

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Fawkham Parish has **only two of the eight services and facilities identified as key** to settlement sustainability by SDC in their Settlement Hierarchy: a village hall and a primary school.

Fawkham Primary School is a Church of England school with a half form entry and a total capacity of 105 pupils. Around 30% of pupils live in the Parish and others travel by car from nearby Parishes, including New Ash Green and Longfield. The school considers the size of the playgrounds is insufficient, especially before school when it is used as a car park by parents. Neither Kent County Council nor the school has plans to address this. There are no plans to expand the school: the site size and accessibility make it unlikely KCC would look to expand it in preference to other schools nearby.

The **Village Hall** is used every weekday for a range of activities. It was extensively refurbished in 2020 - the need for further enhancement will be explored. The car park generally provides sufficient parking. It is not used to full capacity and there are no plans to extend it.

Other community facilities include:

- The Rising Sun Inn
- KCC's mobile library outside the pub, once a fortnight for 30 minutes
- St Mary's Church
- 2 x bottle banks and 1x charity clothing recycling bank in Corinthian Sports Club car park

None is safely accessible and within a reasonable walking distance (400m) of the majority of the Parish's dwellings due to the nature of the roads and the lack of footways or cycle paths.

There is **no public transport, doctor's surgery, convenience store, post office, secondary school or recreation ground/children's play area** within the Parish. Almost all are over 2.5km away and beyond walking distance from the main clusters of houses.

The **main route through Fawkham (the C269) runs along the valley floor** for c.5 km (3.2 miles). It has no central road markings for most of its length, no verge and, with the exception of a 0.5 mile section along one side leading from Michaels Lane to the Primary School, **no footway**. Most sections with 30/40mph restrictions are less than 5.5m wide (the minimum width for two cars passing safely at this speed). During heavy or persistent rain, the lane quickly becomes flooded, in some places across its full width.

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Local infrastructure provision constrains any substantial development within the Parish.

This Plan will be discussed with infrastructure providers to test whether the limited development likely to come forward during the Plan period can be supported by sufficient infrastructure to ensure the quality of life of existing and future residents.

We have prepared the following policy that would be applied by Sevenoaks Council whenever a planning application comes in to make sure their decision conforms with the Neighbourhood Plan and so ultimately reflects what people in Fawkham think is important and needed.

Policy FNP15: Securing Infrastructure

A proposal for development will be expected to ensure provision of the necessary social, physical and green infrastructure needed to support the proposed development.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with this policy, or have suggestions as to how it should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 18).

Small Grains

The road called Small Grains does not extend in front of all houses, only to the front of numbers 4 to 7. An informal parking area exists for numbers 8 -10, while numbers 1-3 are required to drive across part of the amenity green space to park. This has created deep ruts to the surface and an unsightly appearance.

Residents have requested provision of suitably surfaced, dedicated car parking areas. The open space would be segregated from the parking areas by wooden barriers to protect it.

Policy FNP16: Provision of Small Grains Residents Parking

Land at Small Grains, as defined in Map 11, is allocated for the provision of residents car parking.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with this policy, or have suggestions as to how it should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 19).

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Projects

When preparing the Plan, opportunities emerged to enhance the Parish - these are listed as projects in Appendix 3. The projects may be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) held by Fawkham Parish Council and/or SDC, and any section 106 contributions, other grants, donations or funds.

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan strategy is for limited development, any development puts additional pressure on existing infrastructure and, where justified, CIL funding will be directed towards eligible projects.

Let us know if you agree or disagree with the projects, or have suggestions as to how they should be changed, and why, via the questionnaire (Question 21).