotments	Yes	High
Ash Rugby Club Pitch	2	1.28	Outdoor Sports	No	Medium
Ten Acres	1	5.7 ⁵	Accessible green space	No	High
Ash Bowls Club	1	0.34	Outdoor sports facilities	Yes	High
C&K School	1	0.8	Children's equipped play space	Yes	High
C&K School	1		Outdoor sports facilities		High
St Faith's School	1	1.4	Children's equipped play space	Yes	High
St Faith's School	1		Outdoor sports facilities		High
Pound Corner	2	0.005	Character Area	No	Medium

-1 being very high; 2 high

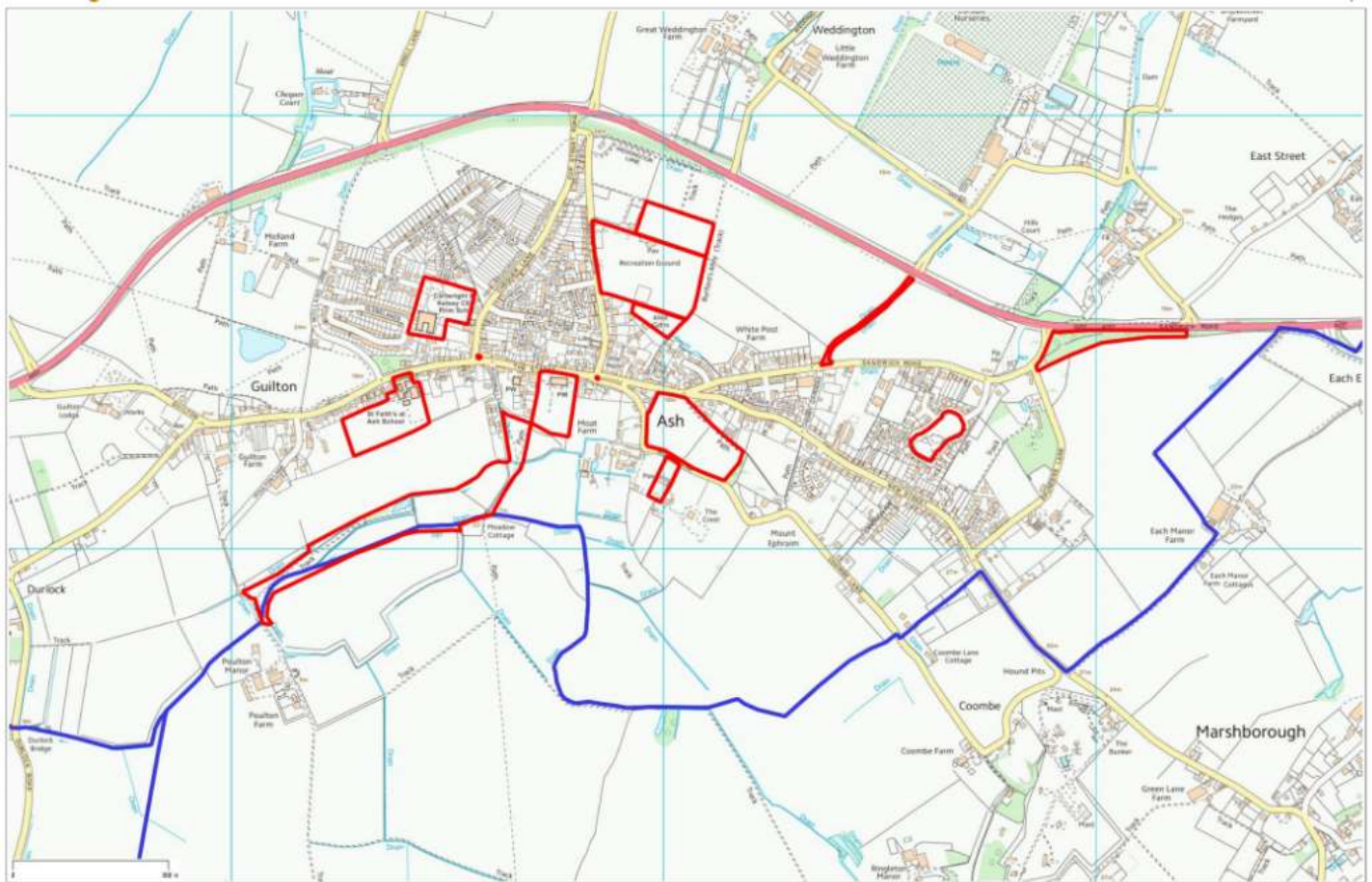
Detailed maps of each of the 11 areas above are in the Green and Opens Spaces Report

⁵ Excludes the land outside of the Ash Parish Boundary

Section 5



Map 8 Green and Open Spaces ANP2



Date Created: 19-6-2018 | Map Centre (Easting/Northing): 629051 / 158236 | Scale: 1:11425 | © Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (100052179) 2018 © Contains Ordnance Survey Data : Crown copyright and database right 2018

P2 Policy ANP2 – Designated local green and open spaces

- 2.1 Development proposals that result in the loss of green spaces or result in any harm to their character, setting, accessibility, appearance, or general quality or amenity value will not be supported.
- 2.2 The provision of high-quality, open green spaces and opportunities for outdoor recreation space and / or access to these via green routes should be a priority of all developments.
- 2.3 The areas listed below are designated as publicly accessible Green Spaces and subject to this policy. (They are shown on Map 5 Areas of green spaces and their designation is shown in Table 1 Designation of the spaces).
 - 1 Saunders Wood
 - 2 Collar Makers Green
 - 3 Public Bridleway EE466
 - 4 Street Field (also DDC 2010 Designated) and Discovery Field
 - 5 Ash War Memorial
 - 6 St Nicholas Churchyard (also DDC 2010 Designated)
 - 7 Ash Recreation Ground (also DDC 2010 Designated)
 - 8 Allotments (also DDC 2010 Designated)
 - 9 10 Acre Field / The Meadows
 - 10 Ash Bowls Club (also DDC 2010 Designated)
 - 11 School Grounds (Cartwright and Kelsey (CoE Primary School) (also DDC 2010 Designated)
 - 12 School Grounds (St Faiths at Ash Prep School) (also DDC 2010 Designated)
 - 13 Pound Corner
 - 14 Green Corridors
- 2.4 The exception would be when there are no other available sites within the parish for a building that would bring considerable benefits to the community, such as a doctors' surgery, care home etc., and where alternative sites of equal size and quality are provided prior to commencement of development.

P3 Policy ANP3 Green and open spaces in new developments

Developments of 5 or more dwellings should provide green and open spaces for residents' health and well-being and recreational use. And:

- 3.1 Provide high quality, open green spaces and opportunities for recreational space and / or access to these via green routes, as a priority of all developments, and developers should refer to the KCC ROWIP, PRoW's and "Access Good Design Guidance"; and
- 3.2 Provide green infrastructure linking new developments to existing corridors and provide access by foot or cycle to and around the village and public amenities; and
- 3.3 Should be sensitive to the rural setting, relate to the existing landscape and enhance the built environment.

Biodiversity

Background Ash Now⁶

141. The location of Ash, and its considerable (7,000) acres of agricultural land, naturally leads to a wide range of biodiversity. The employment this land brings to the area also heightens the community's awareness of the environment and biodiversity issues and the effect these have upon their life-styles and impact upon the economy.
142. There are a number of areas within the village that are high in biodiversity and are maintained by the local community with the support and guidance of KCC and DDC Natural Environmental Officers.

National and Local Planning Policies

143. These are:

NPPF Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, (para's 170-171, 174-177)

DD Local Plan Policies (2002) saved policies - C08 Protection of hedgerows

DD Core Strategy Policies (2010)

- CP7 Green infrastructure Network
- DM15 Protection of the countryside

DD Land Allocations Plan (2015) section 3.5.1 – Ash and policies LA20 - LA23.

Evidence

144. The Natural England's maps indicate there are no nationally important nature conservation sites within Ash Parish. However, Ash lies wholly within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Ramsar Site (SSSI), and Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR and Sandwich Bay Special Area of Conservation (also a SSSI). These areas provide a vital corridor for birds migrating across England to and from mainland Europe and therefore has a wide range of biodiversity that supports them.



145. The Ash NDP Group worked with Buglife and the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory undertaking an extensive study of the eastern end of the village (Hills Court / Saunders Wood areas)⁷. This study identified over 140 species of invertebrates, birds, mammals, snakes, lizards and wildflowers. This also highlighted a number of rare species of insects and plants that are nationally identified as protected priority and red listed species. These include the turtle dove, yellow hammer, woodpecker, linnet, marsh harrier, common lizard, dot moth, grass snake, bats, hares. These require additional protection. (Ash Biodiversity Report in evidence documents).



146. There has been a desk top study of the rest of the village that has highlighted significant wildlife and further investigation work is planned. This is likely to be undertaken as a community project.
147. The Strategic Environment Assessment Nov 2020 and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Nov 2020, each provide a vital source of information and add further weight to the potential effects the new developments could have upon the parish, both positive and negative.



148. The HRA recommended that there should be a policy that included mitigation to reduce the impact of development and evidence that there would be no adverse effects on the European sites.
149. The Ash NDP Survey 2016 highlighted that 87% of respondents said that the physical environment was very important / important. The survey also highlighted a desire to improve the village appearance and encourage more wildlife and flowers.

⁶ This re-iterates paras 114-119 and is specific to policy ANP4

⁷ The photos were taken at Hills court Nature Trail between 2018-2019 by local volunteers.

Planning policy intention and objectives

150. They are:

- To secure existing areas of high biodiversity identified by the survey
- To retain and enhance the biodiversity across the parish
- To ensure that there would be no adverse effects on European sites
- To ensure a 10% measurable net gain is made for every development as set out by best practice guidance by Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), Chartered Institute of Ecological & Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA).

P4 Policy ANP4 – Biodiversity

- 4.1 Developments should provide biodiversity net gains of not less than 10% at all stages of the mitigation processes, as set out in the best practice guidance produced by CIRIA (Construction Industry Research and Information Association), CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) and IEMA (The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) and the Government's 25 year 'Environmental Plan 2018', Kent Nature Partnership's 'Kent Biodiversity 2020 and beyond – a strategy for the natural environment 2015-2025' or subsequent publications.

Developers must demonstrate that they have followed the mitigation hierarchy.

- 4.2 New developments present an opportunity to maximise the benefits for Biodiversity and should therefore seek to maximise these while ensuring there is no detriment to the Sandwich Bay and Thanet Coast SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites, Pegwell Bay NNR and Stodmarsh SSSI.
- 4.3 Developments should seek to avoid any harm and to minimise any adverse impact upon, the local biodiversity, habitats and wildlife. Compensatory provision elsewhere should be the last resort and used only if the development demonstrates an overriding benefit to the local community.
- 4.4 Where necessary and appropriate, development should incorporate additional features for the support of protected species, such as bird and bat boxes, swift bricks and roosting sites and access routes for wildlife (e.g. hedgehogs).
- 4.5 Developments will only be supported when they provide an independent survey report that is supported by the local planning authority, which agrees a robust mitigation plan that identifies there are no alternatives, or that appropriate mitigation measures can be put into place
- 4.6 The local authority must meet the requirements of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, sections 40 and 41, in relation to the mitigation plan.
- 4.7 The development will only be supported if it complies with the most recent Mitigation strategies relating to Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and Sandwich Bay SAC, where applicable; and.
- 4.8 The development can evidence it will not cause an adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site within the proximity of the parish.

Climate Change

Background Ash Now⁸

151. The residents of the parish understand the impact that climate change has upon them and the lifestyles of working and living in the countryside. While this was not raised as a key issue at the time of the scoping report, it has become evident during the development of the NDP that there is a heightened awareness by the residents of the need to imbed changes within the plan. This aims to help reduce the impacts they have on the parish and surrounding environment. While a number of farms and domestic dwellings have fitted PV panels, more has to be done to meet the government's requirements of zero carbon by 2040.
152. The Ash Parish Council has committed to ensuring that all parish council buildings are low carbon by 2035 and where possible a net contributor to energy supply systems.
153. There are a number of opportunities associated with climate change and the transition to low carbon. These are:
 - Air quality improvement
 - Improved community awareness
 - Healthier lifestyles
 - Remote working to improve work life balance
 - Lower fuel bills
 - Increased energy resilience
 - Enhances habitats to improve carbon sequestration

National and Local Planning Policies

154. The NPPF (section 14, paras 148-165) Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change) states that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future. It should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas, emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.
155. New developments should be planned for in ways that:
 - Retain, improve, increase areas of biodiversity and habitats to sequester carbon and remove carbon from the atmosphere
 - Avoid increased vulnerability to a range of impacts arising from climate change, including run-off by the use of Sustainable Drainage (SUDs)
 - Can help to reduce greenhouse gas emission, through a number of simple techniques.
156. Dover District Planning Policies on climate change are being revised and it is understood that responses to their climate change emergency policy will in future inform their Local Plans.

Evidence

157. There is clear evidence of the impacts of climate change across the world. This can be distilled to a local level. While there is limited technical data on the effects of climate change within the parish, there is an awareness that summers are getting hotter, dryer and longer and winters wetter. When it rains there are occasions when the amount of rain falling in a short space of time is increasing, causing localised flooding. As a key part of the parish economy is farming, this awareness is further heightened due to the effects upon crops and general agricultural practice. The NDP has developed an opportunities and challenges matrix to guide the parish through the next few years. This is in Appendix III Climate Change Matrix.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

158. They are:
 - To reduce the amount of greenhouse gas and become a zero carbon zone in line with DDC and KCC emission target dates

⁸ This re-iterates paras 120-128 and is specific to policy ANP5

- To ensure all new development is low carbon and contributes to carbon sequestration
- To promote retro-fitting of low carbon technologies to existing building stock
- To reduce the amount of rainwater run-off within new and existing developments or where substantial upgrading takes place

P5 Policy ANP5 Climate Change

- 5.1 New developments will be expected, subject to viability, to:
- a) be designed to minimise vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change by maximising energy efficiency, utilising low carbon energy and reduce greenhouse emissions;
 - b) be required to be resilient to climate change and demonstrate how the development will respond to climate change adaption measures;
 - c) incorporate one or more low carbon technologies;
 - d) not increase, and where possible, to reduce surface water run-off through increased permeability of surfaces and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems;
 - e) incorporate, where appropriate, bio-diverse green roofs and green walls;
 - f) provide public or private open space that is accessible to shade and shelter and is multi-functional;
 - g) provide opportunities to encourage local food sources, recycling and composting;
 - h) be encouraged to use the Home Quality Mark and Passivhaus design standards;
 - i) provide electric vehicle car charging points; and
 - j) provide good quality pedestrian / cycle infrastructure
- 5.2 New developments should reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the use of renewable and low carbon energy and heat by reflecting the government's policy for national technical standards.
- 5.3 New developments should submit a positive strategy as part of the planning application, demonstrating how the development will achieve carbon sequestration. It will also demonstrate how low energy consumption will be achieved based upon low carbon technologies (e.g. air/ground source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels, solar water heating, rainwater harvesting etc). If a positive strategy cannot be achieved then a statement outlining the justification why it cannot be achieved will be required.
- 5.4 The development will only be supported if it complies with the most recent Mitigation strategies relating to Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and Sandwich Bay SAC, where applicable; and.
- 5.5 The development can evidence it will not cause an adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site within the proximity of the parish.

Design of new developments and conservation

Background Ash Now⁹

159. The Parish of Ash has a significant historic heritage and is part of the environment and the character of the village that is very important to the local residents and their well-being. This rich history must be retained and respected as and when changes to existing buildings / areas or new developments take place to ensure the integrity of the parish is retained.

National and Local Planning Policies

160. The NPPF 2018 (para 184-202) Conservation and enhancement of the historic environment states that: heritage assets range from sites to buildings of local historic value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of the existing and future generations.

161. Dover District Planning Policies

DD Core Plan strategy (2010)

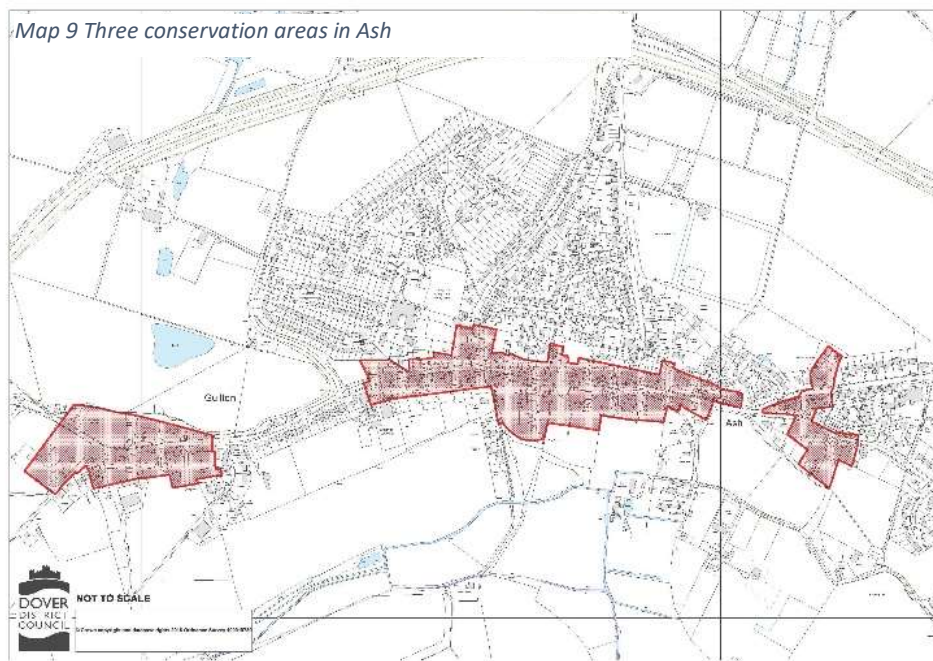
- DM19 Historic parks and gardens
- DM20 Shopfronts
- DM21 Security shutters and grills

DD Land Allocations Local Plan (2015) section 3.5.1 – Ash and polices LA20-LA23

Evidence

Heritage - Conservation Areas and Listings

162. Historic England's register shows there are 105 listed buildings within Ash Parish. There are two Grade I buildings, one of which is the Norman Church (St Nicholas circa 1190) and there are four Grade II* and 99 Grade II listings. There are three Scheduled Monuments. This high number of listings reflects the long and important heritage and the preservation of buildings and sites within the parish. (See Historic England list).
163. There are 417 archaeological records relating to Ash and the development in 2019 at Chequer Lane discovered significant bronze-age artifacts that are being catalogued by the University of London. (See Kent Historic Environment Record).
164. There are three conservation areas within Ash.

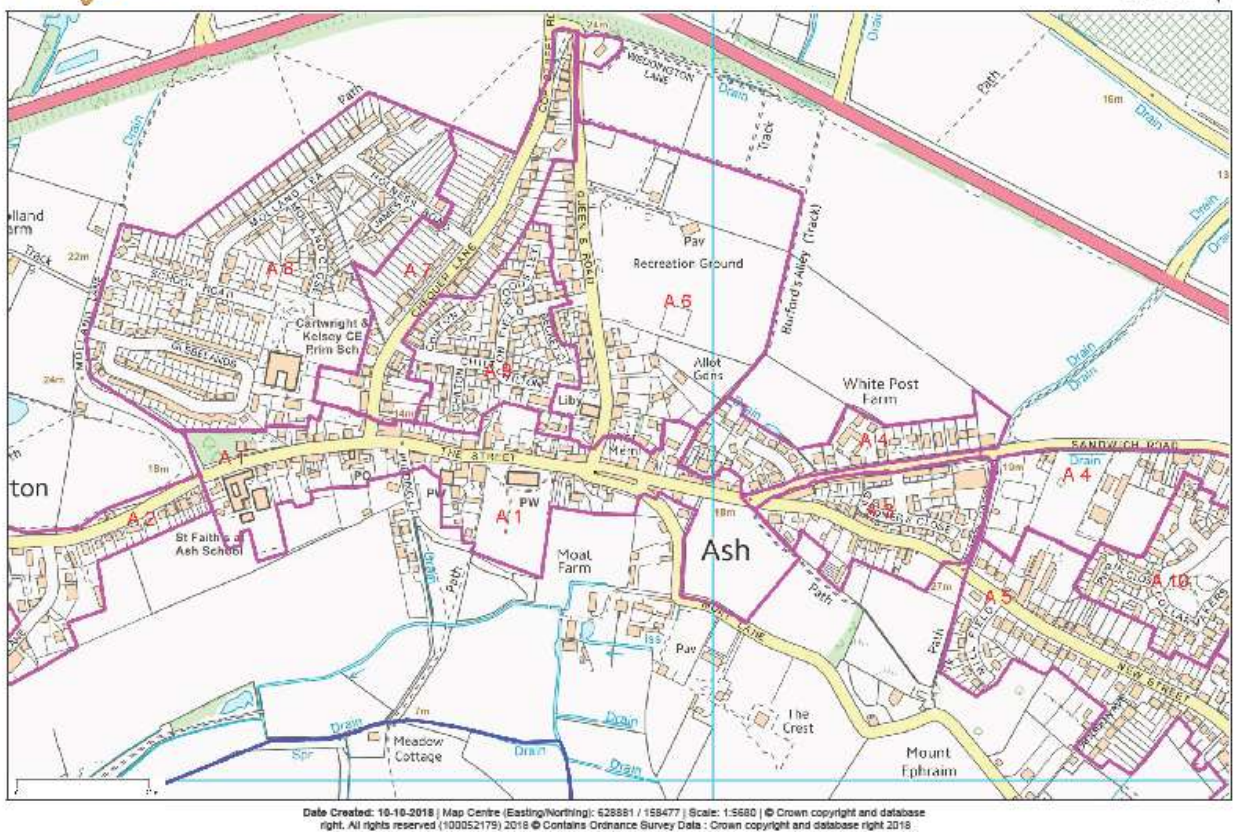


⁹ This re-iterates paras 83-113 and paras 120-122 and is specific to policy ANP6

Distinctive character and design

165. Key Views One of the distinctive features of Ash village is the visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from public places. New development of an inappropriate scale, location and / or design that would interrupt these views could destroy the rural setting and character of the village. The NDP has identified 11 important views. (See Key View Report and Map 7).
166. Character Areas. To ensure there is a clear understanding of what is distinctive within an area, the NDP group has undertaken a detailed character assessment of the village. Through this detailed assessment there is a clear understanding of the distinctive character areas. The assessment identified 10 character areas (see Map 10) within the village settlement boundary (Map 8). (See the Ash Character Assessment)
167. Design Guide -- To help inform the design of new developments within the parish, the NDP Group has produced a Design Guide that sets out the key features that should be considered for any development to enable buildings to blend into one or more of the character areas and to prevent poorly designed, monolithic housing developments that would not be in keeping with the character of the parish.(See the Ash Design Guide)
168. Climate Change – The impact upon people’s lives is now nationally recognised and it is accepted that action must be taken through the design of new developments that will be sustainable and resilient. Reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon sequestration will improve the well-being of both people and the environment.

Map 10 Ash Village Character Areas



Planning policy intentions and objectives

169. They are:
 - To ensure developments within the parish reflect the heritage and distinctive characteristics of the location they are to be developed within and or near
 - To ensure design layouts of the new developments are in keeping with the village character and heritage
 - To preserve and enhance the heritage and character of the area and to protect the historic heritage assets
 - To provide through design sustainable, high quality, climate change resilient development

P6 Policy ANP6 – Developments and Conservation

Development proposals that deliver social and environmental aims of the plan will be supported. Particular support will be given to proposals that would:

- 6.1 Maintain the key views as shown on Map 7 Key Views
- 6.2 Demonstrate a high standard of design and are built to a minimum of Code for Sustainable Homes (2006), Level 5 standards, which respects and reinforces the local distinctiveness of its location, surroundings and the individual character areas of the Parish. (Refer to the Ash Character Assessment)
- 6.3 Building design should respect and respond to the village setting (refer to the Ash Design Guide) in relation to:
 - a) Scale, density, massing, height of nearby buildings, orientation, use of local natural materials, fenestration, landscape layout and access; and
 - b) The scale, design and materials of the street furniture in the public realm (highways, footways, open spaces and landscape).
- 6.4 Buildings should take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscape to minimise energy consumption.
- 6.5 All new developments or dwellings should be designed to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change by:
 - a) Ensuring developments' schemes demonstrate how adaption measures and sustainable development principles have been incorporated into the design and proposed implementation;
 - b) Planning applications which use the Home Quality Mark and Passivhaus design standards will be positively supported;
 - c) Conversions and extensions of 500 sqm of residential floor space or above, or five or more dwellings, to achieve 'excellent' in BREEAM domestic refurbishment; and
 - d) Expect non-domestic developments over 500 sqm of floor space or above, to achieve 'excellent' in BREEAM assessments and encouraging zero carbon in new developments from 2021.
- 6.6 All new developments must provide facilities for cycle storage and in the case of dwellings for the disabled, buggy storage.
- 6.7 New developments should demonstrate how they will positively accommodate, divert or enhance paths and link networks.
- 6.8 There should be provision for electric charging to either each dwelling or 1 per 5 dwellings, as long as it is within 100 m and has a dedicated charging bay.
- 6.9 It respects, protects and enhances the settings of Listed Buildings and street frontages as described in the Ash Character Assessment.
- 6.10 Respects the integrity, character and appearance of the conservation areas and Character Assessment areas for Ash.
- 6.11 Protect and sensitively incorporate landscape features such as trees, hedges and green spaces on the site; and is well integrated into the surrounding landscape.
- 6.12 In areas where there would be significant effect on Public Rights of Way, the network must also be included in the landscape planning of the infra-structure as a whole.
- 6.13 All development works should review the possibilities of archaeological finds within the site confines and seek early discussions with the KCC Heritage Conservation team.

Section 5

5.2 Housing

Background Ash Now

Profile

170. The 2011 census recorded 3,365 people in the Ash Parish. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year 2016 figure is 3,385.
171. The population of the parish has grown slowly over the decades, until the marked increase in the first decade of the 21 century, as shown in Table 1 below. This growth indicates that the parish has been sustainable for many years and continues to develop. Ash is a place where people wish to live and work.

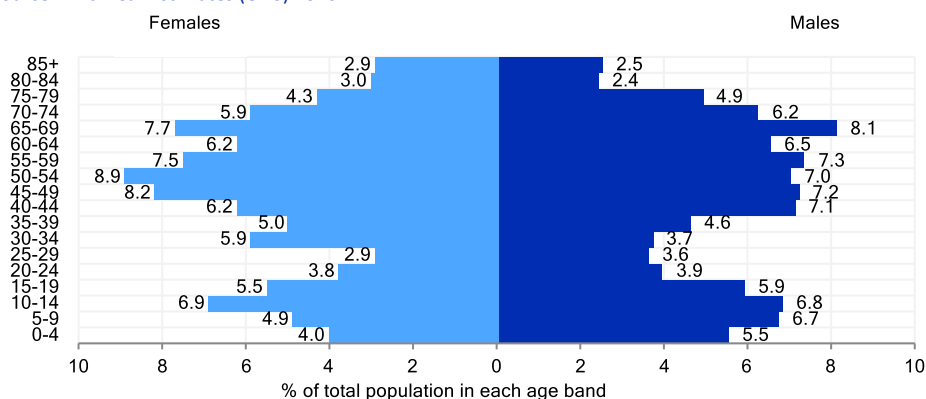
Table 1 Population Growth for the Parish of Ash¹⁰

Year	Population	Year	Population
1705	1,191	1971	2,615
1861	2,039	1981	2,664
1891	2,242	1991	2,707
1911 ¹¹	2,055	2001	2,767
1951	2,300	2011 ¹²	3,365
1961	2,341	2016 ¹³	3,385

Table 2 Breakdown of Ash population by age and gender¹⁴

Figure: Population estimates by 5 year age band

Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2016



¹⁰ ONS

¹¹ Boundary change for parish as secular parish established in 1894

¹² Two new housing developments, Collarmakers Green and Gardners Close in the 2002 / 2003

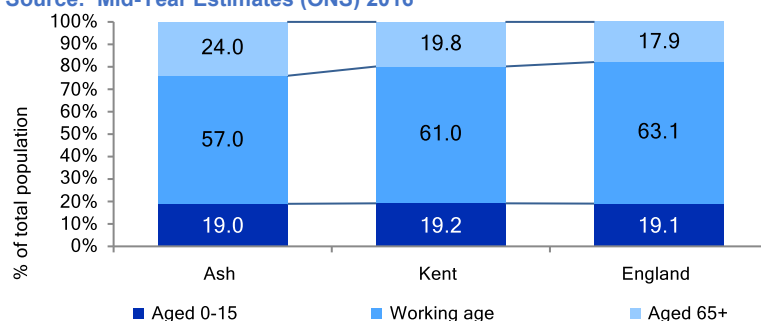
¹³ Source Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2016

¹⁴ OCIS Report May 2018 Pg 4

Section 5

Table 3 Comparison of population by age between Ash, Kent and England¹⁵

Figure: Population by age
Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2016



Occupation, Housing Types and Tenure

172. Composition of a household is a useful indicator of the type of occupancy. These are :

Pensioner household - 24.1%

One-person household under 65 with dependent children - 11.1%,

One-person households all families with dependents - 16.2%

Married households - 42.3%

Cohabiting households - 10.4%

173. Housing Types. In 2018 there were 1,363 DDC rateable properties¹⁶ (occupied houses) within the parish. Note: data shown is from the 2011 Census.

Table 4 Breakdown of types of housing in Ash¹⁷

Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Purpose built flat
524	501	285	28
37.6% (England average = 22.3%)	36.0% (England average = 30.7%)	20.5% (England average = 24.5%)	2.0% (England average = 16.7%)
Flat (in converted house)	Flat (in commercial property)	Caravan or other temporary dwelling	Second homes
05	09	40	03
0.4% (England average = 4.3%)	0.6% (England average = 1.1%)	2.9% (England average = 0.4%)	0.3% (England average = 0.6%)
Source: Census 2011			

Note: Census 2011 data was prior to DDC transferring its housing stock to the East Kent Housing Association. Housing Association or Social Landlord category includes the properties owned by two Ash Charities.

174. The NPPF states that neighbourhood plans should support the strategic housing development needs set out in local plans and positively support local development, considering any profile policies in the Framework that indicate development should be restricted.

175. The DDC Adopted Core Strategy 2010-2026 classifies Ash village in the settlement hierarchy as:

- A Local Centre – with a secondary focus for development in a rural area.

176. The final tier of the hierarchy classifies the hamlets in the parish as:

¹⁵ OCIS Report May 2018 Pg 4

¹⁶ DDC - June 2018

¹⁷ OCIS Report May 2018 Pg 22

Section 5

- Hamlets – all other settlements in the rural area, not suitable for further development unless it functionally requires a rural location.

Existing Housing Stock

177. Ash housing stock as at June 2018 shows a total of 1,363 dwellings¹⁸ compared to the Census 2011 data of 1,332 dwellings, the difference is due to windfall completions since 2011.

Tenure

178. The breakdown of the housing stock from the 2011 census data is shown below. The tables compare Ash to the national averages to provide a comparison and place the tenure of the parish into context.

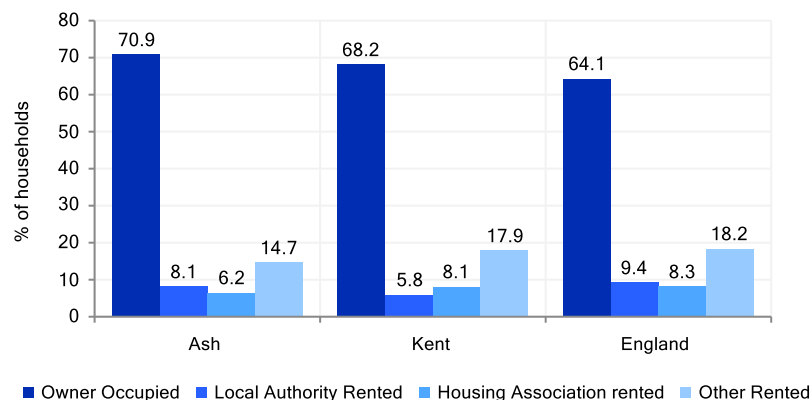
Table 5 Housing Tenue Ash¹⁹

Owner occupied	Owner-occupied: owned outright	Owner-occupied owned: with mortgage or loan
945	500	436
70.9% (England average = 64.1%)	37.5% (England average = 30.6%)	32.7% (England average = 32.8%)
Owner-occupied: shared ownership	Social rented households	Rented from Council
09	191	108
0.7% (England average = 0.8%)	14.3% (England average = 17.7%)	8.1% (England average = 9.4%)
Rented from Housing Association or Social Landlord	Rented from private landlord or letting agency	Other rented dwellings
83	142	54
6.2% (England average = 8.3%)	10.7% (England average = 15.4%)	4.1% (England average = 2.8%)
Source: Census 2011		

Table 6 Comparison of Housing Tenure between Ash, Kent, England²⁰

Figure: Housing tenure breakdowns

Source: Census 2011



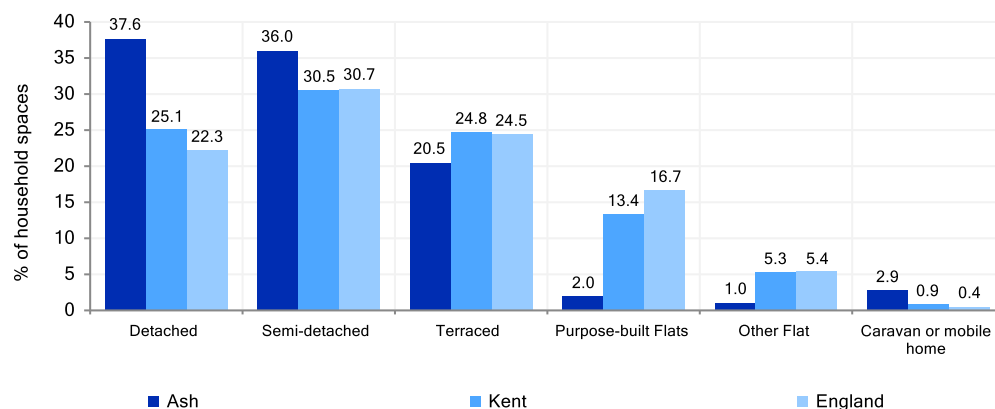
¹⁸ Source - DDC June 2018

¹⁹ OCSI Report May 2018 Pg 23

²⁰ OCSI Report May 2018 Pg 23

Section 5

Table 7 Comparison of dwelling types between Ash, Kent, England²¹



179. The OCSI Local Rural Place Profile 2018 (in Evidence documents) revealed that while most of the stock is in good condition, there is 8.7% of the housing stock without central heating. This should be addressed by owners or landlords. By 2020, legislation will require rented properties to have an Energy Performance Certificate minimum rating E that requires properties to have insulation and usually double glazing. However, it does not apply to all properties and does not require properties to have central heating but it is hoped that this change in legislation will improve some of the above.
180. The Ash Housing Needs Survey 2016 highlighted that the highest proportion of houses within the parish have 2 occupants, with the second highest having 1 occupant, the third being occupied by 3 people, closely followed by 4 people.
181. The parish has two charitable trusts that provide homes for those with connections to the village. The Jack Foat Trust has six properties and the Ash United Charities have eight for the elderly. There is a high demand for these properties with long waiting lists that does lead to some prospective tenants having to relocate out of the parish to find suitable and affordable accommodation.
182. There is a number of affordability issue across the whole housing sector. The key issues are the lower pay within the rural community make buying or renting affordable houses outside the range of some people in the community i.e. above the 25% threshold. These issues are described in more detail in the AECOM Housing Needs Assessment..

Current Housing Needs

183. The parish council is aware of the housing issues within the parish and the importance good quality and affordable housing has on the community and therefore has made considerable efforts in understanding what the issues are and how these can be addressed within this plan.
184. The process started with a workshop and a housing needs questionnaire, then a more detail survey of every household, followed by an independent Housing Needs Assessment. These documents have been used as the basis of the number and type of tenure of housing required within the parish over the plan period.
185. Arriving at housing needs is a complex process and key documents should be read in conjunction with this section for a clear understanding of the issues. These are: Ash Housing Needs Survey July 2017; Housing Needs Assessment AECOM, April 2019; DDC review of AECOM report by PBA May 2019. (See evidence documents).
186. The Ash Housing Needs Survey 2017 was issued to every household and responded to by 22% of the residents. Following analysis of this survey, there were a number of key themes. These are:
 - while 80% said “no more houses”, (this was probably due to the amount of housing built within the last 10 years as explained below). They also said housing should be truly affordable for local people; houses for the elderly – for example bungalows
 - concerns over traffic congestion
 - concerns about overcrowding within the village making access to schools / doctors difficult
 - no loss of agricultural land.
187. The comments above about “no more housing” are likely to be due to the village having had considerable development since 2002, with over 132 houses being built in two large developments

²¹ OCSI Report May 2018 Pg 22

Section 5

– Collar Makers Green (82 units) and Gardners Close (50 units). In addition, the DDC Land Allocation and Local Plan 2010 has identified two sites that would accommodate 190 houses. One of these sites for 93 units started in November 2020. In addition, there have been 29 windfall site completions between 2005 and 2017.

188. The report also identified a need for 19 affordable homes and a requirement for 10 homes for the older household table below indicates the need.

Table 8 Housing Needs from Ash Housing Needs Survey 2017

Affordable Homes	Homes of Older People
7 single people	5 single people
4 couples	5 couples
7 families	
1 pair of siblings sharing	

189. The AECOM Housing Needs Assessment 2019 also confirmed the type of housing that is required. The key areas are affordable housing, smaller houses to accommodate downsizing and the need for a considerable amount of housing for the elderly (known as specialist housing in the AECOM report).
190. The Ash Housing Survey 2017 also indicated that the local residents, by their responses clearly identified with the requirement for affordable housing and for housing for the elderly.
191. There is a strong community feeling that social housing should be primarily for Ash people.
192. One of the key themes from the vision workshop was the need to “enhance the range of housing to allow all types and ages of residents to remain within the parish for life.”

National and Local Planning Policies

193. The NPPF states that: plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development and local authorities should identify numbers and sites within their areas. The application of the presumption has implications for the way communities engage in neighbourhood planning.
194. Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans i.e. presumption of sustainable development.
195. DDC are currently reviewing their Local Plan and as the Ash NDP has been developed before the publication of the DDC review, the parish council worked closely with DDC to arrive at a number of dwellings and policies within the NDP that will comply with their emerging plan.

What type and number of housing are required for the Plan period 2018 – 2037?

Background Housing Needs

196. It is important to review the data and forecast the demand for housing needs over the plan period to meet the identified need for housing in the parish. It was also important to agree with DDC the amount of housing that should be allocated to Ash, as part of their overall housing needs, based upon Ash’s place in the housing hierarchy, as a “Local Centre”.
197. The parish council commissioned AECOM to undertake a full housing need assessment based upon the national and district criteria as agreed with DDC. This used local OICS data and the findings of the Ash Housing Survey 2017 to arrive at a robust conclusion on the number and type of dwellings that are required that could be signed-off by all parties.
198. The AECOM Housing Needs Assessment April 2019, highlights the following issues for Ash:
- requires an increase in affordable family households
 - requires an increase in one person and couple households
 - households with children are predicted to show little growth
 - those aged between 24 and 44 are forecast to decline
 - those over the age of 65 will increase
 - those aged over 85 will grow substantially and likely to need suitable housing
 - the assessment also highlights that for households on lower incomes, their options for house ownership or rental in Ash are very limited

Section 5

- those on middling incomes would be able to afford social housing prices and this income group may have the option of shared ownership.
 - those with above average incomes will struggle to afford even the cheapest open market for-sale homes
 - there is a limited number of smaller dwellings (1-3 habitable rooms)
 - there is an insufficient supply of 1-2 bed smaller dwellings.
199. This information clearly indicates that the trends for households and the type of houses required will need to change over the plan period. Existing and / or new housing stock needs to positively respond to these changes to ensure there are the right number, of the right type, in the right place, to enable people to remain in the parish for life and for them to be able to thrive. Table 6.7 is from AECOM HNA Pg 37

Table 6-7: MHCLG Household projections for Ash by household type

	One person	Couple and no other adult	Couple and one or more other adult	Households with dependent children	Other
2014 (000s)	15.743	14.364	3.663	12.729	2.987
2039 (000s)	20.408	18.366	4.464	12.997	4.360
% change	23%	22%	18%	2%	31%

Source: Household projections for England and local authority districts (2014-based)

Type of Housing Required

200. The AECOM report indicates that due to the change in the composition of households over the plan period, there will be a requirement to change the type of housing available. To understand the likely amount of change required, it is important to know the likely figures of such a change. The table below provides an indication of the movement in the age profiles. Table 6.9 is from AECOM HNA Pg 39

Table 6-9: Rate of change in the age structure of the population of Ash, 2001-2011

Age group	Ash	Dover	England
0-15	18.5%	-3.9%	1.2%
16-24	31.5%	11.8%	17.2%
25-44	8.6%	-4.1%	1.4%
45-64	21.9%	18.6%	15.2%
65-84	36.6%	12.8%	9.1%
85 and over	58.2%	26.9%	23.7%

Source: Census 2001 and 2011, AECOM calculations

Specialist Housing Provision (homes for the elderly population)

201. The AECOM Housing Needs Assessment April 2019 identifies the need for specialist housing. This has been done by using tenure-led projects and using the Housing Learning and Improvement Network's recommended levels per 1,000 head of population, (page 33-36 AECOM report). This is a vital

Table 7-2: Projections of elderly population in Ash to 2031

	2011 Ash (Census)	Dover(Census)	2031 Dover Projection (ONS SNPP 2014)	Ash Projection (AECOM Calculation)
All ages	3,365 (3% of the district total)	111,674	126,341	3,790
75+	286 (8.5% of the NA total)	10,596	21,095	633 (16.7%, in line with proportion of those aged 75+ in the District)

Source: ONS SNPP 2016, AECOM Calculations

Section 5

piece of work considering the statement above indicated the aging profile of the population and indicates the number of houses to accommodate older people required within the parish. The table above (AECOM HNA Pg 42) indicates the likely growth in the elderly 75+ will increase by 16.7% by 2031 and there is a likely requirement for 135 specialist homes.

202. While the findings of the research are complex, it is possible to produce some indicative figures for specialist housing required over the plan period. These are:
- Extra care homes. These are homes that have been designed to support the elderly to ensure they can retain independence.²² The number required over the planned period is 82
 - Sheltered Homes. These are retirement type homes possibly linked into a complex where each occupant lives independently.²³ There is access to wardens, etc. The number of these required over the plan period is 114.
203. It is unlikely that the above numbers could be delivered over the plan period (and they need not all be provided for in Ash) due to the higher cost of this type of accommodation that could affect the viability of sites. It is not the intention of the parish to create a retirement village on one or more sites but there needs to be a reflection of these needs in the planning policies and developments coming forward to ensure that the parish remains an inclusive community.
204. The housing assessment identifies a range of issues that the housing sector needs to address within new developments. The key ones are ensuring there is a mixture of housing types and tenure, affordability and special consideration given to the type of homes available for the elderly.²⁴

Quality

205. The analysis of the housing needs of Ash over the plan period, has shown that it is possible to use the data to arrive at a housing required figure (unconstrained demand) This has been done by using a combination of the Standard National Formula and DDC local policy needs.
206. The calculation of housing numbers is a complex issue. While AECOM used national local and DDC data, as their report was completed earlier than the DDC's review of its strategic policies, there was a difference between DDC's requirement and the report for the base housing numbers for Ash. This altered the unconstrained housing numbers by a small amount (22 upwards).
207. After a discussion between Ash Parish Council and DDC, an acceptable number has been agreed for the unconstrained housing needs for Ash Parish over the Plan Period of 323 for main site developments plus windfalls.

Windfall Allowance

208. The windfall allowance is based upon the assumption that historic new buildings / conversions that have taken place in Ash Parish over the past 10 years averages 3 pa (31) and will continue as there are a few small sites remaining, plus barn conversions coming forward under permitted development. Therefore, the windfall allowance of 2 per annum, **38** over the plan period, is a reasonable assumption and was agreed with DDC.

Total Housing Requirement

209. The total unconstrained number of dwellings needed for Ash, over the plan period, as **323** plus **38**, totalling **361**.
210. In September 2020, a further site that was assessed through the NP process and considered unsuitable, received outline planning permission in principle for 76 units. This will bring the total unconstrained number of dwellings needed for Ash, over the plan period, as **323** plus **76**, plus **38** (windfall) totalling **437**.

What are the options?

211. It is clear from the number of houses required that it will not be possible to accommodate these on existing sites identified within DDC Allocated Sites 2015 (Chequer Lane, Agri, Old Council Yard) and therefore there is a requirement for additional sites to be allocated within the parish. This process is explained in paras 218-232.

²² AECOM Housing Needs Assessment April 2019 Pg 49 for detailed description

²³ Ibid Pg 54 for detailed description

²⁴ There are signs that the housing sector may be taking some of these issues onboard as the new Chequer Lane development contains no houses over 3 bed and has some single accommodation flats that could suit the elderly.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

212. As part of the public engagement, the community highlighted what the residents saw as vital to ensure the community develops coherently. These are:

- To facilitate local people living in the parish for the whole of their lives, with a focus on the provision of local needs housing i.e. starter homes, downsizing homes, homes for the older population (specialised housing).
- To ensure there are sufficient truly affordable houses for the young and local workforce with connections to the village to remain in the village.²⁵
- To ensure that social housing is primarily for people with links / work within the parish.
- To ensure there is sufficient housing for the elderly, be it single units, blocks or warden assisted²⁶, the provision of which will free up larger houses helping to solve the shortage of housing generally.
- To ensure that over development of the village does not take place considering the number of houses Ash has had in comparison to other villages and surrounding towns between 2000-2018.
- To have a mixture of houses on new residential developments that maintains the essential characteristics of the village and its immediate surroundings.
- To make best and effective use of brownfield sites and promote the development of small-scale sites.
- To develop the village from the centre outwards, ensuring good connectivity to the local facilities (i.e. schools, GP's, shops, village hall) and reduce the isolation that new developments experience when placed on the outskirts of the village e.g. Collar Makers Green.

Allocation of development sites

213. The Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan allocates development sites and this section explains the process adopted to identify sites.

Assessment Process

214. The parish council appointed AECOM to undertake a review of possible development sites.(See AECOM Site Assessment Aug 2018). Working closely with DDC, it assessed the sites that had come forward for Ash from the 2018 DDC call for sites, as part of their emerging Local Plan.

215. As the NDP is ahead of the DDC emerging local plan, DDC provided AECOM with the agreed approach and criteria for the site assessment to ensure the outcome would be consistent with DDC's approach. The DDC assessment (was completed in March 2020).

216. Sites have been carefully assessed against specific policies in the NPPF, the DDC Core Strategy and DDC Local Plan Topic Paper: Overarching Strategy (Part 1) June 2019.

217. The key policies being:

NPPF section 5 (para 59-79): Policy making authorities [Ash NDP] should have a clear understanding of the land available in their area through the preparation of a strategic housing land availability assessment. From this, planning policies should identify a sufficient supply and mix of sites, identifying sites available for years 1 to 5, 6 to 10 and 11 to 15 years.

NPPF section 5 (para 77-79): Planning policies should be responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs; and bring forward exception sites that would provide affordable housing to meet identified needs.

NPPF section 5 (para 70): where an allowance is to be made for windfall sites there should be compelling evidence that they will provide a reliable source of supply.

DDC Policy CP1 Settlement Hierarchy: Identifies Ash as a 'Local Centre' - a secondary focus for development in a rural area that is suitable for a scale of development that would reinforce its role as a provider of services to its home and adjacent communities.

²⁵ AECOM Housing Needs Assessment April 2019 Appendix A provides affordability numbers

²⁶ Ibid Section 7 as identified and described under Specialist Housing Section 7

DDC Policy CP4 Housing Quality, Mix Density and Design says ... ‘Density will be determined through [the] design process at the maximum level consistent with the design. Density should whenever possible exceed 40 dwellings net per hectare and will seldom be justified at less than 30 net per hectare.’ However, a threshold of 30 dwellings net per hectare is consistent with a Local Service Centre. It should seldom be justified at less than 30 dwellings net per hectare. *(Due to the rural setting of the parish and Ash being defined as a Local Service Centre, an existing housing density of 30 houses per hectare or lower, where the sites abut the rural landscape, is considered more acceptable by the residents).*

DDC Policy DM1: Settlement Boundaries - requires that development is not to be permitted on land outside the urban boundaries and rural settlement confines. (As some of the sites are outside the existing confines these will be realigned as part of this Plan or DDC changes to settlement boundaries within their emerging plan)

DDC Policy DM5: Provision of Affordable Homes – defines the number of affordable homes per development

DDC Policy DM15: Protection of the Countryside - aims to reduce any harmful effects on the countryside character, permitting development if it is justified by a need to sustain the rural economy or rural community and it cannot be accommodated elsewhere.

DDC Policy DM 16: Landscape Character - requires that development be sited to avoid or reduce harm on the character of landscape and / or incorporate measures to mitigate the impacts to an acceptable level.

Existing sites from DDC Local Plan 2015 (not reassessed)

218. The existing DD Land Allocations Plan 2015 identified and allocated three sites, one of which has been built (Land at Mill Field) and one has been carried over Policy LA23 Former Council Yard for 5 dwellings, marked in beige. The remaining sites are:

90 dwellings	Land west of Chequer Lane LA20 (reserved matters agreed Nov 2019)
95 dwellings	Land South of Sandwich Road (Agri) site LA21
5 dwellings	Former Council Yard LA23

219. These sites remain as part of the land allocation and have not been reassessed in the AECOM sites assessment but have been taken forward by the parish council when allocating sites over this plan period.

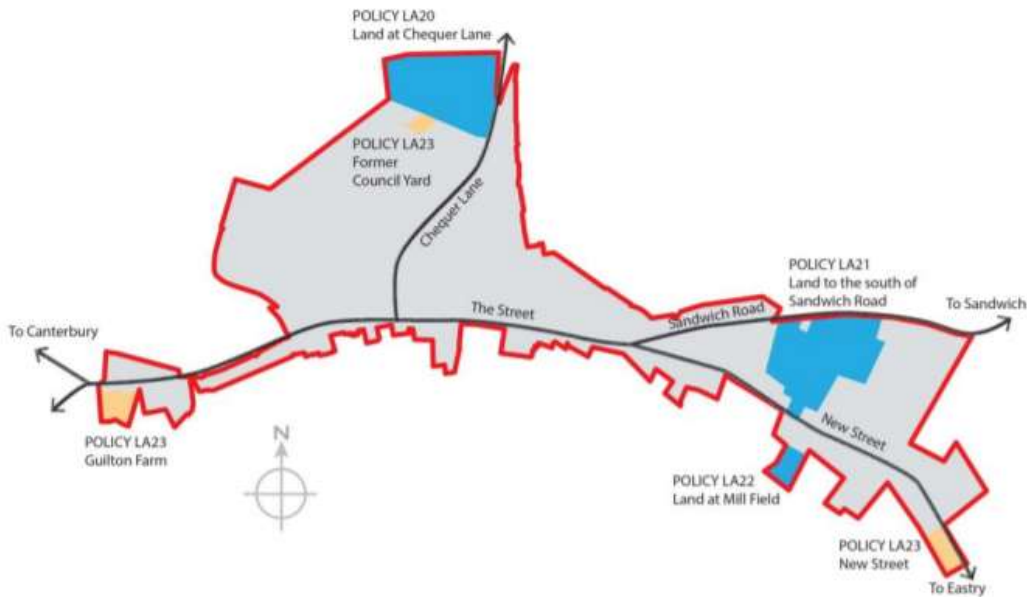


Figure 3 Allocated sites in Ash with changes to settlement confines. Source: DDC

Section 5

225. The number of houses upon these sites in the site assessment is based upon DDC policy CP4 - 30 dwellings per hectare in and are in-line with that expected for a Local Service Centre.
226. Taking the above into account, the density of the sites selected may have to be slightly reduced. This will only become clear when outline design work has been undertaken but where appropriate, the parish council has taken into account its local knowledge of each site and proposed a more realistic housing number to ensure the surrounding character of the village / rural landscape is considered. However, the total site areas allocated will accommodate the housing needs figure of 323, and the changes are relatively small and not likely to affect the viability of the sites selected. Each site policy reflects the numbers from the site assessment and the parish council adjusted number of units

Selected Sites

Assessment

227. The assessment identified 11 sites that were assessed on the traffic light system "RAG"²⁸. No sites were green, five were amber, and six were red and not appropriate for allocation.
228. In addition to the new sites coming forward, there are three sites taken forward from the DD Land Allocation 2015. These have not been reassessed but have been included in the site allocations for this plan period.
229. The parish council held a special meeting on 1st July 2019 to discuss the site assessment report and the findings. The council reviewed each of the sites and agreed:
- That the red sites were correctly designated as not suitable for development, with one exception, HELAA 163 the southwest side of Gilton (road) as the site is a brownfield site. The red sites are:
 - HELAA 31 Land south of A257 at Ash
 - HELAA 32 Land at the end of Langdon Avenue
 - HLEAA 132 Land off Sandwich Road
 - HELAA 136 Land to the east of Queens Road
 - HELAA 152 Land adjacent Saunders Lane
 - HELAA 163 Gilton northwest side
 - That the amber sites should be considered for development provided suitable mitigation measures such as boundary treatments were included in the policies.
 - The amber sites are:
 - HELAA 45 Site At Millfield recommended
 - HELAA 95 Land north of Molland Lane recommended
 - HELAA 96 Land at Molland Lane not suitable
 - HLEAA 134 Land to the rear of No 24 not suitable
 - HELAA 169 Land at Gilton not suitable
 - The three sites already allocated (2015 Local Plan) were still relevant and should be included in the selection of sites.
230. The parish council using its local knowledge also considered possible exception sites within or adjacent to the village confines but were unable to identify any that could be brought forward.
231. Following the review of sites by the parish council, a public exhibition was held on 28th September 2019 where the sites were displayed with a general explanation of the selection process and planning policies linked to each site. This was followed by a public meeting on 16th October 2019 conducted by a RIPT planner, where residents could express their views and receive authoritative answers, to ensure that the presentation was coherent and relevant to the NPPF and DDC planning framework.
232. Following these two events, the information and feedback from the residents was collated. This information was then used by the parish council to confirm the final list of sites and the mitigation measures required to enable developments to take place in line with the policies in this Plan, the NPPF and DDC.

²⁸ AECOM Site Assessment see evidence documents

Section 5

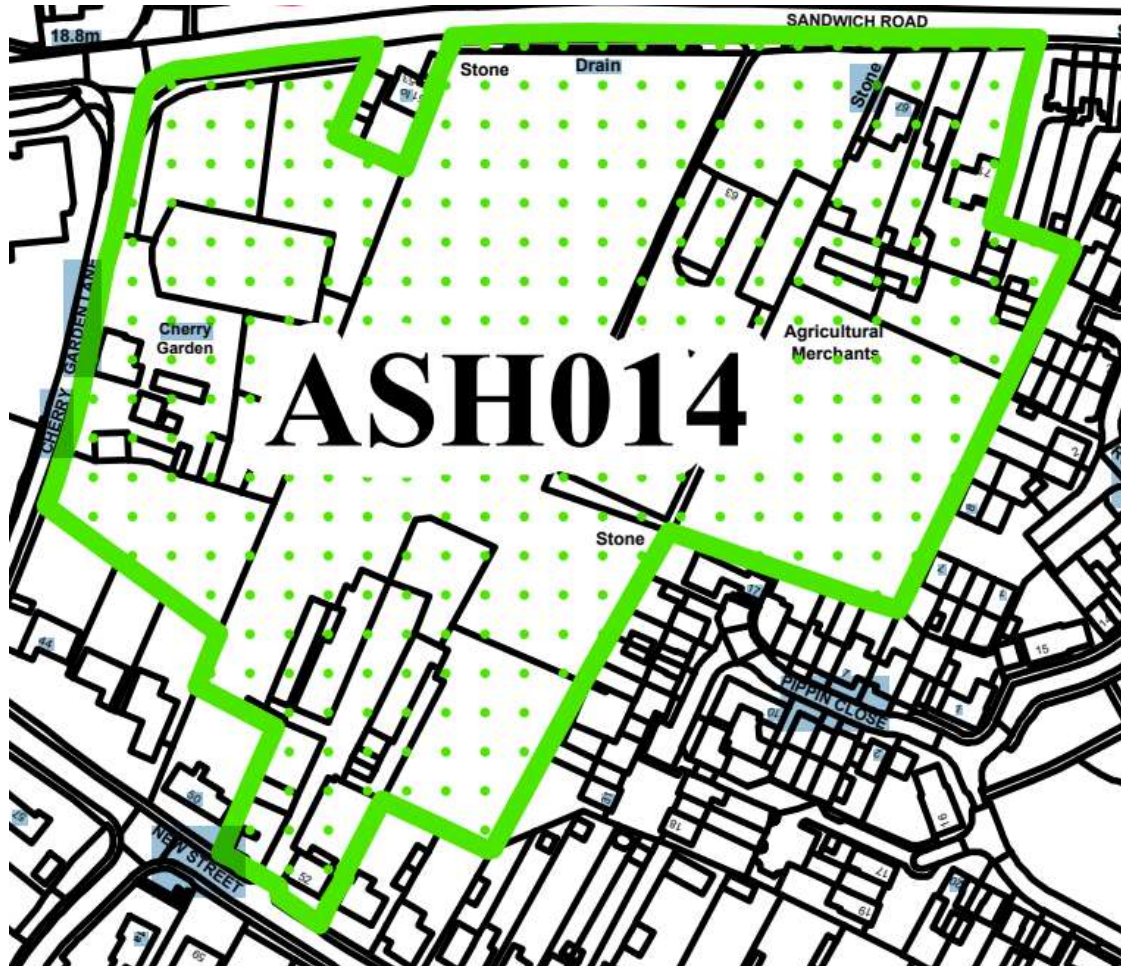
Dover District Council Assessed Sites 2020

233. In March 2020, the site HELAA 136 (Land to the east of Queens Road) has been identified by Dover District Council in their emerging Local Plan as amber and suitable for development with mitigation. This site will be included in DDC's Regulation 18 consultation that will take place in January 2021.

Description of sites selected

Agri / Cowans site

Map 12 Agri / Cowan site ANP7a)



234. 6-10 years deliverability, site brought forward from 2015, Land Allocations Plan. 95 dwellings (NDP 95 taken forward).
235. The 3.23 ha site is located on the eastern side of Ash, south of Sandwich road and is within the Ash Settlement Boundary. The site is in multiple ownership and the existing uses reflect this, consisting of garden land paddocks, agricultural land (old orchard), residential properties and business use. The residential properties front Sandwich Road and have been included within the site boundary to enable access to the site.
236. There are hedgerows along the western frontage with Sandwich Road, Cherry Garden Lane and within the site delineating land ownership. Southern Water has advised that a sewer crosses this site and there is insufficient sewage (underground) capacity directly available to serve this site.
237. There are a number of existing access points from Sandwich Road and New Street. The site also includes Cherry Garden, a residential property that has direct access from Cherry Garden Lane.

Site context

238. The site is located on the edge of the built form of the village with residential developments to the east, west and south sides of the site. There are open agricultural fields to the north, beyond Sandwich Road.

Section 5

239. A combination of the scale of the development and the proximity of the site to European designated nature conservation sites means that any planning application will have to develop a strategy with a range of measures and initiatives, such as provision of informal open space or walking routes (leading to a wider PRow) within the development.

Proposed Development

240. As the site is in multiple ownership it is important that any development should be considered comprehensively, rather than piecemeal, with one spine road through the whole site. If the site was developed incrementally, each phase must demonstrate that it will not prejudice the implementation of the whole development. This is particularly important for the western most parcel of land that would not otherwise have a suitable access.
241. To ensure that the site is developed comprehensively Dover District Council will require a development brief for the whole site to accompany any planning application, (whether it is for part of the site or the whole site). The development brief should identify 'constraints and opportunities' and include sections on density, design including heights, scale and massing) and access. It should also demonstrate how overall development meets the requirements for Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA mitigation, open space, green infrastructure, water drainage and any contributions to off-site infrastructure that may be necessary. The brief should be agreed by all landowners within the allocation and drawn up in consultation with the parish council.
242. There are a number of potential access options to the area of land to rear of 71 Sandwich Road. The outcome of the public consultation (DDC Land Allocation 2002) indicated that the preferred access arrangements would be for the main access / accesses to be from Sandwich Road with emergency access from New Street. This is the council's preferred option. Vehicular access should not be from Cherry Garden Lane, as this would have a detrimental impact on the character of this road and setting of the village.
243. An integral part of the proposed development will be to create a soft edge to Ash. The design and height of buildings is an important consideration to avoid any detrimental impact on the setting of the village or the wider landscape.
244. The size of the site and its location on the edge of the village provided the opportunity to offer a range of dwellings that would improve the housing offer to Ash. The starting point for any proposal would be the mix identified in the SHMA and / or Ash housing needs assessment. There is an opportunity to provide larger, lower density, family dwellings along the frontage of Sandwich Road to ensure the

Land to the South of Sandwich Road, Ash.

The site is allocated for residential development with an estimated capacity of 95 dwellings. Planning permission will be permitted provided that:

*4 DDC Policy LA21.
Source Land
Allocations Local
Plan Adopted 2015
Pg 87*

- i. any application for development is preceded by, and is consistent with a development brief for the whole of the site which has been agreed by the Council;
- ii. there is a comprehensive approach to development of the whole site but if the site is developed incrementally, each phase must demonstrate that it will not prejudice the implementation of the whole development;
- iii. the impact of development on the setting of the village and wider landscape is minimised through the siting, massing and scale of new buildings;
- iv. the existing boundary hedgerows and vegetation are retained and enhanced as part of the development;
- v. vehicular access is located from Sandwich Road with an emergency access from New Street;
- vi. there is no vehicular access from the development on Cherry Garden Lane;
- vii. development should provide a connection to the sewerage system at the nearest point of adequate capacity and ensure future access to the existing water supply infrastructure for maintenance and upsizing purposes; and
- viii. a mitigation strategy to address any impact on the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Ramsar and SPA sites and Sandwich Bay SAC site is developed. The strategy should consider a range of measures and initiatives.

development reflects the loose rural character of this road (Ash Character Assessment). The opportunity exists to create higher density smaller units within the central area of the site, similar to the neighbouring residential development at Gardners Close. Parking standard should be a minimum of KCC Guidance note 3, Nov 2008, Rural Areas.

P7 ANP7a) Agri / Cowans land brought forward from DDC 2015 Land Allocation

This land is allocated for residential development with an estimated capacity of 95 dwellings. Planning permission will be permitted provided that:

- 7a.1 Any application for development is preceded by and is consistent with a development brief that has been agreed by Dover District Council; this must include an ecological survey.
- 7a.2 There is a comprehensive approach to development of the whole site but if the site is developed incrementally, each phase must demonstrate that it will not prejudice the implementation of the whole development;
- 7a.3 The impact of the development on the setting of the village and wider landscape is minimised by reference to policies ANP4, ANP5 and ANP6;
- 7a.4 The existing boundary hedgerows and vegetation are retained and enhanced as part of the development;
- 7a.5 Vehicular access is located from Sandwich Road and New Street;
- 7a.6 There is no vehicular access installed from Cherry Garden Lane;
- 7a.7 There should be provision for charging electric vehicles within each dwelling or a minimum of 1 community charging point for each five dwellings, as long as it is within 100 metres and has a dedicated charging bay;
- 7a.8 Open and/or shared spaces should be maintained by a management company established by the developer with on-going maintenance responsibilities being held by this company;
- 7a.9 Development should ensure occupation is phased to align with the delivery of sewage infrastructure, provide a connection to sewage and water and gas at the nearest point of adequate capacities, and ensure future access to existing water supply and / or wastewater infrastructure for maintenance and up sizing purposes; and
- 7a.10 A mitigation strategy to address any impact on the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Ramsar and SA sites and Sandwich Bay SAC site is developed. The strategy should consider a range of measures and incentives
- 7a.11 The development will only be supported if it can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding the Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

Section 5

Former Council Yard – Molland Lea

Map 13 Former council Yard - Molland Lea ANP7b)



245. 0-11 years deliverability, 5 dwellings. (ANP 5 dwellings taken forward).

246. This site has been identified in the DD Land Allocations 2015 as suitable for development and is subject to Policy LA 23 pg 89.

Site Context

247. This is a small site located within the area of Molland Lea estate, within the Ash Settlement Boundary and has limited access via Molland Lea. The site is the location of the Local Scout Hut that would have to be replaced either on site or relocated as part of the development. The housing number has been included in the overall housing allowance of **323**.

Proposed Development

248. The site location makes it suitable for small houses, possible specialist housing due to its location, close to the village centre and access routes.

P8 ANP7b) Old Council Yard, land allocated from DDC 2015 Land Allocation

This land is allocated for residential development with an estimated capacity of 5 dwellings and would be suitable for specialist housing.

Planning permission will be permitted provided that:

- 7b.1 Any application of development is preceded with a development brief for the whole site including the retention and/or replacement of the Scout Hut that has been agreed by Dover District Council;
- 7b.2 The impact of development on the setting within the village and wider landscape is minimised and by reference to policies ANP4, ANP5 and ANP6;
- 7b.3 Vehicular access is via Molland Lea;
- 7b.4 There should be provision for electric vehicle charging to either each dwelling or 1 per five dwellings, as long as it is within 100 metres and has a dedicated charging
- 7b.5 The development will only be supported if it can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

Chequer Lane Site

249. 0-5 years deliverability, brought forward from 2015 land allocation; construction due to commence late 2019. 93 dwellings. (ANP 73 dwellings taken forward).
250. As this site has received planning approval, a description has not been included, as the parish council and DDC have accepted the designs, number and type of housing. However, as the site is not likely to be built out before the NDP goes to referendum, it is assumed that only 20 will be completed and therefore an allowance of 73 dwellings has been made in this plan to be included in the overall housing allowance of 323.

White Post Farm

251. 0-5 years deliverability, 33 dwellings (planning application approved on appeal). (NDP 30 dwellings taken forward).
252. This site received outline planning approval (on appeal). Reserved matters DOV/20/00321 received approval on the 28th August 2020, therefore no planning stipulations have been made. The parish council had input into the full planning application to agree design, materials, massing etc, via its normal planning route. As it is unlikely to be built out before the NDP goes to referendum, an allowance has been made of 30 dwellings in this plan to be included in the overall housing allowance of 323.

HELAA 152 Land adjacent to Saunders

253. 0-5 years deliverability, 76 dwellings, This site has received outline permission in principle (DOV/19/01462 Land to the north of Orchard View and west of Saunders Lane) and is likely to receive full approval before the NDP is adopted. The Ash Parish Council had agreed that this site was unsuitable for development. There were a number of reasons for this decision:

- It had been assessed RED by the AECOM Site Assessment and residents during the site selection process had agreed that the site was unsuitable for development.
- There are traffic safety issues and the cumulative impact of the adjacent Collar Makers Green estate, from the allocated Agri/Cowan site and the approved White Post Farm site
- There are significant drainage and surface-water run-off and site topographical problems.
- It is against the Ash NDP principles of developing from the centre of the village outwards. and
- There would be a loss / negative impact to a priority habitat broadleaved deciduous woodland that could have the potential to support protected species
- The walking distance to the Cartwright & Kelsey School and the pre-school provision of 2.2km would not be possible for young children
- Development of the site would have a negative impact on the natural heritage of the site and the immediate area.

DDC Planning Committee agreed the application on a casting vote. The committee accepted the mitigation on changes to Sandwich Road that many of the site issues could be dealt with under reserved matters and

- It had been assessed as amber in the DDC review of sites that had come forward in 2017
- It would make a substantial addition to the availability of housing sites within the district
- It was a sustainable site and had easy walking access to the village centre
- Other issues could be dealt with under reserved matters that also included conditions on proposed site levels, ecological mitigation, full engineering, gradient and level changes relating to adjacent land, protection of trees and hedges and tree retention and RPZ zones and a surface water drainage strategy.

254. As it is unlikely to be built out before the NDP goes to referendum, an allowance has been made of 76 dwellings in this plan and it has been added to the overall housing allowance of 323. The reasons for going beyond the plan's initial allowance are:

- it will help to ensure deliverability of the housing needed within the plan area
- it will provide a buffer to the housing requirement thus providing greater certainty
- it will discourage speculative planning applications for sites not within the Neighbourhood Plan or Local Plan in the future.

HELAA 45 Land South of Millfield

Map 14 Land South of Millfield ANP7c)



- 255. 5-10 year deliverability (amber) 12 units, (NDP 9 dwellings taken forward).
- 256. The 0.4 ha site is located on the south eastern side of the village and sits outside the village settlement boundary. This makes it inconsistent with DDC Policies DM1 and DM15. The northern part was allocated for 10 dwellings (9 actually built) in DDC 2015 Local Land Allocation. The land is generally level and with a slight fall toward the southern boundary and is currently unused agricultural land.
- 257. The site is accessible from New Street through Millfield estate and an access road head, has been constructed as part of the previous development.

Site Context

- 258. The surrounding uses of the land are housing to the south, open countryside south east and west, with long views to the adjacent village of Staple. There is a boundary of hedging to each side of the site that is poorly maintained. The site is considered appropriate for development within the context of the NDP planning policies ANP1 and ANP3.

Proposed development

- 259. The site requires mitigation to the boundaries by the maintaining the existing hedgerows / planting of new trees, hedgerows of native species to the south east / west to reduce the impact upon the long views towards the village from Staple and surrounding countryside. There should be a buffer zone of green space to the north side of the site between the development and the existing houses in Millfield.
- 260. It is expected that the developer will submit a detailed mitigation plan to the parish council before planning is approved.
- 261. The development's design should be of a mixture of two-story dwellings in terms of size, massing height and be individual in nature, so as not to replicate the existing dwellings leading into the site.

Section 5

Materials should reflect the local type and designs and should be consistent with the NDP Character Assessment for the area and the Ash Design Guide. Dwellings should be designed and constructed to the “Design for Life” principles and “Code of sustainable buildings” code 5.

- 262. As Ash has a high density of homeworkers, a number of the dwellings should have work/life accommodation opportunities within the dwelling or grounds, via an office.
- 263. 10% of the houses should be designed for the elderly with level access, walk in showers etc.
- 264. As this site will be a cul-de-sac, there should be sufficient car parking to each dwelling to ensure the access roads are kept clear for the access of emergency vehicles. Parking standards should be a minimum of the KCC (Guidance Note 3, Nov 2008 for Rural Areas).
- 265. Charging for electric vehicles should be provided to each dwelling or to a cluster of 5 dwellings providing it is not more than 100 meters away from them and should have a designated parking bay

P9 Policy ANP7c) - HELAA 45 Land South of Mill Field

Site area 0.4 ha. The land is allocated for residential development with an estimated capacity of 9 dwellings.

Planning permission will be permitted provided that:

- 7c.1 The existing boundary hedgerows and veteran trees are retained and enhanced with native / indigenous species as part of the development boundary; new hedgerows of no less than 10 metres width should be established along the southwest and east boundaries;
- 7c.2 A green buffer zone is to be provided between the development and the existing houses to the north side of the site. (This could be grass with some native trees spread along the kerb-edge to provide shelter in summer. The trees should be of a type that do not grow taller than 5-6 metres. This area could contain the electric vehicle charging point);
- 7c.3 There should be provision for charging electric vehicles within each dwelling or a minimum of 1 community charging point for each five dwellings, as long as it is within 100 metres and has a dedicated charging bay;
- 7c.4 The main vehicular access will be via the existing road through Millfield;
- 7c.5 The impact of development on the setting and the surrounding dwellings and the wider landscape is minimised by reference to policies ANP4, ANP5 and ANP6;
- 7c.6 The development will only be supported if it can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding the Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

Section 5

HELAA 95 Land North of Molland Lane

Map 15 Land North of Molland Lane ANP7d)



266. 11-15 years deliverability (amber) 114 units (NDP 105 taken forward).

Site location and characteristics

267. The 3.8 ha site is located to the northern side of Ash, adjacent to the A257 Ash By-pass and west of the Chequer Lane site. The site is in single ownership and is agricultural land. The land is flat and the site rises slightly to the western boundary. There are three public rights of way through the site. EE90A runs north west to south west and EE112 runs west to east and joins the southern boundary of the Chequer Lane site. These two PRoW's join at the A257 bypass. They provide access from the countryside to Chequer Lane (and the new housing development) and the existing housing on Molland Lea. There is a Public Bridleway EE464 running north to south alongside the site on the western boundary. No details on sewage or water supply have been obtained but on the adjacent site, Southern Water stated that there was insufficient sewage (underground) capacity directly available for this site, so it is assumed the same would apply.

Site Context

268. The site is outside the village settlement boundary. While this makes it inconsistent with CS policies DM1 DM15, it is considered that as it is adjacent to the existing housing on Molland Lea (southern boundary) and to the new development of Chequer Lane (eastern boundary) it would be suitable for development and should be brought into the settlement boundary.
269. The western boundary is next to the Guilton Conservation area and has views into the village. The site is considered to have low sensitivity to development and low visual impact subject to mitigation of the views from Molland Lea.
270. There is limited access for vehicles to the site at present. Access would have to be via the new Chequer Lane development (that has an access route designed into its overall site plan) onto Chequer Lane, the A257 Ash by-pass and / or Molland Lane if this was upgraded. Details would have to be agreed with the Highways Authority as part of the outline planning approval.

Proposed Development

271. The access to the site via the Chequer Lane site, or an upgraded Molland Lane or access in the vicinity of Molland Lane, provides an opportunity to create a distinctive village area and generally enhance the village. However, access to the site from the A257 by-pass could lead to a development

Section 5

- with no direct road links to the village making it appear, in all purposes, a separate village. This should be avoided by careful design consideration of all possible access routes.
272. Development proposals will have to demonstrate the ability to accommodate a satisfactory vehicular access.
 273. In order to provide the opportunity for a greater degree of connectivity by foot and cycling between the proposed development and the centre of Ash village and the local primary schools, it will be important that the three Public Rights of way are enhanced and incorporated into the design layout, as they should provide a link from the new Chequer Lane development to Chequer Lane and the village Recreation Ground beyond, via the PRow's.
 274. Development should create a new western boundary to the site through additional landscaping to protect the Guilton conservation area and provide a wildlife corridor between the open countryside to the north bund of the site formed by the A257 Bund and screening. In order to provide a sufficient substantial boundary this landscaping should be no less than 15 m in width to accommodate native species of trees and Sustainable Underground Drainage (SUDs). This area could also be used for informal recreation. In order to reduce the landscape impact, the development should create a 'soft' edge by reducing the density of development and creating a looser grain along the western boundary looking towards the Guilton conservation area.
 275. The boundary to the northern side of the development should also be improved by landscaping the southern side of the bund running along the A257. This will not only improve the views from inside the development but careful design could reduce the impact of air and noise pollution into the development.
 276. The development should create a new southwest boundary to the site where it abuts Molland Lea housing. In order to reduce the development impact upon the existing Molland Lea homes and provide a sufficient substantial boundary. The landscaping should be no less than 15 m width to accommodate native species of trees and SUDs. This area could be used for informal recreation.
 277. Early discussions should take place with Southern Water to establish the capacity required of the sewage drainage system and where the nearest point of connection would be, to reduce any impact upon the current village system in the vicinity.
 278. A combination of the scale of the development and the proximity of the site to European designated nature conservation sites means that any planning application will have to develop a strategy with a range of measures and initiatives such as the provision of informal space or walking routes (leading to other PRow's) within the development.
 279. Due to the site's distance from the Ash Recreation Ground, there should be adequate designated open recreation and play areas, with play equipment within the development for the residents.
 280. The size of this site and its location on the edge of the village provides an opportunity to offer a range of dwellings that would improve the housing offer in Ash. The starting point for any proposal would be the mix identified in the SHMA but there is an opportunity to provide larger lower density dwellings, towards the western edge of the site, reflecting the looser grain of the rural edge, with higher density created along the northern, eastern and southern boundaries.
 281. Due to the demands for certain size houses and housing for the elderly (specialist housing due to age profile) one / two bed or warden assessed dwellings should be included within the development (5-10%). This approach would make the development more inclusive and retain the village feel with the inclusion of a mixture of age groups.
 282. Car parking is an issue within all new developments and careful consideration should be given to the amount, location and how the development manages traffic flows, parking etc by good innovative design. The minimum standard should be the KCC Guidance Note 3, Nov 2008 for Rural Areas.

P10 Policy ANP7d) - HELAA 95 Land north of Molland Lane

Site area 3.8 ha an approximate capacity of 105 dwellings

Planning :permission will be permitted providing that:

- 7d.1 The existing boundary of trees and hedgerows, along the A257 are retained and enhanced landscaping, of no less than 15m in width to reduce the impact of noise and air pollution from the A257. New boundaries of native trees and indigenous hedgerow of no less than 10 m in width are established along the southern and western boundaries to reduce the impact of noise, air pollution and visual impact to maintain the rural setting.
- 7d.2 The density of development along the western boundary is reduced to mitigate the loss of the rural landscape;
- 7d.3 The Public Rights of Way EE90A, EE112 and the Public Bridleway EE464 are enhanced and incorporated into the design and the layout to improve cycle and pedestrian connections to Chequer Lane (through the new development) and Molland Lea;
- 7d.4 The main vehicle access could be from Chequer Lane development and / or in the vicinity of Molland Lane;
- 7d.5 The impact of development on the setting of the village, surrounding dwellings and the wider landscape is minimised through design, materials, setting, massing and scale of new buildings; and is minimised by reference to policies ANP4, ANP5 and ANP6;
- 7d.6 There should be provision for charging electric vehicles within each dwelling or a minimum of 1 community charging point for each five dwellings, as long as it is within 100 metres and has a dedicated charging bay;
- 7d.7 Development should ensure occupation is phased to align with the delivery of sewage infrastructure;
- 7d.8 A mitigation strategy to address any impact on the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Ramsar and SPA sites and Sandwich Bay SAC site is developed. The strategy should consider a range of measures and initiatives.
- 7d.9 The development will only be supported if it can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding the Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

Section 5

HELAA 163 Land South of Gilton (brownfield)

Map 16 Land south of Gilton ANP7e)



283. 6-10 years delivery (site of yard and buildings for agricultural machinery repairs, storage only (not the land to the northeast of the road), (red). 10 units. (ANP 9 dwellings taken forward).

Site Location and Characteristics

284. The 0.5 ha brownfield site is located to the north western end of the village and to the west of the access road to the village. It sits on the top of the rise of the village with long distant views. The site is flat and consists of a number of buildings, workshops, used for the maintenance of agricultural equipment and machinery and areas for the parking of such machinery. The site sits adjacent to a large garden to the southern boundary and open countryside to the north, west and east. The site sits outside the village settlement boundary and is inconsistent with CS Policy DM1, DM15. However, due to its brownfield status, this could provide an opportunity to improve the street scene and entrance into the village. The site is considered suitable for development in line with NDP Policies ANP1 and ANP2.

Site Context

285. It is adjacent to the main road leading into the village. It is a brownfield site and is close to the Gilton Conservation area. It can be viewed on approach to Ash and as it is on higher ground it can be viewed from Pedding Hill, and Gilton. The site sits back from the road with a hedgerow along Gilton (road) that is one of the main entry / exit routes from the village. The site has medium landscape sensitivity but is close to the Gilton conservation area. It is considered to have low visual impact on the surrounding areas.
286. The site is some distance from the village centre but there is housing within the village (Collar Makers Green) that is an equal distance from the shops on The Street.
287. The use of this site for development would improve the entrance to the village from the west.
288. The site accesses Gilton (road) that rises out of the village at this point and is on a slight bend.

Proposed Development

289. This site sits to the west side of the entrance to one of the routes into the village. Development on the site provides the opportunity to create a design that defines and creates an entrance into the village.
290. Due to the site's location on a rise in the road and on a slight bend, development proposals will have to demonstrate the ability to accommodate a satisfactory vehicular access and improved sight lines.
291. The public pavement runs from the current site entrance towards the village on the western boundary, where it ceases about 100 meters away. To continue to use a public footpath into the village, it is necessary to cross the road. To provide for a greater degree of connectivity by foot between the development and the centre of Ash village and schools, safe access to the public pavement on the opposite side of the road from the development will have to be provided by the installation of a pelican crossing or similar.
292. Development proposals should create a new boundary to the south eastern boundary of the site to reduce the impact upon the neighbouring garden. This should be a hedgerow of indigenous types. A new boundary to the northern and north western side of the site should be created of hedgerows of native types, to reduce the visual impact entering the village. To provide a sufficient substantial boundary, this landscaping should be no less than 8 m in width to accommodate native hedgerows, trees and SUDs.
293. The design of the dwellings should be of a low density, individual design and vary in massing to reflect the spatial character of the existing buildings and its rural location on the edge of Guilton conservation area and the entrance to Ash village.

P11 Policy ANP7e) HELAA 163 Land South of Guilton

Site area 0.5 ha. Brownfield site. The land is allocated for residential development with an estimated capacity of 9 dwellings.

Planning permission will be permitted provided that:

- 7e.1 The existing boundary hedgerows and veteran trees are retained and new landscaping to the boundary of no less than 5 metres in width containing indigenous hedges and native trees is established along the south eastern, north and north western boundaries to reflect the importance of the local landscape and its setting within the wider countryside;
- 7e.2 Special attention should be paid to sustainable drainage on the site especially near the entrance of the site to avoid the possibility of surface water runoff impacting the residents and the bottom of Guilton Hill and the surrounding road network.
- 7e.3 The density of development respects its location within the countryside and reflects the special character of the surrounding buildings on the edge of the Guilton Conservation area and one of the main entrances into Ash village;
- 7e.4 The vehicular access to the site will be from Guilton (road);
- 7e.5 Pedestrian access to and from the site must allow direct access to a public pavement to both sides of the road at a convenient point;
- 7e.6 There should be provision for charging electric vehicles within each dwelling or a minimum of 1 community charging point for each five dwellings, as long as it is within 100 metres and has a dedicated charging bay.
- 7e.7 The development will only be supported if it can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding the Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

Section 5

Housing Conclusion

294. The plan has identified sites that will deliver the following number of dwellings:

- Brought forward two existing sites from DD Land Allocations 2015, Former Council Yard and Agri/Cowan - 100
- Plus Chequer Lane (in part, from DDLA 2015) and White Post Farm – 106
- Plus three new sites, Land north of Molland, Land south of Mill Field, and Land at Gilton (south west only) - 123
- Plus windfall - 38 = 367 **for a housing requirement of 361**

295. The Neighbourhood Plan puts these three new sites, plus White Post Farm, plus three from the previous land allocation as options for housing development to deliver the Local Housing Needs within the lifetime of this Plan 2018-2037.

296. Consultation gave the opportunity to local residents for further discussion about each development, its density, form, design, layout, dwelling mix, landscape and access to these sites.

297. The majority of the residents agreed with the allocated sites.

298. In August 2020, a further site received outline planning permission in principle for 76 units. This will bring the total number of units for Ash, over the plan period, as **323** plus **76**, plus **38** (windfall) totalling **437** for a housing requirement of 361.

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5.3 Leisure & Well-being, Health Care, Education

Leisure and Well-being

Background Ash Now

299. Ash has a strong community spirit with a plethora of community groups for young and old. This is reflected by the number of groups and activities that take place within the parish for all age groups.²⁹ A number of facilities within the village support these groups. These are the Scout Hut, Ash and Westmarsh Village Halls, the public library, the sports pavilion, the Bowls Club and St Nicholas Church. There is also the Public Rights of Way network. All these facilities and amenities bring health and socio-economic well-being to the rural area.



300. The strength of the community spirit was demonstrated in 2018 by residents. When one of the two local public houses, The Chequers, was sold to a private developer to create flats, the parish council listed it as a community asset and the residents raised over £360,000 in a two-year period to purchase the pub. The Chequer Society carried out the renovation, returning it to a public house and community hub for the wider community in summer 2019.

301. Ash has a long and distinguished sporting history. There is good provision of open sports' space for cricket, rugby union and soccer (seniors and junior). Ash sports clubs are in several local leagues. There are some facility issues in the sports pavilion and these have been addressed in the plan.



302. However due to the number of clubs and organisations (14) in the village, there is a high demand for facilities. While most of these activities are currently carried out within village properties, exceptions being the Bowls Club and Scouts that have their own premises, there is a

need for some of these facilities to be improved to meet the needs of these organisations.

Community Buildings

303. Ash Parish has a number of excellent community facilities that are used for meetings and other recreational activities. The community buildings include two village halls (one in the hamlet of Westmarsh) and the other in Ash village that contains the public library and the Ash Heritage Centre. The village halls, the primary school, St Nicholas Church, the Scout Hut and the Sports Pavilion are used, or hired, for community activities. These buildings are well used, especially the Ash Village Hall. This is used, during the day and evenings nearly every day of the week, for many clubs, activities and private parties. It has often had to turn away bookings

304. The NDP group carried out a survey of the 14 organisation in 2019 to get a better understanding of their activities and requirements going forward to enable them to retain / increase membership and / or provide the right level of facilities. It is clear from the responses (Ash Leisure Survey 2019 in appendices) that the organisations are very vibrant with a total number of members being around 687 and that the overriding issue for most of them was the general condition and / or size of the facilities and their appropriateness for their organisation.

305. The areas that need investment are the Scouts Hut; the sports pavilion on the Recreation Ground that needs mixed sex changing facilities; and general improvements to the village hall to make it more appropriate for some activities taking place i.e. smaller rooms for meetings, improved toilets and kitchen facilities and storage space for equipment.

306. Planning policies are:

NPPF Para 91-92,95,96-101, Promoting safe and healthy communities,

DD Local Plan (2002) "saved policies" - OS7 Proposals for outdoor sports and recreation facilities

DD Core Strategy (2010)

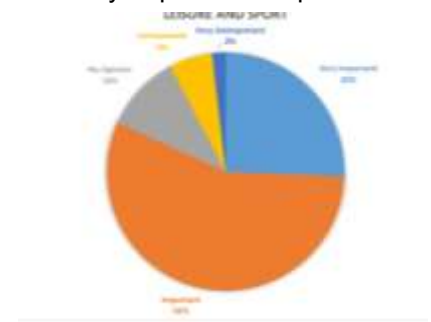
²⁹ Ash Leisure Survey 2019

- CP6 Infrastructure
- CP 7 Green Infrastructure network

DD Land Allocation Local Plan (2015) Section 3.5.1 - Ash and polices LA20 –LA23

Evidence

307. The feedback is from the March 2019 survey of organisations providing recreational services. There were 14 questionnaires distributed, with 12 returned. These organisations have a membership of around 687, plus many more participating (1384) in external events like bowls, cricket, soccer, rugby and tennis. Seven of the organisations have seen growth since 2013 and eight share facilities. All require some improvements to their facilities to ensure they meet their needs. (Ash Leisure Survey 2019 in evidence documents)
308. The NPPF Promoting safe and healthy communities (para's 91-101) states that planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places providing the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs. It recognises the importance of access to high quality open spaces, opportunities for shared space and recreational activities. These spaces make an important contribution to the health and well-being of the communities. It states (para's 92-100,) that existing open spaces, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built upon unless, for example, the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quality and quantity and a suitable location.
309. The NPPF seeks planning policies that promote opportunities to improve the local open space network. In addition, the NPPF states that planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. The NDP Group has undertaken a survey of recreational clubs within the parish to establish their requirements moving forward. (Ash Leisure Survey 2019 in appendices).
310. There is strong support for, and local participation in, the local sport clubs that provide a wide range of sports for all ages. The main sports played upon the Recreation Ground are rugby union / mini rugby union, soccer, tennis and cricket. One of the rugby fields is floodlight allowing the teams to practice and play in the evenings. There are regular league games played for rugby, soccer and cricket, held during their respective seasons and the Sports Clubs are very successful in their respective league tables. There is a Bowls Club in the village. There are allotments with a waiting list for plots. There are two equipped children's play areas in the village, at the Ash Recreation Ground and at Collar Makers Green. The Recreation Ground has an outdoor adult gym that is well used by residents.
311. The NDP Group has undertaken a Green Spaces Assessment to identify these across the parish.
312. The NDP Survey 2016 identified that access to the countryside was very important / important to 94% of respondents, and access to leisure and sports was very important / important to 80% of respondents.
313. The NDP Survey 2016 identified that better facilities and / or improved changing rooms were important / very important to 47% of respondents, with provision for youth groups, important / very important to 65%.
314. The parish council and sports' groups understand the issues around the requirement for recreational and sports' facilities to meet modern standards, to enable a wider range of activities and to be more inclusive. Where possible these have been addressed in the policies.
315. It will be important to secure funding from new developments to improve changing facilities within the Ash Sports Pavilion on the Ash Recreation Ground.
316. Planning policy intentions and objectives are:
- To ensure that sufficient community space and leisure facilities are maintained to serve the parish including new provision in association with new developments
 - To protect and enhance open spaces used for recreational purposes, including improving the changing facilities within the existing Ash Recreation Ground sports pavilion and / or provide a new multi-sports community owned pavilion
 - To secure the future of the facilities and encourage use by the wider community
 - To secure a long-term solution to increase the rugby field capacity



Section 5

- To protect the extensive network of Public Rights of Way in Ash Parish.

317. Planning Policies are:

NPPF Promoting healthy and safe communities (para 91-92, 95,96-101)

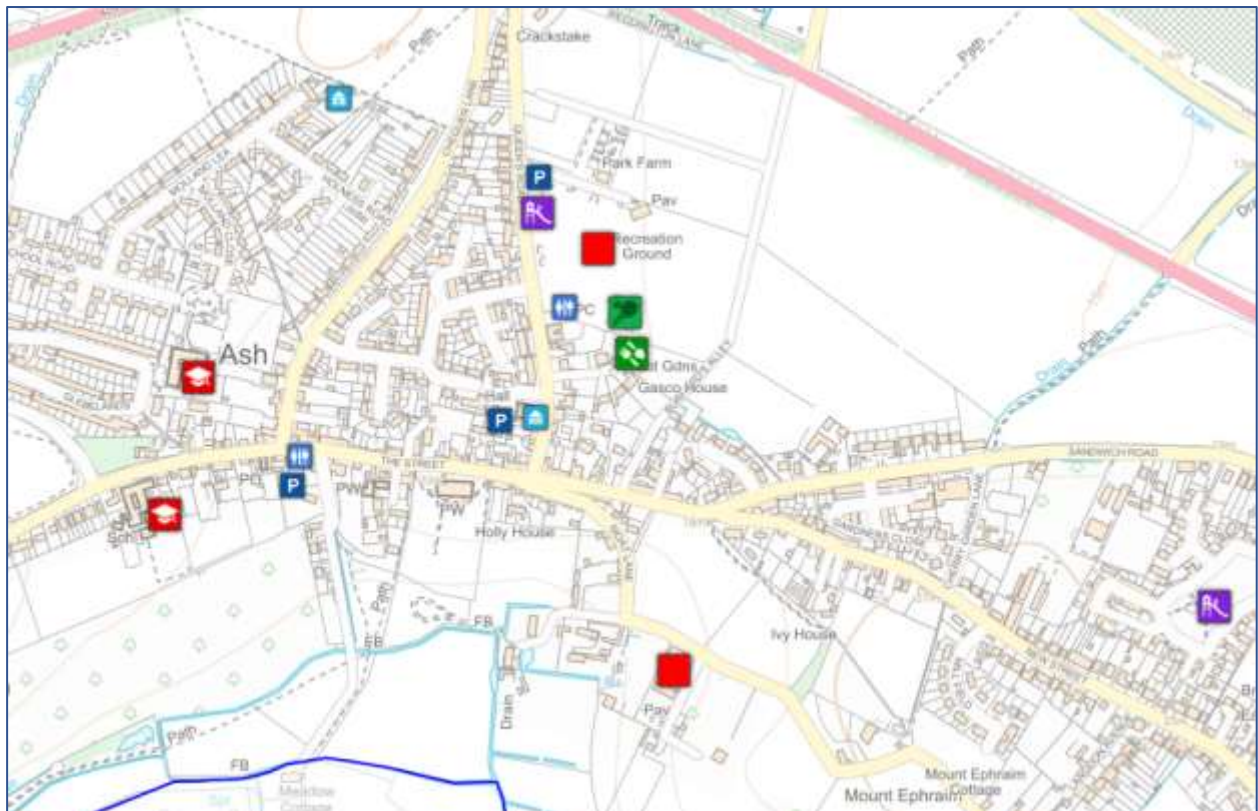
DD Local Plan “saved policies” - OS7 sports and recreation facilities

DD Core Strategy (2010) - CP6 infrastructure,

DD Land Allocations Local Plan (2015) section 3.5.1 – Ash and policies LA20-LA23

Facility	Address	Type
Ash Bowls Club	Moat Lane, Ash	Sports facility
Ash Heritage Centre	Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, Ash	Heritage Archive
Ash Recreation Ground	Queens Road	Allotments, Children’s Equipped Play Area, Outdoor Gym, Leisure, Public Conveniences, Sports Fields, Sports Pavilion, Tennis Courts
Ash Village Hall	Queens Road, Ash	Village Hall
Cartwright & Kelsey Aided School	School Road, Ash	Primary School
St Faiths Prep School	The Street, Ash	Primary School
Ash Scout Hut Note: this is covered in ANP7b) but is included for information	Molland Lea, Ash	Scouts and village facility

Map 17 Facilities in Ash ANP8



P12 Policy ANP8 – Retention of Community Facilities

- 8.1 Development resulting in the loss, or reduction of scope of community facilities as listed above and shown on Map 17 will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that demand within the locality for the facility no longer exists or that suitable alternative provision is made elsewhere.
- 8.2 The current facilities are heavily used and require improvement to accommodate additional growth from developments to ensure there are activities for all ages and to retain and strengthen the community social spirit of the parish that is key to why people want to live there. Contributions from Section 106 agreements will be sought to improve existing community facilities and provide new facilities where there is evidence that the demand placed upon them from development will create deficiencies in their provision.
- 8.3 Improvements to community facilities should take into account the opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint by incorporating low carbon technologies as part of any improvements.

Multi-Purpose Community Owned Building

318. The parish council, social and local sports' groups understand the limitations of the existing Ash Village Hall for those activities that some groups would like to undertake but are unable to due to the design of the building. It would like to consider opportunities to develop new, or to extend the existing, facilities to meet modern demands placed upon them. There has been no material development work undertaken to-date to produce a business case or identify land. This is one of the community projects that will be taken forward on the completion of this plan by the parish council and therefore opportunities to secure funding from new developments will be sought along with local / national grants or funding from private trusts.

Health and Social Care

Background Ash Now

319. There is a general practice in the village that provides general practitioner and district nurse services to Ash and a number of neighbouring villages that have no services. The surgery building was built in the 1990's but needs some modernisation and additional space to enable improvement in the range of services it can provide. In 2018, there were two General Practitioners (GPs), one part-time GP, two Practice Nurses, a Nurse Practitioner and District Nursing services. (As with all GP practices, the provision of GP services are rapidly changing and the practice is working hard to continue to provide health services for the community by using locums etc.).
320. The health of the Ash population is generally in-line with the profile for Dover. However, there is a higher than average number of people having long term health problems or disabilities; 19.2% of Ash residents, compared with 17.6% in the Kent.³⁰ There is a high-level of carers (nearly 12% of population³¹) within the parish.
321. While the 2011 Census indicates that Ash is more affluent than other areas in Dover, there is a significant minority of residents in the community who are struggling. There were 170 ³² households claiming housing benefits. In 2013 there were 140 households in fuel poverty, although this had dropped to zero in 2015. ³³ There are 3%³⁴ of households without central heating and 3% were overcrowded. ³⁵

³⁰ OCIS Report May 2018 Pg 39

³¹ OCIS Report May 2018 Pg 12.

³² OCSI May 2018 - but if in work tax credits are included the figure has gone up. – the decrease from 222 in 2013, is in line with the decline in Kent and England.

³³ OCIS Report Oct 2013 Pg 16 – 140 in fuel poverty Census 2011. OCSI Report May 2018 Pg 47 report – zero in fuel poverty based on 2015 ONS.

³⁴ OCSI Report May 2018 Pg 28

³⁵ OCSI Report May 2018 Pg 28

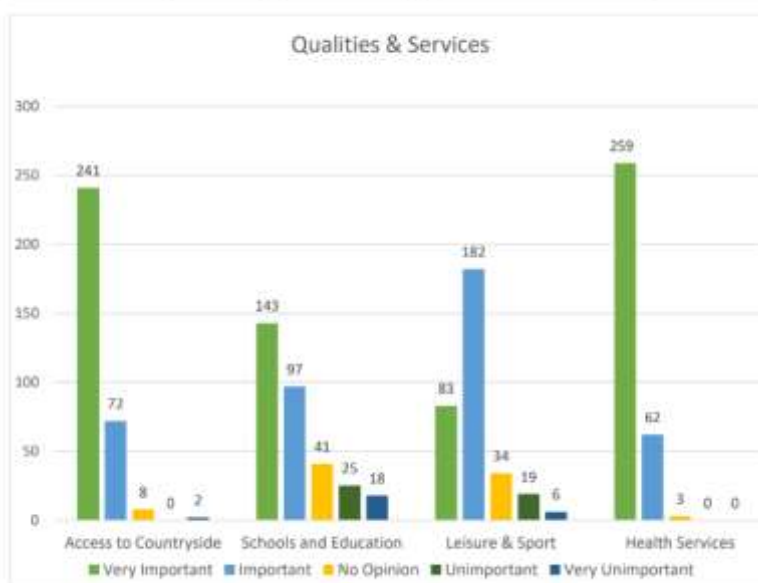
Section 5

322. These factors contribute to the general health issues within the parish and the plan sets out policies to help support the improvement of health facilities and the wider improvement in the well-being of the village and parish.
323. There is a chemist that includes a pharmacy in the village. This is well used by the residents of the parish and the surrounding villages that do not have such facilities. Its retention is vital to the well-being of these populations and should be safe-guarded.
324. There are two private Physio-therapy clinics, reflexology, chiropractor and a residential home in the village. These provide additional support to the well-being of the community.
325. There are a number of other services provided by mobile practitioners, i.e., dental, chiropody, reflexology and homeopathy, counselling services in the parish.
326. The NHS community strategy is to move more services from secondary care to primary care with wider integration with Social Services through integrated Hubs providing:
- General Practice
 - Integrated nursing and social care
 - Functional therapy services
 - Access to voluntary and community services
 - Health promotion
 - Integrated mental health services
327. In the scoping workshops, residents highlighted that healthcare and caring for the elderly was very important to ensure that the village and wider parish remained a place where people can safely live throughout their whole lives.
328. Planning Policies are:
- NPPF Promoting safe and healthy communities (par 91-92, 95,96-101)
- DDC Local Plan “saved policies” - none
- DD Land Strategy (2010) - CP6 Infrastructure
- DD Land Allocations Local Plan (2015) sections 3.5.1. Ash and polices LA -20 LA-23

Evidence

329. The residents developed an objective for health care in the workshop in February 2017 that was:-
- to provide adequate healthcare we will protect the resources we have by upgrading the surgery and district nursing, increase accessibility to external healthcare services, educate parishioners not to abuse the services we have and making greater use of the chemist and its role.
330. The residents highlighted, as part of the workshops and as outlined in the Scoping Report, the importance of a healthy community. The Vision for Ash includes the provision for adequate medical facilities.
331. The OCIS data indicates that Ash has a generally poorer health record than Dover District and the South East, with 20% having long term health problems compared with 15.7% for South East, with 5.6% reporting bad or very bad health.
332. In the Ash NDP Survey 2016, 97% of respondents regarded access to Health Services as very important / important.

Ash NDP Survey Data Graphs Oct 2017 (Qualities and Services)



Section 5

333. Access to primary care is through the local GP surgery and to secondary care through either, Margate, Canterbury or Ashford hospitals. These are located 9 to 18 miles from the village and there is very limited public transport to these hospitals.
334. Discussions with and correspondence from the Canterbury & Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group about their strategy 'NHS Forward View 2017' and the Kent Joint Health Well-being Strategy 2018 have been taken into consideration.
335. The NDP Group met with the C&CCCG Strategic Estates consultant to discuss how the above would or could be delivered from the existing Ash Surgery. The outcome of this meeting was that there would be a requirement to expand the space within the surgery. This would enable more services to be delivered and to cope with the increase in patients expected from the existing and proposed developments (Chequer Lane) and surrounding villages. There are opportunities to expand / alter the existing premises that will enable it to manage the above objectives in the short to medium term of this Plan. The longer term may require additional space / services but as this is not a planning issue the parish council will work with the GPs / C&CCCG to agree a possible way forward.
336. The current GP surgery provides services to Ash as well as a number of surrounding villages. As there is proposed major development within the parish, it is proposed that Ash should become a Community Hub and planning policies have been developed to support this vision.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

337. These are:

- Improve service delivery by developing more physical capacity within the GP surgery to enable more services to be delivered locally, in line with Canterbury & Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group strategy.
- To ensure the pharmacy remains in the village by supporting changes etc. required to the premises in line with policy ANP10.
- To encourage more health services to become village based (for example, dentist, chiropodist, etc).

P13 Policy ANP9 – Health and social care

- 9.1 The use of the land to the north-west of the GP practice to provide additional accommodation for the expansion of facilities will be supported, as long as the following are addressed:
- 9.1.1 Developers would be required to agree with Dover District Council and Canterbury Clinical Commissioning Group a Section 106 contribution towards the expansion of the facilities
- 9.1.2 Provide an appropriate level of parking for staff and visitors
- 9.1.3 Provide landscaping and screening of the new development.

Education

338. The parish has two primary schools, one state and one private. Both schools are active in the community and support it in a wide range of ways and are seen as key to the coherence of the community as whole.
339. The state school has capacity for 210 pupils. The nearest secondary / grammar schools are in Sandwich (4 miles), Dover (15 miles) and Canterbury (9 miles) from the village.
340. The Cartwright and Kelsey CoE Primary School (state school) has a capacity for 210 pupils. The recent Ofsted inspection (September 2019) graded the school good in all areas. It is now classified by the local authority as a good school. The Church inspection (September 2019) also graded the school as good and excellent for leadership, vision and books.
341. The NDP Group has been in discussion with KCC about the number of pupils and the new developments and they have identified at May 2019 there were 57 surplus places for pupils and their calculation for the proposed developments over the plan period would generate a need for 85 places. The additional spaces would be provided by displacing pupils from outside the parish.

Section 5

342. The St Faiths School (private school) provides educational services to a wide catchment area and would be able to accept more pupils if the need was proven.
343. According to the 2011 Census 24.4% of the population have no qualifications (below DDC at 22% but above South East as whole at 19.1%); while those with level 4 qualifications and above (university degree) is 29% (higher than DDC at 22% and lower than South East at 30%).
344. Planning policies are:
- NPPF Promoting safe and healthy communities (para 91-92,95,96-101)
 - DDC District Local plan (2002) “saved policies” - CF2 Mobile Classrooms
 - DD Core Strategy (2010) - CP6 Infrastructure
 - DD Land Allocations Local Plan (2015) section 3.5.1- Ash and policies LA20-LA23

Planning intentions and objectives

345. We will support:
- additional capacity within the village schools to ensure that new demands placed upon them through developments can be provided locally (i.e. within the village)
 - sustainable transport for all ages and robust provisions to enable older children to access secondary schooling outside the parish in a timely and safe manner.

Evidence

346. While KCC has indicated that the demand from the proposed developments could be absorbed by the state school, the parish council is mindful that the type of housing developments i.e. more affordable housing, meaning many more young families, could impact upon the predicted number of 85.

5.4 Local Economy

Background Ash Now

347. The 2011 Census tells us that there are 1,669 people within the parish who are employed. This is 68.8% of people of working age (aged 16-64).
348. The following data is from the OCSI Local Insight Profile for Ash May 2018: There are a higher number of home-workers 5.2% compared with DDC at 3.3%. There are slightly more people working in managerial, professional occupations 43.1%, than in Kent 40.3%. There are 175 people claiming DWP benefits within the parish 9.0% (compared to England at 10.7%). There are 20 housing benefits claimants 1.1% (compared to England 1.4%) There are 120 people claiming Disability Living Allowance 3.5% (compared to 3.1% England).
349. The above provides a good insight into how the population of Ash is employed and clearly indicates that just over 46% of the population are actively employed.
350. The Dover Economic Development Needs Assessment (March 2017) identifies that Dover District is a net exporter of labour to Canterbury, Ashford, Thanet and further afield. Many residents commute out of the parish and the district.

Village Shops, Businesses, Farms and Other

351. The Ash Business Survey 2018 provided more detailed information on the number and types of business within the parish and those employed. The parish has a total of 37 business; 14 are farms/nurseries, 18 small to medium sized businesses and 5 sole traders. These businesses permanently employ 137 in agriculture, with 202 within retail healthcare, education and light industry and homeworkers (two employers did not respond to the questionnaire, so the employment figure would be slightly higher - the details of the survey are in the evidence documents). In addition, there are approximately 379 seasonal workers employed on the farms and agricultural business.
352. Most of the businesses have been established within the parish for several decades with the majority being established for over 30 years.

Section 5

353. The customer base for these businesses is largely national, with international and south east, second and third. Three of these farms have local farm shops in the area. In the Business Survey, they highlighted a number of issues that need to be addressed if they are to remain competitive and expand. The key ones are:

- New larger premises (mainly due to higher production)
- Access to local workforce (recruitment issues)
- Access for HGV's with better road links
- Faster broadband / mobile telephone.

Existing business sites

354. There are a wide range of local shops and services provided in the village. They include two grocery stores, hairdresser, physiotherapy, craft pop-up shop and activity centre, two pubs (the Volunteer in Guilton and The Chequer Inn), chemist, takeaway, café, nail bar/ therapy centre, farm shop with a coffee shop / bar. Many of these have been in the village for a considerable number of years and support the local community with its daily requirements.

355. During the scoping workshop, residents highlighted the importance of the village shops in supporting the community.

356. The range of shops and the amount of trade they have indicates that there is a healthy demand for their service. Other shops and businesses are in Sandwich which is 4 miles away.

357. In common with many villages, the parish has lost a number of public houses over the years, the most recent one in the village centre in 2015. The community responded and the building was listed as a community asset until 2021. The community set up the Chequer Inn Society and raised in excess of £360,000 and purchased the premises from a private owner. It re-opened as a community pub / restaurant in summer 2019.

358. There are a number of farms, offices and workshops within the parish. Some of these are located in converted rural buildings. These include a large green-housed tomato growing business, a car repair shop, garage, agricultural repair and spares yard, garden and landscape services, organ building workshop, music school and architectural services. Some of the farms have been in present ownership for over 50 years and the majority for over 30 years or more. All these businesses provide opportunities for local employment in the parish.



359. The Ash Business Survey July 2018 showed that there are 14 farms, 9 small to medium size businesses that employ in excess of 336 permanent workers, with the farms employing 379 seasonal workers.

360. The presence of these local businesses is important to retain the sustainability of the parish and a number of them have long term associations with the parish. The DDC Core Strategy Objectives states to “ensure that the local economy performs to or exceeds the country and regional averages”.

361. During scoping workshops, residents highlighted the importance of local business and the need for life / work units and the opportunity to work locally.

362. Planning policies are:

NPPF Building a strong competitive economy para 80-84

NPPF Supporting high quality communications para 112-116

DD Core Strategy (2010)

- CP6 Infrastructure
- DM2 Protection of employment land and buildings
- DM3 Commercial re-use of or conversion of rural buildings
- DM24 Rural shops and pubs

DD Land Allocation Plan (2015) section 3.5.1.- Ash and policies LA-20 LA-23

Evidence

Local Economy

363. The Dover District as a whole has a poor employment record with a considerable loss of employment over the years. There is currently a job density of 0.59 compared to Kent at 0.78 (DDC sustainability scoping report 2018). Ash has a good employment record and to ensure this is maintained and enhanced there is a need to encourage and support business.
364. The NPPF (para's 80, 81a,) states neighbourhood planning policies should promote economic growth by setting out a clear economic vision and encourage sustainable economic growth and should promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in the village, such as shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses, and places of worship.
365. In some cases, the shops and public houses occupy listed buildings and more generally contribute significantly to the character of the Conservation Areas. These shops and public buildings are vital to the economy and support of the community, as the nearest town, Sandwich is some 4 miles away.
366. The customer base for these businesses is from the surrounding area or passing trade. In the Ash Business Survey (July 2018) they have highlighted a number of issues that could reduce their ability to expand. The key ones are:
- Need for larger premises
 - Access to workforce (recruitment issues)
 - Better broadband
 - Improved car parking for staff and customers (limited off-road parking in village centre)
367. Ash Village shops – the majority of the shops and food outlets are around the junction of Chequer Lane and The Street, with one along Sandwich Road and one at the north end of Queens Road. There is one pub in Gilton and one on Chequer Lane.
368. The contribution made to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the village by the existing shops and public houses (one having been bought and re-opened by the community) is recognised.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

369. These are:
- Support sites suitable for further intensification and regeneration for business use subject to meeting certain criteria. (Given the location of most of the sites within the countryside of the parish, any proposals will need to conserve and enhance the landscape and tranquillity of the countryside).
 - Support sites within the countryside that are served by the rural road network. (This should be able to safely accommodate the type and / or amount of additional traffic that would be generated without any unsympathetic change to the character of a rural lane).
 - Where businesses are located in the village, (because of the narrow road widths), sufficient additional parking should be provided to stop cars spilling out on to the road network by preventing on-road parking. The sites and provision of on-site parking should be subject to careful assessment of their impact on the Conservation Areas and listed buildings.
 - To support and retain the local shops and service providers within the community.

P14 Policy ANP10 – Village Shops and Public Houses

The continued provision, upgrading and extension of village shops, restaurants / cafes and public houses in the parish will be supported subject to:

- 10.1 Proposals for alternative use will only be permitted, where it has been demonstrated that the current use is no longer economically viable, and that there is no longer any realistic prospect of continued use, by:
- 10.1.1 Proving the site is being actively marketed for a minimum of 6 months at a realistic price for its current use; and
- 10.1.2 Showing the facility is no longer economically viable.

Tourism

Background Ash Now

370. There is a thriving tourism industry within the parish. This is due to its location, in close proximity to Richborough Castle and the Roman Fort at Richborough (within the parish boundary) that attracts some 14,640 visits a year. Additionally, within 14 miles of the parish there is the historic City of Canterbury (the seat of the Church of England) the Cinque Port of Sandwich (with the longest street of timber buildings in the UK), Dover, Deal and Walmer Castles.
371. There are the SSSI nature reserves that attract bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. There is also the Saxon Shore Way and the Stour Valley Walk and the National Cycle Route 1 that winds through the parish with access to the coastline and wetland bird reserves at Stodmarsh and Sandwich / Pegwell Bay.
372. Tourism helps to support local business and there are a number of B&B's, holiday lets, and caravan and camping sites.
373. Planning policies are:
- NPPF Building a strong, competitive economy (para 80-84)
 - NPPF Supporting high quality communications (para 112-116)
 - DD Local Plan (2002) "saved policies"
 - LE 30 Caravan sites
 - LE31 Holiday Chalet sites
 - DD Core Strategy (2010)
 - CP6 Protection of employment land and buildings
 - DM2 Protection of employment land and buildings
 - DM3 Commercial buildings in the rural area
 - DM4 Commercial re-use of conversion of rural buildings
 - DD Land Allocations Local Plan (2015) section 3.5.1 Ash and policies LA20- LA23

Evidence

374. Within the parish there are 5 bed and breakfast accommodations, two temporary Pitch-up caravan / tent sites (35), 7 holiday homes and some AirBnB that are now becoming more popular.
375. There are numerous attractions within the parish - Richborough Castle and Roman Fort, access to bird sanctuaries and the local ancient towns and coastline. In addition, there are two fishing ponds in the parish, on Cooper Street and at Richborough, and a fishing lake adjacent to the parish, and two camp sites.



Planning policy intentions and objectives

376. These are:
- Support and encourage tourism within the parish to provide jobs and support the patronage of local business and shops
 - Provide opportunities to use rural buildings to support the tourism businesses.

P15 Policy ANP11 - Conversion of rural buildings to business use, tourist accommodation and tourist attractions

Proposals to convert rural buildings to business use and tourist accommodation or attractions will be supported provided:

- 11.1 Any changes to existing buildings should retain the traditional rural character of the buildings and their setting in the defined Character Assessment area, and their landscape;
- 11.2 The building does not require complete or substantial reconstruction;
- 11.3 The building is of a permanent and substantial construction;
- 11.4 The amenities of any neighbouring residential occupiers or the tranquillity of the countryside would not be significantly adversely affected;
- 11.5 The rural road network serving the proposal would be able to accommodate the type and/or amount of traffic that would be generated; and
- 11.6 Sufficient on-site parking would be provided for staff and delivery vehicles.
- 11.7 Where possible and practical, the Public Rights of Way network around each of the proposed developments should be improved for access to walking and cycling routes.

Working from home

Background Ash Now

- 377. There are a considerable number of people who are using their home to work from within the parish (70+). These are mainly professionals, service providers and craft workers. All of these need good accommodation and good broadband speeds to enable them to maintain or expand their businesses.
- 378. Small scale businesses that are incidental to the enjoyment of the home do not require planning permission and this form of employment opportunity will continue to be available over the Plan period. Due to the high number of 'homeworkers' there could be some benefits in there being a community business centre within the village to allow for meetings and networking to take place on a regular basis.
- 379. Planning policies are:
 - NPPF Building a strong competitive economy (para 81-82)
 - NPPF Supporting high quality communications (para 112-116)
- 380.
- 381.
 - DD Core Strategy (2010) CP6 Infrastructure
 - DM2 Protection of employment land and buildings
 - DM3 Commercial buildings in the rural area
 - DM4 Commercial re-use or conversion of rural buildings
 - DD Land Allocations Local Plan (2015) section 3.5.1 - Ash and policies LA20-LA23

Evidence

- 382. The number of people working from home in the parish was 5.2% (125) compared to 3.5% for England³⁶. This is relatively high for a rural community within Dover District. In response to the 2016 ANP Housing Survey, 25% of respondents thought that room in a new house to support 'Home' business very important / important.

³⁶ Source 2011 Census

Section 5

383. The Enterprise Zone (Discovery Park) at Sandwich, that adjoins the parish boundary and is some 4 miles away, is one of the most successful in the country with 150 business and over 2,400 employees. It has had a positive impact upon the parish by either directly employing people or via homeworking.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

384. These are:

- To support the growth in homeworking by securing faster broadband for the village and rural areas.
- To ensure all new dwellings have broadband connectivity or access to it in the future, by the placement of cabinets etc. on the site and connection / ducting into each house.
- To ensure some homes in all developments make provision for homeworking accommodation, either within the main dwellings or by providing space/ accommodation in the garden.
- Develop the options to create a business centre / meeting space, by providing new facilities or using public facilities (the public library) or supporting the private sector to provide access to facilities i.e. the public houses.

P16 Policy ANP 12 - Working from home

- 12.1 Where there is individual use by the resident of the property to work from home, insofar as planning permission is required, development proposals will be supported for office and / or light industrial use provided that:
- 12.1.1 No significant and adverse impact arises to nearby residents or properties from noise, fumes, odour or other nuisance associated with the work or activity, or causes traffic issue; and
 - 12.1.2 Any extension or free standing building shall be designed having regard to policies in this plan and should not detract from the quality and character of the building to which they are subservient by reason of height, scale, massing, location or facing materials used in their construction; and
 - 12.1.3 There are good, sustainable transport links with high quality walking and cycling infrastructure available in the development linking to networks outside of the development.
- 12.2 Development will be permitted for a community and business centre within the parish that provides, extends and/or re-uses existing community premises subject to:
- 12.2.1 Provision of sufficient car parking on-site to accommodate the demand; and
 - 12.2.2 The activities within the premises do not impact on the amenity of local residents.

5.5 Local Infrastructure

Traffic Management and Off-street Parking

Background Ash Now

385. The rural location and poor public transport have resulted in more inward traffic to Ash as people travel to access public transport from these areas (some local villages have lost their bus services in 2019 and travel to Ash to access bus services).
386. Traffic volume within the village is a considerable issue. The main road through Ash Village, The Street, is very congested, due to very limited off-road parking. This is exacerbated at times by the high demand to drop-off and collect school children and to allow senior children to access public transport to go to school in Sandwich, Canterbury, Dover and Thanet. In addition, there is added pressure from people in surrounding villages traveling into the village to access public transport due to their services having been cut. The Street has been completely blocked on a number of occasions due to the high traffic volumes. This has resulted in residents and those travelling through Ash being inconvenienced for considerable periods of time.
387. The parish council commissioned a traffic report in 2017 that highlighted a number of actions that could be taken to try and reduce this congestion.
388. Access to the farms and some rural businesses in converted rural buildings are located away from the village centre. They rely upon road systems around the parish that remain practically unchanged since early settlement days. It is important that such enterprises can be safely accessed to allow for growth without the erosion of traditional lanes that are important to the landscape and character of the area.
389. The NPPF (para 102) promotes sustainable transport and suggests that transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of development proposals, and take opportunities to develop transport networks, promote walking, cycling and public transport.
390. NPPF (para 105 c, d, e) Maximum parking standards should only be set where there is a clear and compelling justification that they are necessary to manage the local road network, patterns of movement, street parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.
391. There are considerable traffic issues within the village, partly due to the high levels of car ownership in the parish due to its rural location. The OICS data May 2018 indicates that 40.8% of residents own 2 cars, with 9.5% owning three. Considering the majority of the population lives within the village settlement boundary it can be seen why there are significant traffic issues in the village as there is a high reliance on car transport to travel to work or to access facilities outside the parish.
392. The increased use of homeworking could have a positive impact upon travel while the possible lack of school accommodation could equally increase traffic issues.
393. **Planning policies are:**
- NPPF Building a strong and competitive economy (para 80-84)
 - NPPF Promoting sustainable transport (para 112-111)
 - NPPF Supporting High quality communications (para 112-116)
 - DD Local Plan (2001) saved polices - TR9 cycle routes
 - DD Core strategy (2010) CP6 Infrastructure
 - DM11 Location of development and managing travel demand
 - DM12 Road hierarchy and development
 - DM14 Roadside services
 - DD Land Allocations Plan (2015) section 3.5.1 - Ash and policies LA20-LA23

Evidence

394. The residents highlighted traffic issues as a major problem for village during the scoping workshops and highlighted five key issues. They are:

Section 5

- High car ownership and reliance on transport to travel to work or to access facilities outside the parish.
 - Safety issues accessing the A257.
 - Problems with congestion caused by parking within the village (mainly along The Street and the southern end of Sandwich Road leading into the village). There have been a number of accidents due to parked vehicles.
 - Inconsiderate parking at Pound Corner (people accessing local shops).
 - Insufficient public car parking space along The Street (very few houses have off-road parking in this area).
 - Inconsiderate parking slowing or preventing public transport to stop where allocated or being able to pass each other in The Street. (Main pinch points are at school pick up / drop off time). This has been exacerbated by the reduction of public transport in surrounding villages that has made people travel to Ash to access school / public transport to senior schools).
395. The parish council has undertaken a traffic survey and has developed a strategy (Ash Highways Improvement Plan) to manage some of the issues. The key ones being:
- Restricting car parking on some roads
 - Placing wooden bollards on some pavement sections, in the centre of The Street, to prevent cars parking on pavements (Pound Corner and on the opposite side of the road)
 - Placing double yellow lines in areas of high risk, i.e. bends and where buses have to have access
 - Traffic calming measures at the four entrances to the village
 - As the A257 is a highways matter, to try and influence signage / speed restrictions where the village roads meet the A257 (the A257 Working Group was set up by the local villages of Wingham, Preston, Littlebourne to influence the KCC road strategy. Ash joined this group).
396. The parish council understands that the demands for on-street parking will only increase with new housing developments. The increase in car numbers and the lack of off-street parking within the village centre exacerbates this demand. The parish council wishes to manage this in a number of ways, as set out in the objectives.
397. Due to these traffic problems, the plan has set a minimum car parking standard on all developments. This is to reduce the impact of new developments upon the existing road network. (Minimum standard to KCC Guidance Note 3, Nov 2008 and DDC Core strategy 2010).

Planning policy intentions and objectives

398. These are:

- To ensure new housing developments do not increase the parking problems by ensuring sufficient off-street parking is provided for each dwelling within the confines of each development
- Ensure the local shops are not impacted by the reduction of local parking / access.
- To reduce air pollution by encouraging walking, cycling and encouraging the use of electric cars
- A community project will be taken forward on the completion of this plan by the parish council to look at the options to provide additional car parking in the village centre and to deliver the traffic calming measures identified in the traffic survey.

P17 Policy ANP13 - Off-Street Parking

Proposals for new developments should:

13.1 Provide the KCC Standard and no less than:

- 1.5 parking spaces independently accessible per 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings;
- 2 parking spaces independently accessible for 3 bedroom dwelling;
- 2 parking spaces independently accessible for 4 bed;
- 1 parking space independently accessible per specialist dwelling; or
- a communal car park.

The above excludes garages.

13.2 Not result in the loss of on-site parking space; and

13.3 Not result in the loss of off-road public parking space through the need for cross over and / or visibility splays; and

13.4 Not result in over-spill parking on to public areas.

Communications

Background Ash Now

399. Most of the village has access to fibre broadband (i.e. the Open Reach cabinets that have fibre) but this does not mean it is available to every house. In 2018, most village households had acceptable up and download speeds for their needs. However, the wider parish and more rural areas and hamlets have no access to fibre and are unlikely to get this in the near future. This is a problem not only for households wanting to access films etc. but also for rural businesses and home workers as it has a negative impact upon their sustainability.
400. The parish council reviewed the situation with Kent County Council to see where improvements could be made, and / or access to funds that would help rural businesses, by the possible use of mobile broadband. The options are explored in more detail in sub-section 5 in this document.
401. The current provision of communications within the parish is patchy, with high speed broadband available at the main exchange but not routes throughout the village (access can be improved to individual properties if requested and additional fees paid) but this is far from being a comprehensive access. Outside the village there is no access to high speed as the copper cables are unable to carry the data, so there is a large proportion of the parish without access or the likelihood of gaining access to high speed broadband other than through line of sight equipment provided by a third party. (Many rural business have to use this approach).
402. The development of sustainable communities requires the provision of a wide range of local facilities and services.
403. The economic development of the parish will become more reliant on faster phase been raised by residents and businesses and as there is a significant number of homeworkers, improvements to these methods of communication is vital if the economy of the parish is to be sustainable and able to grow.
404. The NDP group has been working closely with KCC to develop a parish I.T. strategy. The main aim of this is to identify each of the fibre broadband hubs within the parish; identify where there are gaps; review up / download speeds across the parish and where there are areas of poor connectivity (mainly rural businesses); explore options to improve access by line of sight links, etc. The aim is to work with KCC and Open Reach to improve connectivity and / or apply for grants to undertake this work.
405. **Planning policies are:**
- NPPF Supporting high quality communications (para 112-116)
 - NPPF Building a strong, competitive economy (para 80-84)
 - DD Core Strategy (2010) - CP6 Infrastructure

Section 5

Evidence

406. The national standard set out by OFCOM 2017 states that the average broadband upload speed is 25.24 to 45.08 Mbps for England and download speed is 4.26 to 6.05 Mbps for England should be accessible for each household.
407. Research by the NDP I.T. Group has highlighted that the main village has access to superfast broadband above 24 Mbps with the exception of Green Man Farm, the Lanes, top end of Chequer Lane and Coombe Lane.

Map 18 Broadband speeds. Source: KCC Broadband Team Nov 2018



Below Sandwich Road:

The majority is above Superfast speeds (over 24Mbps)
Green Man Farm is getting 19Mbps
Coombe Lane is getting 17Mbps
There are some houses near the telephone exchange getting 17Mbps

408. Outside the village:
- the hamlets of Nash and Hoaden are below with 14 Mbps and 9 Mbps which effects around 50 premises
 - Westmarsh is getting 1 Mbps (some business and private homes are receiving VFast) which effects around 80 premises
 - Paramour Street and Lower Goldstone are below superfast but due to access from different cabinets, it is not possible to verify individual speed at cabinet
 - Upper Richborough and Cooper Street are getting below superfast which effects 28 premises
 - Richborough Farm and premises to the south are receiving 2 to 49 Mbps and are fed via Sandwich exchange
 - Knell Lane is getting 16 Mbps and Cop Street to Upper Goldstone and Weddington are sub superfast, as they are fed from exchange overhead. This effects around 38 premises
 - Goss Hall is receiving superfast but this reduces at Brook Street which is receiving 13 Mbps
 - The approximate number of houses effected by not being able to access superfast board band in the rural community is 251. This is around 17% of the total housing stock.
409. Many residents and business highlighted the poor broadband speeds in their response to questionnaires. This was further reinforced in the business survey in which many respondents said that the lack of good connectivity was, or would be, holding back opportunities to expand their businesses.
410. The research undertaken by the NDP Group has identified each of the fibre cabinets and where there are gaps. It has identified the up/down speeds within the village and wider parish and identified where there are gaps. The findings are in the I.T Report in the evidence documents.
411. The planning policies intentions and objectives:

Section 5

- To ensure all businesses within the parish have access to superfast broadband speeds
- Ensure all properties within the village have access to superfast broadband speeds
- Work with KCC and Open Reach to activate the above within the next five years
- Ensure all new housing developments have access to fibre via ducting to convenient points on site and each dwelling
- Ensure all rural conversions have been suitably ducted to enable line of sight equipment to be installed and run to a convenient location within the property
- Look into grant opportunities for community lead partnerships to improve connectivity via Openreach's Community Fibre Partnership Team, or commercial line of sight providers.
- This is likely to be one of the community projects that will be taken forward on the completion of this plan by the parish council. It will continue to develop a communications strategy to support these objectives.

P18 Policy ANP14 - Communications

- 14.1 All new and refurbished residential units and employment developments within the Ash village settlement boundary will enable Fibre to the Premises (FTTP).
- 14.2 Before development commences, details shall be submitted (or as part of reserved matters) for the installation of fixed telecommunication infrastructure, either by connections to multi-point destinations or buildings including residential, commercial and community have been ducted to accommodate such technologies.
- 14.3 This shall provide sufficient capacity, including duct sizing to cater for all future phases of the development with sufficient flexibility to meet the need of existing and future residents.
- 14.4 Where the above is not considered possible or practicable, detailed reasons why and mitigation is to be provided to ensure premises receive the broadband speeds. This should be submitted as part of the planning application or reserved matters.
- 14.5 Rural conversions should make provision for ducting within the premises to enable line of sight equipment to be installed and accessible in suitable locations within the premises to suit end usage.
- 14.6 Positively support the requirement for masts in the rural setting to enable connectivity providing that they are not close to:
 - 14.6.1 residential buildings;
 - 14.6.2 historic buildings and conservation areas;
 - 14.6.3 key views; and
 - 14.6.4 sensitive habitats;
- 14.7 Where possible providers must share masts.
- 14.8 Positively support connectivity through sight of line links.

Public Transport

Background Ash Now

412. Transport has been highlighted by the community as important, with public transport and cycle ways through the village and to Sandwich (Discovery Park) and new parking facilities. National Cycle Route 1 goes through the parish and is regularly used by visitors cycling through the county.
413. While car ownership is high in the parish, there is still a heavy reliance upon public transport for a large section of the community. This ranges from school children accessing secondary schools, all

Section 5

more than 4 miles from the village, through all ages to the elderly who use the buses to access the nearest town, Sandwich, or hospitals of which the closest is 9 miles away.

414. To ensure this public transport remains running through the village, it is important that there is easy access to the bus stops. It is important that the buses are not blocked out of the bus stop locations or accessing the village by inconsiderate parking. In 2020, the parish council started to carry out a number of traffic calming measures and will continue to explore further measures.
415. There is a need to improve access / signage to the A257 via the three existing junctions. The A257 is an unrestricted, new design road and wide for a single carriageway and so gives the impression that it is possible to speed. It bends slowly around the village making sight lines quite poor.
416. In addition to these main entrances, there are a number of access points for farm vehicles entering /exiting farm-yards and fields with little or no signage. These access points are concealed around the bend with the possibility of slow vehicles causing possible traffic conflicts. While there have been no fatalities, there have been a number of crashes at the junctions onto the A257.
417. As the volume of traffic increases from surrounding towns and villages and from within Ash, crossing and entering the A257 will become increasingly dangerous at these junctions. The parish council is working with the neighbouring towns and villages through the A257 Working Group looking into ways in which the speed can be reduced and to improve the general road use.
418. The Planning Policies are:
- NPPF Promoting sustainable transport (para 102 -111)
 - DD Core Strategy (2010) - CP6 Infrastructure
 - DM11 Location of development and managing traffic demand
 - DM12 Road Hierarchy and development
 - DM14 Roadside services
 - DD Land Allocations Plan (2015) section 3.5.1 - Ash and policies LA2-LA23

Evidence

419. While car ownership is high in the parish, 84% of respondents to the Ash NDP Survey said that good public transport was very important / important; cycle ways 31% very important / important and additional car parking very important / important.
420. The 2011 census shows that 11% of the population has no access to a car and there is no direct public transport to QEQM acute hospital (Margate) 9 miles away.
421. The NPPF (para 103 a, b, c, e, para 104 b, d) states the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure should be identified and opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects and for environmental gains. Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.

Planning policy intentions and objectives

422. These are:
- To ensure the public transport system can effectively use the road network within the village by ensuring access to bus stops and being able to travel unhindered through the village. (The Street has been blocked on a number of occasions with buses unable to enter the village).
 - To ensure that any developments within the village do not unduly impact upon safe access / egress from the A257 or impact upon the village access routes to the A257.
 - Developments have sufficient car parking within the site and do not impact upon the surrounding road network by creating over spill parking.

P19 Policy ANP15 - Transport

Development proposals should include measures to minimise and make acceptable the impact on the local road network by:

- 15.1 Demonstrate how walking and cycling opportunities have been prioritised and new connections have been made to existing routes.
- 15.2 Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as public transport, and including new and enhanced pedestrian / cycle routes within the development leading to the existing public transport network and, where necessary, the provision of new bus infrastructure.
- 15.3 Requiring as part of the planning permission that any development over 10 dwellings along Sandwich Road (from the A257 to Cherry Garden Lane), an agreement between the developer and KCC should be reached to reduce the speed limit from the A257 to Cherry Garden Lane to 30mph and on funding the works associated with this reduction in speed.
- 15.4 Requiring compliance with any mitigation required within the overarching Emerging Dover District Local Plan with regards to air quality impacts.
- 15.5 Proposals that either adversely affect existing walking and cycle routes or fail to encourage appropriate new walking and cycling opportunities, will not be supported.

Water and Sewage

423. While this plan does not cover the other major national infrastructure providers, the National Grid has a 20km high voltage electricity line between Richborough and Canterbury (the Richborough Connection) to connect the Nemo Link into the UK's electricity transmission system. The line, consisting of 60 pylons, crosses over part of the Ash Levels in the north east of the parish. There is no development considered for this part of the parish in the plan.
424. The village has not had any issues with the volume or quality of water supplies. There is low water pressure in the rural areas that will require addressing if more demand is placed upon the system in the area. DDC has discussed with the provider (Southern Water) ways to ensure this situation would not be adversely affected by development.
425. The village has some sewage issues. Since 2004, there has been a number of occasions when there have been sewage spills into domestic gardens in the White Post Gardens area and the nearby Sandwich Road, due to serious under capacity of the main drain system. This has happened since the completion of the Collar Makers Green and Gardners Close developments in 2002/3. This indicates that the system is at, or very near, to capacity. DDC has discussed with the providers (Southern Water) the likelihood of this being a potential problem if additional development takes place in this area.
426. In the rural areas, households are not on main drainage and have their own sewage systems. However, if these systems are not maintained, they could impact upon ground water sources and the general ecology. (New rules for sewage systems came into place in April 2020 which may help to alleviate this issue).
427. The Plan will ensure all new developments can be added to the water and sewage systems without compromising existing dwellings.

Funding new wastewater infrastructure

There are two main mechanisms for funding new wastewater infrastructure, depending on what purpose that infrastructure is intended to serve.

These two mechanisms cover:

1. Local infrastructure – developer funded

- ✓ Serves individual development
- ✓ New connection pipework (site specific charge)
- ✓ Network reinforcement (new infrastructure charge)



2. Strategic infrastructure – Business Plan funded

- ✓ Serves the wider community / catchment
- ✓ Wastewater treatment works
- ✓ Larger pumping stations
- ✓ Water quality improvement schemes



P20 Policy ANP16 - Infrastructure

- 16.1 New and improved utility infrastructure will be encouraged and supported in order to meet the identified needs of the community, subject to other policies in this plan.
- 16.2 All new developments will be expected to provide an appropriate level of infrastructure to meet the needs and demands arising from the development. Where an infrastructure need is identified for a particular development, the necessary infrastructure must be put in place to support that development as the needs arises.

6 Monitoring Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan

428. It is important that this Plan is regularly monitored. This is to ensure that the objectives are being delivered; the planning policies are being applied; the outcomes of developments are measured against planning approvals and deliverables.
429. To ensure the above happens, the Ash Parish Council will annually:
- a) Review the objectives within each section and those that have been delivered
 - b) Review each planning policy against how often it has been applied and the effectiveness, against DDC approvals or refusals pattern of planning applications for the parish of Ash, for the previous year
 - c) Report on the number of housing units built on designated sites and windfalls
 - d) Review the Ash NDP when there is a major change in national or DDC local planning policies
 - e) Use the DDC Authority's Monitoring Report to collect some of the above data and inform the parish of DDC's overall performance against the deliverable outcomes effecting the parish.
430. Each year, the above will be reported to the community at the Annual Ash Parish Meeting.
431. Every five years, the parish council will undertake a full review of the plan and its policies in-line with the national NPPF, DDC Core Strategy and planning policies, or before, if there is a major change in planning law, to ensure the Ash NDP remains current and reflects the community vision

7 Appendices

Appendix I - Mitigation required re nutrient neutrality calculation

The Habitat Regulations Assessment Nov 2020 Sec 7.5 required an explanatory note to be given for the policy point (HRA Ref 7.4):

‘The development will only be supported if it can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding the Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.’

HRA Section References

5.29 Assuming the developer’s nutrient neutrality calculation confirms that mitigation is required, it is likely that some or all of the following may need to be undertaken.

5.30 If mitigation is required, the following should be explored:

- i. Secured agreement with the wastewater treatment provider that they will maintain an increase in nitrogen/phosphorous removal at the WwTW though this will be unlikely to be successful until after the WINEP study is completed and the measures required to achieve favourable conservation status with regards to treatment works have been agreed.
- ii. Secured agreement with the wastewater treatment provider or others to provide and maintain an increase in nitrogen/phosphorous offsetting from catchment management measures (this may include mini-farm interceptor wetlands). This must take account of the restoration duties and must not hinder the ability to achieve the conservation objectives.
- iii. Provide measures that will remove nitrogen/phosphorous draining from the development site or discharged by the WwTW (such as wetland or reedbed).
- iv. Increase the size of the SANGs and Open Space provision for the development on agricultural land that removes more nitrogen/phosphorous loss from this source.
- v. Establish changes to agricultural land in the wider landholding in perpetuity that removes more nitrogen/phosphorous loss from this source.
- vi. Acquire, or support others in acquiring, agricultural land elsewhere within the river catchment area containing the development site (or the waste water treatment discharge if different), changing the land use in perpetuity (e.g. to woodland, heathland, saltmarsh, wetland or conservation grassland) to remove more nitrogen/phosphorous loss from this source and/or, if conditions are suitable, provide measures that will remove nitrogen/phosphorous on drainage pathways from land higher up the catchment (e.g. interception wetland).

Appendix II - Community Projects

While the NDP Committee has undertaken extensive research on the requirements of the parish, there are a number of issues which need more work to fully deliver the objectives set out in this plan.

Biodiversity

See Section 5.1 Environmental - Biodiversity

Biodiversity (Project 1)

To establish a group to develop an Ash biodiversity plan which undertakes the detailed study of the western end of the village to produce a report for the parish council. This will make recommendations for action to enhance and preserve the habitat. The aim will be to produce a guidance booklet for the community to improve the understanding and conservation of the parish's wildlife.

Review of community facilities

See Section 5.3 Leisure, Well-being, Health Care and Education

Review of community facilities (Project 2)

To establish a working group to review existing provision for activities within Ash Parish, identifying the need and developing options and a business case to support either extending the Ash Village Hall or the provision of new facilities within the village settlement boundary.

Car parking and traffic

See Section 5.5 Local Infrastructure

Car parking and traffic (Project 3)

To establish a working group to look at the options to provide additional car parking in the village centre and to deliver the traffic calming measures identified by the traffic survey and residents.

Communications

See Section 5.5 Local Infrastructure

Communications (Project 4)

To continue to develop a communications strategy for Ash Parish to support business and individuals to access grants to ensure they remain sustainable and competitive.

To implement the agreed strategy within five years of the establishment of this plan, and to review annually its impacts upon the parish and community as a whole.

Appendix III – Climate Change Matrix

CLIMATE CHANGE MATRIX	
Opportunities	Challenges
Agriculture, horticulture and forestry Longer growing season providing increased yields Potential for new crops (grapes, navy beans) Reduced frost damage should increase productivity	Reduced die-off of pests and diseases due to warmer winters Decreased soil quality and increased erosion due to increased run-off from winter precipitation Need for increased irrigation in summer Possible wind / storm damage to standing crops and nursery stock
Biodiversity	
Opportunities	Challenges
Flora and fauna species with pronounced southern distribution become more widespread Integrated land management to aid nature conservation	Risk to species vulnerable to drought Risk to species requiring sub-zero period to break seed dormancy Risk to expansion of naturalised alien species Threat to saline lagoons and silting of wetlands and river estuaries Increase incidence of fire in hot dry summers
River flooding and drainage	
Opportunities	Challenges
Introduction of sustainable urban drainage systems Commercial opportunities in flood defence and flood management Opportunity to integrate estuarine and coastal flood defence	Increased risk of flooding from increased rainfall and possibly more storms Improvement and higher specification required for flood defence Improvements and higher specification required for urban drainage and rainwater disposal systems
Transport	
Opportunities	Challenges
Increased scope for walking and cycling for everyday travel Less damage to road surfaces from winter cold less salt used entering ditches Fewer ice/snow related accidents on roads and footways	Flood risks disrupting roads and rural areas River flooding affecting marshes and low lying land
Food and drink	
Opportunities	Challenges
Availability of new crops and species in region Developing new markets for local produce, especially new local varieties Increased consumption of warm weather food and drinks leading to new markets	Increased demand for cooling with associated environmental and financial costs (apple cool stores) Loss of some traditional species
Water resources and water quality	
Opportunities	Challenges
Increased supply availability in winter but needs capturing and storage Greater potential for one- season recharge of larger reservoirs and aquifers	Increased evaporative losses from water stores Increased demand for water in summer (where water is used for crops further reduction of water pressure in rural areas) Higher concentrations of pollutants in watercourse from reduced summer rainfall Increased risk of sediment and pollution run-off into watercourse caused by changes in farm management practices adopted to adapt to climate change
Built environment and housing	
Opportunities	Challenges
Reduced heating demand reducing heating costs. Increased scope for outdoor activities around buildings, especially in summer	Planning and design of new buildings in locations valuable to flooding (Westmarsh)

Increased potential for renewable sources of energy (e.g. passive solar) Increased need for shading (e.g. more trees in urban streets and public areas)	Potential overheating of interior environment in existing and new buildings will requires substantial solutions to cooling Increased subsidence and associated insurance claims due to drying out substrata Structures under construction vulnerable to storm damage
Utilities	
Reduced heating demand, especially in winter may lead to lower bills for consumers Increased potential for renewable sources of energy.	

Glossary

Affordable Housing	Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.
Allocation	An area of land identified for development in a development plan. The allocation will specify the type of development that will be permitted on the land.
Brownfield Site	Brownfield land is another term for previously developed land.
Conservation Area	An area of special architectural or historic interest, designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, whose character and appearance are protected.
Density (dph)	Measurement of the number of dwellings per hectare and often in equivalent dwellings per acre.
Development	Development is defined under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act as "the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operation in, on, over, or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land." Most forms of development require planning permission.
Duty to Cooperate	Local Councils now have a duty to co-operate with their neighbouring Councils and a set of prescribed bodies as defined by the Localism Act 2011 on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to the strategic priorities
General Conformity	All planning policy documents must align with the expectations of the National Planning Policy Framework. This is known as general conformity.
Listed Building	A building or other structure of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The grades of listing are grade I, II* or II.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	The old-style portfolio or folder of Development Plan Documents and Area Action Plans which collectively set out the Spatial Planning Strategy for a Local Planning Authority area. Local Plans have now replaced the Local Development Framework.
Local Green Space	An area of green space that is demonstrably special to a local community by way of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife (see NPPF 2018 paragraph 100)
Local Plan	The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	The Local Government body responsible for formulating Planning Policies in an area, controlling development through determining planning applications and taking enforcement action when necessary. This is either a District Council, Unitary Authority, Metropolitan Council or National Park Authority.
Material Consideration	A matter that should be taken into account in deciding on a planning application or on an appeal against a planning decision.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF forms the national planning policies that Local Planning Authorities need to take into account when drawing up their Local Plan and other documents and making decisions on planning policies. The NPPF is published by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Neighbourhood Plans (NDP)

A Plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

Open Space

Open space is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as 'land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground'. Open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers and lakes that offer opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

A way over which the public have a right to pass and repass, including; Public Footpaths, Public Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic.

Protected Species

Plants and animal species afforded protection under certain Acts of Law and Regulations

Right of Way Improvement Plan – Kent County Council (ROWIP 1)

A statutory policy document for Public Rights of Way, setting out a strategic approach for the protection and enhancement of Public Rights of Way.

S106 Agreement

A legal agreement under Section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A SSSI is identified by Natural England as requiring protection from damaging development on account of its flora, fauna, geological and/or physiological features.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Sustainable Development

Meeting peoples' needs now, socially, environmentally and economically, without jeopardising the needs of future generations. There are three dimensions to sustainable development as seen in paragraph 7 of the NPPF: - economic contributing to a strong, competitive economy; - social-supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities and – environmental contributing to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

Evidence Documents

All documents can be viewed on the Ash Parish Council website at

<https://ashparishcouncil.gov.uk/ash-ndp/ash-neighbourhood-development-plan-regulation-16/>

Submission Documents for Regulation 16 Consultation 28th Nov 2020

- Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan – Mr C Turner
- Basic Conditions Statement – Mr C Turner
- Consultation Statement – NDP Committee
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (AECOM Nov 2020)
- Strategic Environment Assessment (AECOM Nov 2020)

Evidence Documents

- DDC Ash Parish Council NDP SEA and HRA Screening Opinion (LUC Nov 2019)
- Housing Needs Assessment (AECOM April 2019)
- DDC report on AECOM Housing Needs Assessment (Peter Brett Associated, May 2019)
- Ash Site Assessments & Options (AECOM Aug 2018)

Assessments carried out by Ash Parish Council, NDP Steering Group and local volunteers relating to the parish of Ash

- Archaeological Report 2018 – Ms P Bernard
- Biodiversity Report 2019 – Mrs M Smith and Mrs P Thorne
- Character Assessment 2018 – Mrs A Foat
- Design Guide 2020 – Mr N Blake, Ms A Charles, Mr K Collingwood, Mr I Howard and Mrs M Smith
- Green & Open Spaces Assessment 2018 – Mrs K Lott
- Key Views – location and photos of 11 essential views – Mr K Ellis

Reports commissioned by the Ash Parish Council

- Sustainability Scoping Report 2017 (Mr J Boot)
- Ash Housing Survey 2017 (Action for Communities in Kent) – Ms T O'Sullivan
- Local Insights Ash Parish (OCIS Report 2018)
- Vixan Ash Parish Council Traffic Survey 2017 – Mr A Lague

Surveys carried out by Ash Parish Council and its Steering Group and local volunteers Ash NDP Surveys:

- Business Survey 2018 and graphs – Mr K Ellis
- Leisure Survey 2019 and graphs
- Questionnaire Sept 2016 – Ash NDP Steering Group
-

Minutes and agenda of the Ash Steering Group, Ash Parish Council NDP Committee and the Ash Parish Council

External References

- Dover District Council Local Plans and Planning Policies:
<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/Adopted-Development-Plans/Home.aspx>
- DDC Emerging Local Plan and timetable 2 December 2019 (updated May 2020):
<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/New-District-Local-Plan/Home.aspx>
- Government's 25 year 'Environmental Plan 2018':
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf
- Historic England List: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>
- Kent County Council Policies and Strategies: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies>
- including KCC Right of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP 1)
- Kent Nature Partnerships' 'Kent Biodiversity 2020 and beyond – a strategy for the natural environment 2015-2025' (updated Feb 2020): <http://kentnature.org.uk/biodiversity-strategy.html>
- NPPF: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

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Ash NDP Committee:

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