



# Acol Parish Council

## Welcome to our Village

Dear

On behalf of the Parish Council and Acol Community I wish you a very warm welcome to our village.

The roots of our community, which is one of the smallest in Kent, can be traced back to early medieval times and, until quite recently, the bulk of its population were farm workers; the village is still wholly surrounded by agricultural land. Our narrow roads and lanes reflect that heritage although they now carry much more traffic than the horses and carts they were built-for!

We hope that the following information will help you settle in but if you have any queries please get in-touch on 07712 430142. Leave a message if your call cannot immediately be taken and one of us will get back to you as soon as possible.

## Communications

The Acol Parish Council website – [www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.acolparishcouncil.org.uk) – has a wealth of local information, including details of your Parish Council and its work, our Village Hall and its activities and links to other local organisations. We welcome all feedback and suggestions for improvement.

There is also an Acol Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/Acol.Village](https://www.facebook.com/Acol.Village) - to which news and alerts are copied, and we have a vibrant Acol community discussion group at [www.facebook.com/groups/acolkent](https://www.facebook.com/groups/acolkent). We are also expanding our presence on other social media (not X) and welcome views on where we should focus most effort.

The Birchington Community Ads. Magazine is delivered, monthly, to all homes in Acol, and includes a report from Acol Parish Council. There is also an Acol newsletter, “Village Voice”, including information about Village Hall activities, meeting dates, and sundry other information such as refuse collection schedules, which is independently produced and delivered to village homes.

## Local Services

Birchington is our closest hub for shopping, transportation, dining-out, doctors and pharmacies, worship etc. (Sadly, our own small church – St. Mildred’s in Plumstone Road – is both closed as in need of repair and under threat of closure.) The war memorial at The Square, Birchington is shared with Acol.

Quex Barn, at Quex Park on the way to Birchington is an excellent farm shop with grocery, butcher, fishmonger, cheese counter etc and restaurant.

Westwood Cross is Thanet's major shopping and leisure centre, excepting, of course, our many beaches and seaside communities and, of course, Canterbury is only a few miles drive or bus ride away.

## Transportation

Birchington-on-Sea Railway Station (London via Faversham) and Minster Railway Station (London via Ashford) are about 1.5 miles in either direction and are linked by stations around the other Thanet stations of Westgate-on-Sea, Margate, Ramsgate, Dumps Park and Thanet Parkway.

There is a quite limited **bus service** (48) through Acol between Birchington and Dumps Park. From Birchington, there are regular bus service to Canterbury and Margate. The "Thanet Loop" bus service is a circular route through Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs, taking-in Westwood Cross and the QEQM Hospital. *Smartphone users are recommended to download the Stagecoach app for the latest details of local bus service, including live bus timing.*

**Taxi Companies** are Minster Cars – 01843 606206; Central Cars – 01843 888888: Thanet Cars – 01843 333333.

## Health

Most Acol residents are registered with GP services at [Birchington Medical Centre](#) or at [Minster Surgery](#).

There are several Dental Practices across Thanet, but new registrations for treatment under the NHS are hard to come by.

## Environment

Thanet District Council provides waste collection services which, in Acol, are normally on Monday mornings and unchanged for public holidays except over Christmas. Collection days for the different types of waste are available by entering your post code at the following webpage... [Your bin collection day - Thanet](#)

(Chargeable) bulky waste collection services can be booked at [Bulky waste collections - Thanet](#)

However, most types of householder waste (not building rubble) can be deposited, by appointment, at one of the local KCC Waste Recycling Centres, at no charge. Our nearest is at Margate and can be booked at the following webpage... [Kent HWRC](#)

Acol is extremely grateful to people who volunteer in our community in activities such as litter picking and traffic/ speed monitoring – "Speedwatch" – but we can always do with more help. Please get in-touch if you can spare a few hours.

## Leisure Activities

Our main homegrown leisure activity is provided by the Acol Horticultural Society, whose membership extends far beyond our boundaries but meets regularly at Acol Village Hall. Its

meetings include talks, presentations and social events and it organises spring and autumn shows. More information at the AHS website... [Acol Horticultural Society](#)

The Village Hall is also well used for dance and craft groups and lookout for regular coffee mornings and social events, including seasonal activities.

Our local gem is Quex Park with its museum, craft village, garden centre, cafes and leisure activities including indoor and outdoor kids' play areas... and much more detailed on the Quex website at... [Welcome - Quex Park](#)

Also nearby are the Spitfire & Hurricane Museum and adjacent RAF Manston History Museum – both well worth visiting and both have themed cafes (NAAFI Café & Merlin Café) providing excellent value breakfasts and lunches.

## Crime & Safety





Acol has an active Neighbourhood Watch managed by Iris Osborne, who can be contacted on 07980 978202. Neighbour Watch alerts are issued on Tuesdays and Fridays of every week and can be accessed on the eWatch website maintained by the Police at... [e-watch.co - viewArea](#)

Our Police Beat Officer is PC Andy Howe who can be contacted by email at... [andy.howe@kent.police.uk](mailto:andy.howe@kent.police.uk) **(Always 'phone 999 in an emergency.)**

The Parish Council operates recorded CCTV north and south of the Village Hall on The Street in the centre of the village. If CCTV coverage of any criminal activity may be of use in investigations, villagers may ask authorised officials to investigate by contacting the Council on 07712 430142. Access to any recordings will be subject to Data Protection regulations, but evidence may be provided to the Police to assist in investigations.

## Fuel Stations

There are fuel filling stations throughout Thanet, but our closest are illustrated below. The Brooksend and Asda stations tend to be price competitive, whereas Shell and BP are “premium” stations. Asda Minster has the nearest Convenience Store, with nearby fast food and coffee shops.

	<b>Shell</b> Petrol station 361 Canterbury Road, Birchington CT7 ... Open - Closes 22:00 01843 848237
	<b>Asda Minster Express Petrol</b> Convenience store Tothill Street, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 ... Open 24 hours 01843 543193
	<b>Brooksend Service Station an...</b> Petrol station Canterbury Road Brooksend, Birchington... 01843 841436
	<b>BP</b> Petrol station 233 Canterbury Road, Margate CT9 5JP Open 24 hours 01843 836786

