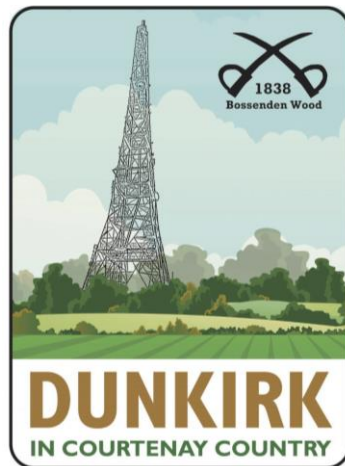
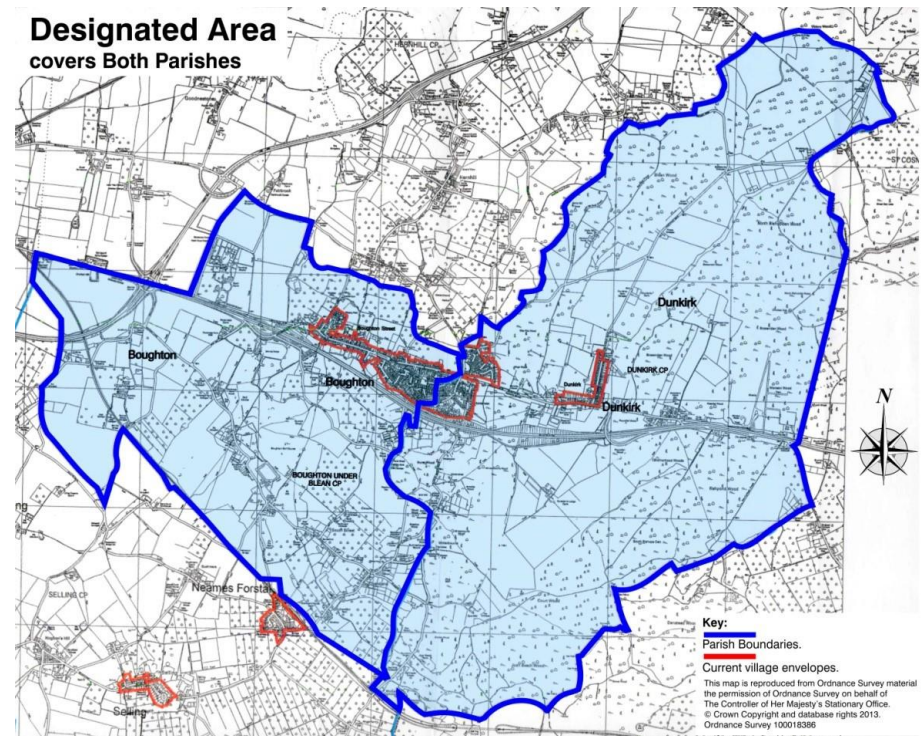


## Vision for Boughton and Dunkirk Parishes in 2038

- that in 2038 Boughton and Dunkirk will be parishes where those who work or grow up here can afford to live, where families can raise children and the elderly can remain in the small rural communities of which they have long been part, with access to necessary education, health, and leisure facilities.
- that we maintain our identity as a community separate from Faversham, Whitstable and Canterbury, with green open space between the settlements protected from development.
- that the modest rural settlement of Boughton will become an increasingly sustainable community, whose historic heritage has been documented, and protected from inappropriate development and high volumes of vehicular through-traffic, and where proposals are in place for the further protection of our environment.
- that Boughton, together with Dunkirk, will offer a wide range of services to serve the residents of these two parishes who can also enjoy the many benefits of the surrounding countryside.



## A Neighbourhood Plan for Boughton and Dunkirk



**The main message of this Plan is that both the villages feel they are under siege. The pressure comes from two directions – increased traffic and proposed housing developments.**

The task of a Neighbourhood Plan is for residents to set out the development principles and allocation of sites for future building and land use in its area, reflecting the Government's determination to ensure that local communities are closely involved in the decisions that affect them.

A draft Neighbourhood Plan, jointly sponsored by the parish councils of Boughton under Blean and Dunkirk, is now available for consultation. Your feedback is important.

**Traffic:** We sit at the head of the bottleneck leading to the Channel ports; Brenley Corner is among the nation's blackest of black spots and, given the increasing demands of heavy goods vehicles travelling between the continent and the UK, the pressure on the through roads, country lanes and lay-bys can only get worse. The quality of the air we breathe will also be affected; the need to protect our **environment** increases every day that passes.

The potential impact of **housing** demands is daunting. This plan is about Boughton and Dunkirk, but it is important to know the background. Swale is required to review its Bearing Fruits 2031 plan. There is a separate consultation happening on a new draft taking us to 2038 where the 14,000 dwellings already planned will increase to 24,000. It includes development NOT part of this plan of 4,000 houses at Brenley Corner and east of Faversham, and 4,000+ west of the town.

The anticipated increase in population will only serve to exacerbate every situation described in the Plan, be it education provision, a heavy increase in traffic (both at Brenley Corner and within the villages) and a worsening burden on patient healthcare and other services.

**All this will only serve to increase the real risk that Boughton and Dunkirk will simply become a suburb of Faversham.**

We aim to ensure there are green spaces between the growing number of the new housing areas and that **community** infrastructure is a necessary part of any development.

**There is an urgent need, then, for all stakeholders and decision-makers to:**

- a) liaise strategically over the important decisions facing them.**
- b) give priority to recognising the impact of these decisions on small communities such as ours.**

**The Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan** will influence Swale planning policies, making them more relevant and acceptable to Boughton and Dunkirk. It will also contain planning policies just for Boughton and Dunkirk and allocate sites for a very limited amount of **residential** use. Three small sites were already proposed in the old Local Plan and we are suggesting a fourth, close to the centre of Boughton .

The Plan has been developed from information you gave us in surveys, feedback at the exhibitions and by local school children, to establish a vision for the two villages. Much emphasis was placed on keeping our individual identity and resisting the kind of development pressure that would result in increased traffic.

The Boughton and Dunkirk Neighbourhood Plan will be put to a community referendum shortly and become a statutory document which, once adopted, forms part of the Local Development Plan. This will be used by Swale Borough Council to determine planning applications along with the Council's policies for housing and economic development.

**You can view the complete draft NP Plan with all supporting and background documents, as sent to Swale Borough Council, on the NP website: <http://www.boughtonanddunkirkneighbourhoodplan.org.uk> and both Parish Councils' websites from 15 March 2021.**

Residents and local businesses are encouraged to comment on the draft by **14<sup>th</sup> May 2021** either via the response form on the NP website or by email to: [secretary@boughtonanddunkirkneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](mailto:secretary@boughtonanddunkirkneighbourhoodplan.org.uk)

Details of further public consultation will be on the NP and Parish Councils' websites, in the Community Magazine and on Parish Council and village noticeboards. A printed copy of the full NP Plan will be available to view at Boughton Library once re-opened.

**For queries or more details, please ring Jeff Tutt: 078 853 716 31 or email the secretary using the email address above.**