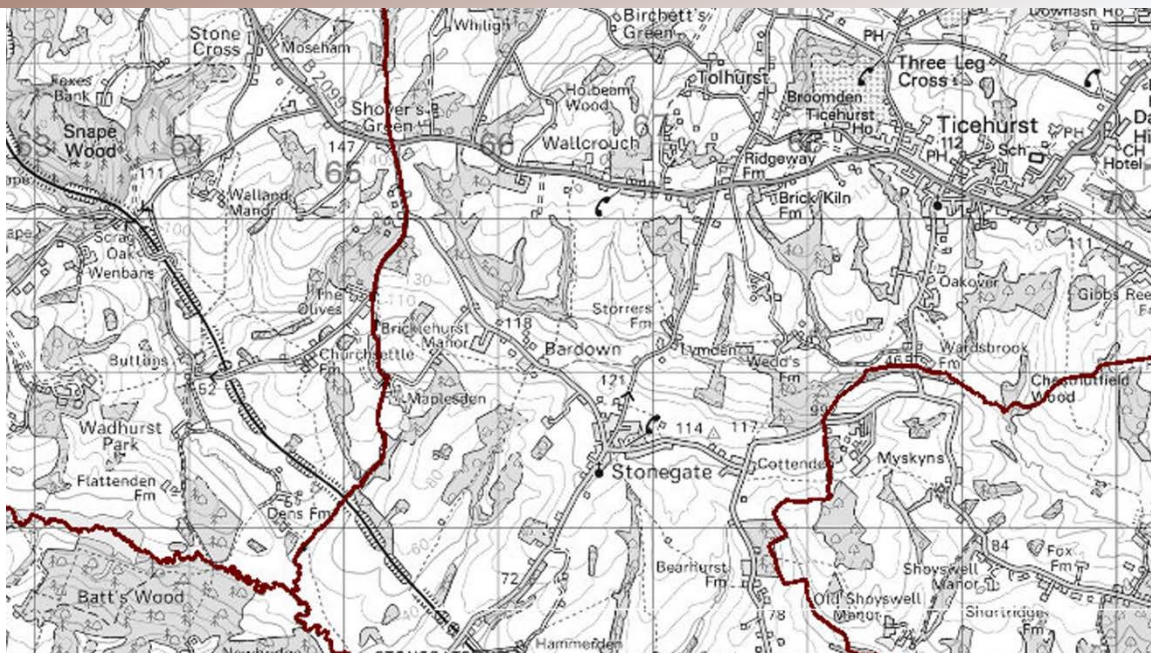


Jean Barrass (Ticehurst Community Friends)

POSITION STATEMENT March 2016



**Ticehurst
Parish
Council**



A village scheme of Neighbours Helping
Neighbours

Presented by Liz Young and Jean Barrass

Ticehurst Community Friends

- *Formed under the umbrella of Rother Voluntary Action*
- Started September 2014
- *49 DBS'd volunteers currently.*
- Continuing to recruit, currently 7 awaiting DBS
- *By end Feb, 345 requests made for help, by 61 villagers.*
- Now established as a support network in the village

Ticehurst Community Friends

- *What we offer*
 - *Driving to appointments, social visits,*
 - *Befriending*
 - *Computer help*
 - *Letters and form filling*
 - *Reading*
 - *Simple household tasks*
 - *Gardening*
 - *Sewing*
- What we provide
 - Driving is most of our work
 - Occasional befriending, these tasks can be ongoing
 - Computer help
 - Bingo at Newington Court
 - Occasional other tasks

What village strengths we think should be protected

- **Good will** *There is a huge amount of individual, often unrecognised, good work within the village.*
 - Taking people shopping, visiting, lifts etc, independent of organisations
 - The voluntary support groups such as the lunch club and good companions,
 - The Battle Bus

What village strengths we think should be protected

- **Activities run within the village open for anyone.**
 - Local activities such as allotments, ramblers, healthy walks,
 - Clubs like the gardeners, art groups, fitness classes
 - Church activities
 - Meeting places such as The Bell, the Village Institute, Newington Court, Greedy Goat Cafe
 - Shops open daily, to keep the centre active and alive

Other Village Strengths

- The ANOB and general nature. There are animals, birds, insects of all sorts including butterflies and moths, plants and so much more
- The Library Van and all the library services
- Good paid carers network

Weaknesses to overcome

Traffic Issues

- Traffic speed / lack of road crossings: Elderly and infirm can be threatened by traffic
- Reversing to pavement outside the Village Shop: cars can reverse park, covering more than half the pavement before their tyres reach the kerb.
- Parking on pavement: pushchairs and electric mobility scooters forced onto the road,







- Weaknesses to Overcome
 - **Retirement age increasing.** Most TCF volunteers are retired so could lead to fewer, older, volunteers
 - **Limited awareness of TCF by potential volunteers.** This is more likely if they don't read N&V or if they work away from Ticehurst
 - **Underused existing resources** such as Newington Court Gardens and the Village Pond. Public involvement, perhaps with buddying scheme with young or elderly

What conditions would make life better

- A good method of communication through the village. So people know we are here and to attract new volunteers
- Young people getting involved in community projects as the norm
- Frail elderly housing systems which provide a sense of community and involvement in village activities

New Services To Make Life Better

- Transport
 - better bus service including Sundays,
 - Being able to depend on having wheelchair accessible bus
 - Possibly sharing access to a Dial a bus type service to take people door to door
- Tennis court for general hire
- Table tennis court for general hire
- Drop in centre, similar to Carillon Cottage
- Tidy up team to remove litter
- Nature interest group



Thank you