

# Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP)

## Botesdale & Rickingham Parish Councils

<b>Parish Population:</b> Botesdale Rickingham	905 (2011 Census) 1168 (2011 Census)
<b>Date of PIIP</b>	September 2021
<b>Date Adopted by Parish Councils</b> Botesdale Rickingham	October 2021
<b>Date of next Review</b>	October 2022

### Existing infrastructure audit

List of services and facilities within the local area, their condition, location, existing capacity and catchment area.

<b>Child Care, Education &amp; Schools</b>	<p><u>Botesdale &amp; Rickingham Pre-School</u> – The Pre-School is run from the Botesdale Village Hall and shares that space with other users. It is open to all families in the communities of Botesdale, Rickingham and Redgrave and the surrounding areas and takes children aged 2 until they move to Reception. Because they use a shared space, storage is an issue (see BVH entry). However, their long-term wish is to have their own building with a baby room, sleeping room, changing area and toilets/kitchen that they don't have to share. They have occasional one-off funding needs for items such as interactive whiteboards.</p> <p><u>Botesdale After School Club</u> – BASC is also run from the Botesdale Village Hall and occupies it after the Pre-School each day. As with the Pre-School, they have also expressed a desire for their own space so that they don't have to clear up after sessions. However, at the present, their need is for storage.</p> <p><u>St Botolphs CEVC Primary School</u> – The School has an estimated (by school) 210 places and 176 children currently attending. It serves Botesdale, Rickingham, Redgrave and Hinderclay. The school has expressed the need for two projects: The first is retro fitting the school with new heating and adding insulation to regulate the temperature of the building but also to make the building environmentally aware and set the property up for a net zero carbon future. The second is to upgrade the sports facilities at the school with an all-weather playing surface on part of the playing field. The School is supported by the Friends of St Botolphs which has echoed the school's desire for improved outdoor space, as the playing field is in very bad condition. They will support the project financially.</p>
<b>Community Facilities/Services</b>	<p><b><u>Botesdale:</u></b></p> <p><u>Botesdale Village Hall</u> – The site includes the Hall, a 15+ vehicle car park and an outside play area. The VH has two main users, the Botesdale and Rickingham Pre-School and the Botesdale After School Club (BASC). It has several regular users including the Parish Council, WARTS drama group and various fitness providers. The Pre-School, BASC and WARTS have all expressed the need for additional storage and this is supported by the VH Management Committee. However, any plans are currently on hold until a new lease is negotiated with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury &amp; Ipswich.</p> <p><u>Chapel of Ease</u> – A place of worship on The Street which holds services and hosts occasional community events. Managed by the Parochial Church Council.</p> <p><u>Parkview Chapel</u> – A place of worship on The Street which regularly hosts wider community events including for the Primary School, private parties, Coffee on the Corner once a month and youth clubs every Friday (Junior – primary age and Senior – secondary age) which are open to all. They have expressed the need for several improvements to the Chapel including an outside seating area, car park improvements, a cover for the ramp at the back entrance and upgraded toilets. A specific request is improved facilities for the youth club, i.e. a table football; new indoor football goals / safety mats; an up-to-date television for a games console and some games to play; bean bags and other comfortable seating for a new 'chill' corner. expressed a need for more volunteers but has a specific request for a signpost on The Street to raise their profile.</p>

	<p><b><u>Rickingham:</u></b>  <b><u>Methodist Chapel</u></b> – A place of worship on Fen Lane which regularly hosts mostly monthly social activities for the wider community including coffee mornings and talks. The Chapel expressed a need for more volunteers but has a specific request for a signpost on The Street to raise their profile.  <b><u>Rickingham and Botesdale Baby and Toddlers</u></b> – RABBATs meets at the Village Hall every Thursday, 9:30-11:30 for craft, stories, singing, snacks as well as free play. They expressed a need for funds for one-off activities and had a specific request for funds for new play equipment.  <b><u>Rickingham Day Centre</u></b> – The Day Centre meets at the Village Hall every Wednesday, 9:30-1:30pm and accepts up to 25 elderly and vulnerable people from the area to socialise and give carers a break. They enjoy activities and a 2-course lunch. They expressed a need for more volunteers, particularly their own cook as lunch is currently provided by two volunteers. A specific need is for a new set of stackable armchairs and 5-6 large armchairs.  <b><u>Rickingham Village Hall</u></b> – The VH includes the Hall, a 36-vehicle car park with overflow available and recycling banks. Bookings include social events, lectures, fitness classes, craft and antique fairs, jumble sales and a Farmers' Market on the second Saturday of every month. The Management Committee would like to install a greener heating system.  <b><u>St Mary's, Rickingham Inferior</u></b> – A place of worship at the corner of Bury Road and Hinderclay Road. Managed by the Parochial Church Council. They are supported by The Friends of St Mary's, an informal group to raise money to keep the building in good repair. They are currently fundraising for water and toilet facilities as well as retiling of the north slope of the chancel roof. They have expressed the need for more volunteers, particularly those with computer skills.  <b><u>St Mary's, Rickingham Superior</u></b> – A redundant church on Finningham Road managed by the Redundant Churches Trust. The churchyard is closed.</p>
Environment inc waste, flooding	<p><b><u>Botesdale:</u></b> 5 Dog waste bins in various locations (good), 8 Refuse bins in various locations (6 good, 2 new), 5 Grit bins in various locations (3 good, 1 new, 1 moderate). Current flooding problems on Bridewell Lane and Back Hills. The former is being investigated and dealt with by Suffolk County Council. The PC has made attempts to deal with Back Hills through cutting drainage channels but this has not dealt with the problem.  <b><u>Rickingham:</u></b> 5 Dog waste bins in various locations (good), 8 Refuse bins in various locations (6 good).  Flooding problems on Hinderclay Road. Clearance of the ditch system upstream has been undertaken by Suffolk County Council.  The PCs have written to riparian owners to make them aware of their responsibilities. Drain clearance is undertaken by SCC on an irregular basis. Dog and litter bins are emptied by Mid Suffolk District Council with the cost subsidised by PCs.  Both PCs have separate budgets for Village Assets Upkeep and Bin Emptying.</p>
Health	<p><b><u>Botesdale Health Centre</u></b> – The Health Centre has 9320 patients (May 2021) from a catchment area of 36 villages near the Suffolk Norfolk border. The Health Centre has recently been extended. The Health Centre is supported by the Friends of Botesdale Health Centre and the Botesdale Health Centre Patient Participation Group, both of which have expressed the need for more Committee Members / volunteers / participation.  <b><u>Botesdale Dental Practice</u></b> – Privately owned. Would like directional signage.</p>
Open Spaces	<p><b><u>Botesdale:</u></b>  <b><u>Marl Pits</u></b> – Owned by Botesdale PC  <b><u>Market Place w/War Memorial</u></b> – Owned by Botesdale PC  <b><u>Miller's Orchard</u></b> – Owned and managed by Barwoods  <b><u>Sarah's Wood</u></b> – In process of ownership transfer to Botesdale PC as part of Section 106 agreement at Burgess Homes development. Part leased by Pre-School. The PC needs to ensure that the Wood is safe for public access and meets the s106 requirements to provide space for the Primary School and Pre-School. This may require development of access arrangements, fencing and tree survey and management plans.  <b><u>Rickingham:</u></b>  <b><u>Low Meadow</u></b> – Owned by Rickingham PC and managed by Barwoods  <b><u>Micklewood Green</u></b> – Managed by Rickingham PC  <b><u>Mill Lane Allotments</u></b> – There are currently 35 members, ages 30-80, and often a waiting list. They have expressed a need for more space for allotments.  <b><u>Northfield Wood</u></b> – Owned by Rickingham PC and managed by Barwoods  <b><u>Wherry Land</u></b> – Owned and managed by Rickingham PC  Barwoods is a local voluntary group which provides and manages community woodland for the benefit of the local community - principally by planting native tree species.  Both PCs have separate budgets/earmarked reserves for improving and maintaining these assets where required. Botesdale PC contributes to the cost of insuring Miller's Orchard.</p>

<b>Phone Box</b>	The Phone box is in Rickinghall but is in a position central to both villages. It was adopted by Rickinghall PC from BT in 2019, completely refurbished in 2020 and a defibrillator was installed in 2021 (good).
<b>Public / Passenger Transport</b>	<b>Botesdale:</b> Bus shelter on The Street opp Sunnyholme (good). Glass cleaned quarterly. <b>Rickinghall:</b> Bus shelter on Bury Road opp junction with Rectory Hill (good) <u>Community Transport Scheme</u> – This is volunteer-run from Rickinghall covers both villages, and several others, providing a booked-in-advance service for a small fee, in addition to weekly grocery shopping trips and one-off social outings. The wheelchair-accessible bus is due to be replaced in 2-3 years and Botesdale and Rickinghall PCs have been putting aside funds for several years towards a replacement bus. However, due to the lack of income during the pandemic, there may be some shortfall.
<b>Public Rights of Way</b>	The villages share an extensive network of footpaths and have produced two leaflets, one for St Botolph's Way, a 10-mile circular walk around Rickinghall & Botesdale, and a leaflet produced with Discover Suffolk, providing three circular walks of 1 hour (2.75 miles), 2 hours (5.5 miles) and 3 hours (9.5 miles). The long walk is a slightly shorter variation of St Botolph's Way. Both PC's provide additional path cutting in season, supported by a grant from Mid Suffolk District Council. There are several sections where the surface needs improvement, e.g. following flooding or erosion. There have been several requests for this improvement, including from the Rickinghall Ramblers group, and a specific request from the Rickinghall Runners, who wish to set up a 5K and 10K route around the footpaths and through the villages. This would require signage and depending on the routes, surface improvements. Many paths are also use for cycling or as sections of longer cycling routes and suggestions have been made to improve connections or complete routes.
<b>Recreation/Sports Facilities</b>	<b>Botesdale:</b> <u>Botesdale Recreation Ground</u> – The site, which is owned by Botesdale Parish Council as sole trustee of the Botesdale Recreation Ground Charity, is currently undergoing a large-scale regeneration scheme for the entire site, which will include toddler, junior and youth play areas along with fitness facilities, an eco/sensory path with activities and features focussed on nature. <b>Rickinghall:</b> <u>Rickinghall Village Hall Recreation Ground</u> – The site, which is owned and managed by the VH Management Committee, includes a 6-acre playing field with a football pitch, a floodlit hard sports area marked out for netball, small-side football, and tennis, a skatepark and a children's play area. They have expressed a need for a replacement skatepark, as it is nearing the end of its life, and this project is currently under way. <u>St Botolph's &amp; District Bowls Club</u> – This is a clubhouse and green on Fen Lane which organises events, tournaments and social gatherings which are open to both club members and sometimes the wider community. They have 75 members age 50-85+ and would like younger members and more members willing to take on responsibility for running the club. They would like to build ties with the School and develop a Junior Section. A specific request is for signposting from The Street to the Club.
<b>Roads, including signage and speeding</b>	<b>Botesdale:</b> Fen Lane and Bridewell Lane are in particularly poor condition. Potholes in informal passing places on Back Hills. Some road signage is in poor condition. <b>Rickinghall:</b> Fen Lane is in particularly poor condition as well as some road signage. The PCs share a Speed Indicator Device / Vehicle Activated Sign which is moved on a two-weekly basis between Bury Road and Diss Road. Botesdale PC is considering purchasing a second device so that they can remain in place. Lack of parking is an acknowledged issue but there is no scope at present to add to the existing provision. Consider undertaking a professional survey of public parking areas with the aim of making them safer and more convenient for drivers and safer for pedestrians, while looking at whether the number of public parking spaces can be increased.
<b>Street Furniture</b>	<b>Botesdale:</b> 6 village seats in various locations (good); 1 tree guard and nameplate at Market Place (good); 1 gas lamp post at Village Hall (good). 1 village sign outside the Chapel of Ease (good); 2 village name signs at Market Place and The Street nr Warrens Lane (good). 1 free-standing notice board outside Botesdale Village Hall (good), 1 notice board mounted on Osmond House opp Market Place (good). All notice board glass is cleaned quarterly. <b>Rickinghall:</b> 6 village seats in various locations (good). 1 village sign in Churchyard of St Mary's, Rickinghall Inferior (good); 1 walking map board at the corner of Fen Lane and The Street (good); 3 wooden fingerposts near junction of The Street and Hinderclay Road (poor). Joint PC free-standing notice board near Warrens Lane (good), 1 free-standing notice board at the corner of The Street and Garden House Lane (good), 1 notice board mounted on churchyard wall at the corner of The Street and Hinderclay Road (new). Both PCs have separate budgets for Village Assets Upkeep.

<b>Street Lighting</b>	<p><b>Botesdale:</b> 23 parish-owned units of which several are G39 (within 1.5m of a live cable) and repairs are restricted. These will need to be replaced as they fail.</p> <p><b>Rickinghall:</b> 24 parish-owned units of which several are G39 and repairs are restricted. These will need to be replaced as they fail.</p> <p>Both PCs have separate budgets and earmarked reserves for Street Light Improvements.</p>
<b>External infrastructure audit</b>	
As above, identifying the services and facilities outside the PIIP area that are used by the community.	
<b>Public / Passenger Transport</b>	Bus routes run by Simonds to Bury St Edmunds and Diss, with dedicated school transport to Hartismere School, Eye.
<b>Library</b>	Mobile library calls once every 4 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon and stops at Farnish House, Botesdale Village Hall and Back Hills in Botesdale and at Rectory Hill, Hinderclay Road and Rickinghall Village Hall in Rickinghall. There is a library in Diss.

<b>Community Infrastructure needs and/or aspirations</b>	
<b>Prioritised Needs</b>	<p><b>First Priority:</b>  Botesdale Recreation Ground – large regeneration scheme to existing site  Rickinghall Recreation Ground – new skate park to replace existing equipment  St Botolph's Primary School – Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for playground  Parkview Chapel – new equipment for Youth Club  Public Rights of Way:  Improvement to surfacing of footpaths after local consultation  Footways – improvement to surfacing of pavement on Hall Lane between Redgrave and Botesdale  Cycle Routes – establish new routes and connections following local consultation  Community Transport Scheme – replacement vehicle</p> <p><b>Second Priority:</b>  Natural and Wildlife Features and Habitats Recording  Blue Plaque Scheme  Botesdale Village Hall – improved storage  Rickinghall Village Hall – install new heating system  Public Rights of Way:  Establish new Permissive Path routes following local consultation  Set up a marked 5K &amp; 10K route for local running group  Sarah's Wood, Botesdale – establish access arrangements, fencing, management plan inc tree/ecology surveys  Parking Provision – survey of public parking areas within the centre of the villages</p> <p><b>Third Priority:</b>  Local History Information Boards at churchyards and Botesdale Market Place  Feasibility study for a purpose-built multi-use community building  Rickinghall Day Centre – provision of new seating  RABBATS – provision of new equipment  Allotments – provision of additional plots  Roads and Signage:  Repairs to minor roads  Replacement of damaged or missing road signs  Directional signage for Methodist Chapel and Bowls Club</p>
<b>Community engagement</b>	Feedback has been sought on a regular basis through the parish magazine which is delivered free to every household. In March 2021, a consultation survey was sent to 31 local organisations and 37 businesses within the villages explaining the PIIP and requesting information and expressions of need for infrastructure. This was echoed by a full-page article within the parish magazine and notices on Facebook, the PCs' websites and public notice boards inviting residents to contribute. In July 2021, a public consultation on the draft PIIP was carried out with an article in the parish magazine and similar publicity.