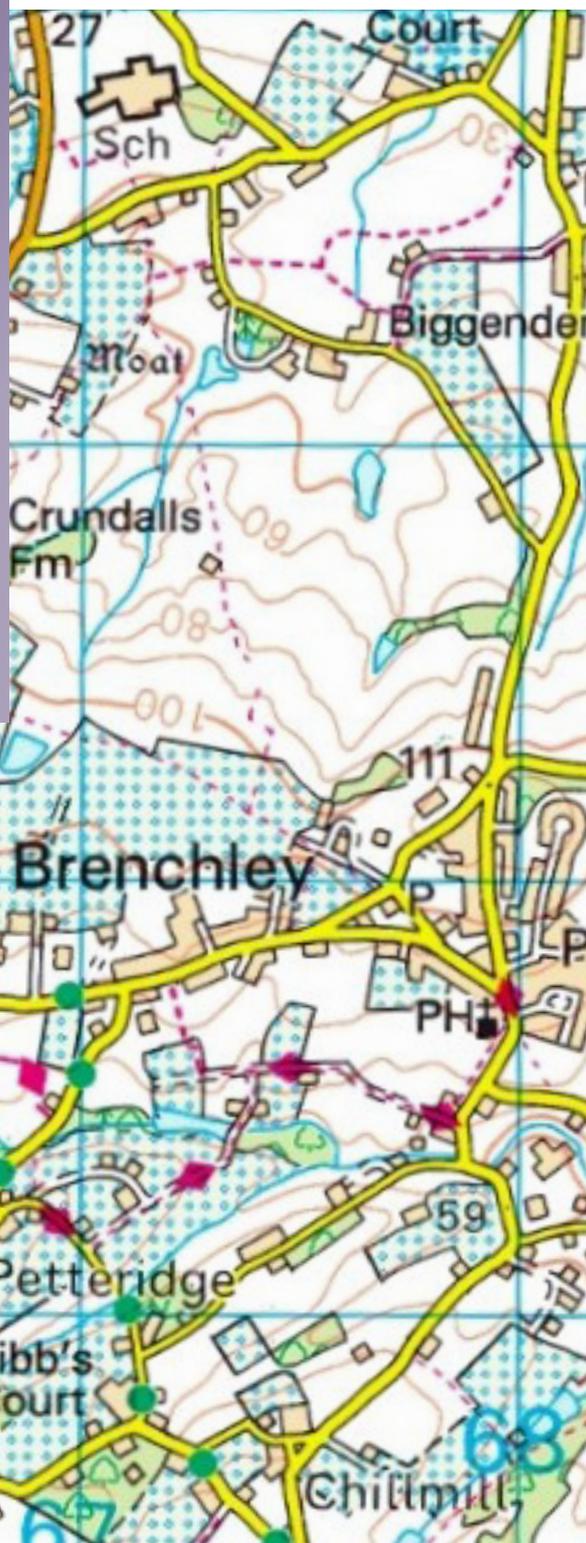


Brenchley & Matfield
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

March 2018

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
FROM VENUE



Brenchley
Eagles Junior
Football Club

Brenchley Eagles

Junior Football Club

Brenchley Eagles was born in October 2014, when we (Paul and Charlotte Usher) were looking for a local club for our son Lucas. It occurred to us that Brenchley had all the facilities right here and plenty of children interested, and only needed Paul to train for his FA1 Qualification in order to start up.

In the beginning we had over 20 children, (occasionally up to 28) between the ages of 6 and 10. We had plenty of help from parent volunteers throughout the first years while we developed and gradually worked out which direction to go in as a growing football club.



With the range of ages, eventually the children naturally fell into 2 age groups, and one of our parents Kevin Smith, a keen footballer himself, decided to train for his FA1 qualification, and thereby took charge of the lower age group, in which his daughter Emily plays, and his son Oliver also assists.



We searched for friendly matches for the children to play with local clubs whenever possible. In the summer of 2015, we were lucky to have a London club visit us for a coaching session, a match, and some fun activities – including kicking the ball into an apple crate, supplied by a local farmer! The London boys were fascinated by the village setting and it was a great experience for all!



This experience lead us to believe that we were ready for some more serious competition, and we discovered that we were able to enter local summer tournaments as an unaffiliated village team.

We entered the Pembury FC tournament at Somerhill School in the summer of 2016, and to our complete surprise, we won the U8's Plate Trophy! To see the pure joy and celebrations of the children and the parents galvanised us to find a way to get Brenchley Eagles into an official League.



Coaching is one part of the job, but the real hard work, the organisation of games, the paperwork, and collection of subs, and so on, fell to Charlotte Usher. The work behind the scenes is not to be underestimated!

One of the teams that Charlotte made contact with, was Tunbridge Wells Ridgeway. After playing a few friendly matches with them, they were so impressed by our standard, our parental support from the touch lines, and our unit as a whole, we were invited to join The Tunbridge Wells Youth club, and sign up as a team under their umbrella as a parent club. We were delighted by this, as it meant a move forward for the Brenchley Eagles!

Local parent Terry Shephard decided joined Brenchley Eagles with his son Freddie in 2016. Terry trained to obtain his FA1 qualification and joined forces with coach Paul as they started their venture into the league.

Our older age group, under Paul and Terry, is now nearing the end of its 2nd season in the Maidstone Invicta Primary League. The first season we actually made it through to the Cup Finals of our group and played in the U10 Consolation Shield. Sadly we lost (hence some of the sad faces!), but were overwhelmed by how far we went in just one year.



We are currently at the end of our U11 Winter League tournament and have won 5 out of the 6 matches, so almost certain to have won!

Kevin Smith will be taking his U9 team into the Maidstone Primary League this September for the 2018/2019 season, which is very exciting, and Tunbridge Wells are so pleased to have a 2nd team from Brenchley in the league.

Apart from the 'game', we have found forming this group has brought together a real sense of community for all. Lifetime friendships have been made over cups of tea and bacon baps at Gray's, who have also opened up especially for us on match days on Sundays. The children all come from a variety of local schools, and see each other away from the pitch also.

We are currently fundraising for the club and hope to see lots of the Brenchley community at our entertainment evening at Gray's Tea rooms on April 21st, which will be a fantastic evening of first class entertainment from local talent – including singers, a flamenco dancing, hoola, impressionists and much more! Please come!

**PEOPLE OF BRENCHLEY, THIS IS YOUR MOMENT!
AN AMAZING SHOW OF EXTRAORDINARY TALENT
FROM OUR VERY OWN VILLAGE**

BRENCHLEY'S GOT T★LENT

*Judging panel
of local
expertise* *Hosted by
Adam Preston*

**SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2018, GRAY'S TEA ROOMS,
BRENCHLEY MEMORIAL HALL, 7PM - 10PM**
£8.50 ADULTS £5.50 CHILDREN, TICKETS ON DOOR OR IN ADVANCE
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENTER PLEASE EMAIL
BRENCHLEYEAGLES@YAHOO.COM**
A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR TWY BRENCHLEY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

We are constantly contacted by parents of young children who are keen to start, however we rely on the input of keen parents to take charge of these new age groups. Tunbridge Wells Youth are always happy to fund the training to become a coach, which can be done over 4 days (at weekends).

Visiting clubs love coming to Brenchley, due to the beautiful setting, and Gray's Tea rooms! The most important thing for the future of the junior football club, is more pitch space for training and matches, however a dream for the children, parents and coaches would be a small spectator's shelter. It would be great also to have one or two picnic tables under the tree.