

# SHADOXHURST – the woodland gateway to the countryside



**Shadoxhurst Parish Council**

Protecting the Woodland Gateway to the Countryside

**Our mission is to maintain the rural feel of our charming village and protect our rural community. We maintain and enhance our beautiful open spaces, quiet ancient woodlands and community facilities for all to enjoy; retaining and celebrating our wonderful dark skies. We support local rural businesses and interest groups whilst encouraging local wildlife, sustainable farming and woodland trails. We manage development changes proactively - ensuring everyone has a voice.**

## SHADOXHURST PARISH

Shadoxhurst (from the word 'hyrst' meaning wooded hill) is a small rural village 5 miles SW of Ashford. Shadoxhurst has unique rural characteristics; dark skies, wonderful farmland, farm animals, oak trees, rural fields, natural ponds, ancient woodlands, historic buildings, horses, conservation areas, listed buildings and diverse wildlife including nightingales. The village which is separate and distinct from Ashford is peaceful and quiet with a caring, vibrant, cohesive and active community. We have a lovely village pub, local 14<sup>th</sup> Century Church, pavilion and village hall facilities. Shadoxhurst has an interesting history; the saw mill supplying miners & land given to injured servicemen. There are regular community events e.g. the weekly Coffee Club, the monthly pub quiz nights and the annual fete.

### WHAT THE VILLAGE OFFERS

The Woodland Gateway to the Countryside – a rural village of natural beauty which is peaceful and quiet  
Inclusive rural facilities to support local interest groups and activities  
A lovely pub to enjoy and a beautiful 14<sup>th</sup> Century Church

Community, pride, kindness and compassion  
Woodland walks and trails through our extensive ancient woodlands and agricultural land

### PARISH COUNCIL 'PROMISE' to VILLAGERS

Strive to make Shadoxhurst the best village in the local area  
Thoughtful leadership  
To improve and safeguard the rural quality of life  
To listen – via the Village Community Forum and Clubs

To promote a sense of community  
Learn and share best practices from other villages and act as one voice on shared issues.  
Represent village interests and influence decision makers to align with our mission

### STRATEGIES

### PLANS

#### 1 ENHANCE THE VILLAGE IDENTITY

- a. Create village entry welcome signs to the village; "Shadoxhurst – the woodland gateway to the countryside"
- b. Install a new village sign at the centre of the village; "Shadoxhurst – the woodland gateway to the countryside"
- c. Create nature education and information boards on our country walks
- d. Retain a 'necklace of green' around the village
- e. Increase historic awareness by encouraging villagers to update the Shadoxhurst Wikipedia page
- f. Install village historical artefacts and photos in the village hall to showcase the history of the village

#### 2 IMPROVE VILLAGE PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- a. Encourage and support village events
- b. Promote the Village Community Forum, with a focus on social activities and fundraising
- c. Establish the age of the population in Shadoxhurst (to help determine future decisions on facilities and activities) at next Census
- d. Promote local interest groups and clubs
- e. Support local businesses
- f. Maintain the village newsletter

#### 3 ENHANCE VILLAGE FACILITIES

- a. Scope options and implement a programme for rebuilding and improving the village hall, pavilion and recreation facilities, non-exclusively to include,
  - a. Improve children's play equipment, improve age range and accessibility
  - b. Install a MUGA and / or tennis courts
  - c. Replace the end-of life pavilion, potentially consider construction of a more efficient combined village hall / pavilion
  - d. Install accessible toilets in the hall and pavilion (giving due consideration to 'c' above)
  - e. Install internet in the village hall (Completed 06/20)
  - f. Create a "village funding" working group to explore grant options
- b. Install benches throughout the village
- c. Identify, map and make improvements to our woodland walks - improve connectivity and improve safety where paths meet roads

#### 4 PRESERVE THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

- a. Ensure no street lighting in future developments to help preserve our dark skies
- b. Create a Conservation Area Plan to enhance and expand the area
- c. Support and promote speed watch throughout the village
- d. Promote and support the lorry watch scheme
- e. Extend the 30mph zone on Church Lane, Woodchurch Road and Hornash Lane