

## BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ

Tel: 01491 825038 e-mail: [www.bensonpc.org.uk](http://www.bensonpc.org.uk)

**Minutes** of the Benson Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7:30pm in the Benson Parish Hall Committee Room.

### Present:

Cllr P Baylis	(CPB)
Cllr J Fowler	(CJF)
Cllr R Jordan	(CRJ)
Cllr F Lovesey	(CFL)
Cllr D Olley	(CDO)
Cllr S McCann	(CSM)
Cllr P Murray	(CPM)
Cllr T Stevenson	(CTS)
Cllr M Winton	(CMW)
Cllr R Workman	(CRW)
Proper Officer: D. Brooks	(CLK)

There were 4 members of the public present.

### MINUTES

1. **Apologies.** Cllr P Peers (CPP), Cllr T McTeague (CTM). In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr J Fowler presided as Chair for the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** – There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To receive reports from the following:**
  - a. Cllr M Gray – OCC Member. Cllr M Gray reported:
    - i. A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire – “Have your say” Oxfordshire are asking for comments on the proposal to abolish the 6 councils and have one new council for the whole of Oxfordshire. District Councillors are supporting a different proposal amalgamating South and Vale which would offer a better ‘local’ service. Visit the website for further information and to comment on the proposals. [www.oneoxfordshire.org](http://www.oneoxfordshire.org)
    - ii. Council Tax is to rise by 5% in 2017-18, to include a 3% precept increase for Adult Social Care. The money will be used to grow and build the workforce; transform delivery and work more closely with the Private Sector. Daytime support will be re-modelled with 14 out of 22 Support Hubs being closed. Fortunately, the Day Centre in Benson does not receive Council support.
    - iii. The Partnership to Support Single Homeless People is to lose most of its money. The responsibility will pass to District level and will come under Housing. Vale and SODC will provide 14 beds, jointly paid for by County and District but it is not known where they will be.
    - iv. Street lights are wearing out and there is no money to replace them but on the positive side Better Broadband for Oxfordshire hit its target of 90% coverage.
    - v. Littleworth Road Consultation – Cllr Gray has asked one of the Highways team to meet with local people to give them the opportunity to talk to an officer and put their point of view. Background work is taking place with

Chalgrove and progress is being made.

There is generally an understanding that an 'Edge Road' is needed. However, the Littleworth Road proposals go against the concept of an Edge Road; therefore as many as possible need to attend the meeting with the member from Highways.

### **Meeting with Highways will be Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

#### **9.30-11.30 Benson Parish Hall**

At the request of Cllr Fowler, Cllr Gray agreed to try and arrange a meeting between the Highways Officer (J Sherwood, Roads Agreement Manager) and Benson Parish Council.

#### **Q&A:**

Cllr Fowler asked how much money had been spent on the study into the need for a Unitary Authority. It was generally agreed that it was in the tens of thousands. It was felt this could have been better spent on services.

- b. Cllr F Bloomfield – SODC Member. Cllr Bloomfield was not present at the meeting but has provided a written report attached at Annex A.
- c. Cllr R Pullen – SODC Member. Cllr Pullen reported:
  - i. Transfer to a Unitary Authority may happen quite quickly as discussions are active
  - ii. Planning – there is evidence of the Relief Road (Edge Road) being taken seriously. Cllr Fowler stated that, following discussions with BEN 2, 3 and 4, each is prepared to support their section of an Edge Road. Cllr Pullen is happy to support with Chalgrove discussions.
  - iii. There is some work being done on Bus Services but nothing to report as yet.
  - iv. The Planning Department is now up to full strength in terms of Neighbourhood Planning personnel.

4. **Public Session.** To allow members of the public to ask questions and address the Chairman.

Mr Dave Rushton wished to address the Chairman concerning two matters.

- i. On behalf of Friends of Benson Library (FOBL), he formally thanked Benson Parish Council for their support over the years. It was stated that FOBL would not exist without this support.
- ii. Mr Rushton also addressed the meeting on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Team. Please see Annex B for the full response.

Representatives from Chalgrove and Watlington Children's Centre addressed the Meeting. They explained that cuts to the service would result in universal support being withdrawn leaving only targeted support at the Didcot Children's Centre. Chalgrove and Watlington Parish Councils have given financial support to the Centre and a request was made for support from Benson Parish Council. Out of 138 families, 14.6% of Centre users are from Benson and the Centre has set a budget of £30 000 per annum, of which £14 500 has been secured. The Centre is applying for Charitable status and seeking funding from various other sources.

**CLK**

**Action:** Clerk to send Grant Application forms, in the meantime the Centre will be applying for Charitable status.

5. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016: **Members who were present at the Benson Parish Council meeting held Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr J Fowler chair of the meeting signed the minutes as a true record.

6. **Benson Parish Council Planning Committee:**

- a. To approve and sign the minutes of the planning meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017. **Members present at the current meeting resolved to approve the minutes with two members abstaining.**
- b. To consider Planning Applications:
  - i. **BPC76/P16/S4223/O (Outline)** Application Type: Major Proposal: Outline planning application for up to 130 dwellings (including up to 40% affordable housing), structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space, vehicular access from St Helen's Avenue and associated ancillary works. All matters reserved with the exception of the main vehicular access. Address: Land at St Helen's Avenue Benson.  
**Members unanimously resolved to object to the application** on the grounds of:

**Main Objection:**

The developer has not provided sufficient evidence that the Noise, Vibration and Safety concerns can be sufficiently mitigated. These are material considerations which override the SODC Plan being out of date.

**Other Objections:**

The local highway network does not have the capacity to accommodate the additional traffic generated by this development when all the other pending applications are taken into consideration. There is a cumulative impact which has not been considered.

The 139 Bus Service no longer runs to Benson.

The application makes much of a claim of 31% of the gross site being informal open space. However, this is an outline application so there is no guarantee that this layout will actually be provided.

The Design & Access Statement claims the choice of housing will meet the needs of the local area but there is no detail about the type of housing being provided so the claim is worthless.

The site is stated to be "species poor" but has a badger set and also various species of countryside butterfly including Gatekeeper, Marbled White, Ringlet and Meadow Brown. The provision of more opportunities for garden butterflies, as claimed in the Ecological Appraisal does nothing for the Countryside butterflies.

There will be a sense of loss of openness from the PROW if the development proceeds. There will be a major/moderate impact on the residents of St Helen's Avenue and the current views of the built-up area of Benson from the PROW are distant.

The developer is obliged to show a net gain in biodiversity. This does not appear to be proved in the documentation provided.

The Foul Drainage Analysis states there would be capacity issues and an upgrade required to the Preston Crowmarsh pumping station all of which require further analysis. There are too many unknowns to give permission for this development.

The Transport Assessment claims Old London Road has a 2m pavement. This is not correct since the 400m of Old London Road closest to the development has no pavement at all. It is also claimed the cycle time to the District Council offices is 10 minutes - I don't think even Sir Chris Hoy could cycle 14 miles to Milton Park in 10 minutes!!

The traffic data forming the basis of the Transport Assessment only captures data from a single day which will not give a representative data figure. The figures for St Helen's Avenue are lower than our figures (their PM Peak figures are particularly low). Our figures have been validated by GVA

It should be noted that this is a departure land for Police, Air Ambulance and RAF helicopters. Building here will close this as an air exit and so will impact on-station time for the police and ambulance helicopters in particular (putting lives potentially at risk) and reduce the flexibility of the airspace.

The final objection is in terms of Prematurity and the Neighbourhood Plan.

- ii. **BPC76/P17/S0110/PDH: Erection of conservatory extension.** Depth: 5.6m Height: 3.6m Height to eaves: 2.4m AT: 36 Crown Lane Benson OX10 6LP SODC are only able to consider comments from the owners/occupants of adjoining properties and are unable to take any views or comments from the Council

**The Council are unable to comment on the grounds of Permitted Development.**

- iii. and iv. Littleworth Road Consultations Proposed Traffic calming, 20mph Speed Limit & Weight Limit & Zebra Crossings

**Members unanimously resolved to respond to the Consultation as individuals** . any response needs to consider the bigger picture, the impact of development around Chalgrove, the Edge Road proposals and to comment on zebra crossings.

- c. To note for information only

- i. **BPC78/P16/S3922/FUL** Atalanta Garage Beggarsbush Hill Benson OX10 6PL Amendment: No. 2 - dated 18th January 2017 Proposal: Demolition of garages, workshops and offices and replaced with six dwellings with car parking, comprising of three detached houses, a pair of semidetached houses and a detached bungalow. As amended by plan ref BS315 099 P3 which shows turning opportunity for emergency vehicles and parking spaces to current dimensional standards. (As amplified by the Noise Impact Assessment Report dated 17 January, 2017) **Noted**

- d. To note Planning Decisions – there were no decisions to note.
- e. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Chair had nothing to report.

7. **Benson Parish Council Finance Committee:**

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. **Members who were present at the Benson Parish Council finance committee meeting held Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr J Fowler chair of the meeting signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To present finance recommendations to Council:

- i. **Recommendation to Full Council: To accept a transfer of the Millstream Carpark from SODC ownership plus £10,000 as running cost compensation**

It was explained that £10,000 would cover the main costs of maintenance to include: re-surfacing and white-lining for a number of years. In addition, this was the maximum amount of allocation without the necessity to take to Committee.

Members were happy to agree to the recommendation on the basis that the situation with regards to business rates was first established and that the need for any immediate repairs were undertaken by SODC prior to any handover

**Members present resolved to agree as above by 9 votes with 1 abstention.**

- ii. **Recommendation to Full Council: To engage Stuart Wilbur to carry out an internal audit for the year 2016/17 at a cost of £650 plus VAT**

**Members present unanimously resolved to approve the recommendation.**

c. To receive a report from the chairman of the finance committee. The Chairman stated there would be items to note in the confidential session later but had nothing further to report.

8. **Benson Parish Council Halls Committee:**

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the Halls Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (not 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016)

**Members who were present at the last Halls Committee Meeting approved the minutes.** Cllr J Fowler signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To present halls recommendations to Council. There were no recommendations to present

c. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Halls Committee. In the absence of Cllr T McTeague Cllr Peers had sent the following updates by e-mail.

- i. The Pre-Planning application for the Hall Extension has been submitted to SODC

- ii. The leak at the Youth Hall has been fixed and the RFO is dealing with the insurance claim
- iii. The clerk is awaiting a response from the Church Trustees with regards to a request from the Toddler Group to put a sand pit in the garden.

9. **Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee:**

- a. There was no meeting of the Recreation and Lands committee held in January 2017.
- b. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Recreation and Lands Committee. Cllr P Baylis reported that:
  - i. The Chiltern Society were applying for funding to replace the stiles in the paddocks with kissing gates.
  - ii. Formal contact has been made with the RAF over the felling of trees and a date for the consultation meeting with owners/residents was awaited.
  - iii. The pothole in the access road at College Farm has been filled at the council's expense.
  - iv. A request was made for the path at the bus stop in the College Farm area, to be salted. **Action:** clerk to inform Groundsman

CLK

10. **Benson Parish Council Technology Committee:**

- a. To approve and sign the minutes of the Technology Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – deferred until the next meeting.
- b. To receive a report from the Chair of the Technology Committee. There was nothing to report.

11. **Benson Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:**

- a. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Steering Group. See attached report from Cllr J Fowler Annex C

12. **Benson Parish Council Working Groups.**

- a. To receive a report from Cllr S McCann on communications with Benson United Football Club (BUFC).

Cllr McCann reported that there had been a good deal of misalignment in communication with BUFC over the years. There is a need for clarification on certain issues which include:

- i. The Parish Council's strategy generally towards the club
- ii. Financial contributions and obligations from BUFC for use of the pavilion including the tea bar and grass cutting
- iii. BUFC's access to other Grant Funding and their payments to the FA;
- iv. Previous issues raised about Safeguarding
- v. The contribution and obligations of Benson Parish Council and BUFC to the health and well-being of the community

**Action:** a meeting to be arranged between BUFC, Cllr McCann and the Clerk in order to facilitate working relationships and a positive partnership for the future.

Cllr Fowler asked Cllr McCann to request a copy of the Football Club latest audited accounts.

13. **Benson Parish Council Chairman:**

a. To receive a report from the Chairman. Cllr P Peers sent her thanks to Cllr Murray and his team for their work regarding the very informative Benson Flyer which has been distributed to all Parishioners.

b. To report on any items or issues brought forward. None reported.

14. **To discuss and agree any Proposals or Approvals.** No proposals had been submitted.

15. **Correspondence:**

a. To review correspondence and post received as detailed on attached list.

**Post received for meeting Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

<b>Post/Emails Received</b>	<b>Action</b>
1. Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme forwarded 15.12.16	Note
2. OALC No capping for next year forwarded 15.12.16	Note
3. River Thames Alliance Commentary forwarded 18.01.17	Note
4. December 2016 Report on S106 Funds forwarded 10.01.17	Note
5. Ewelme Hazardous Waste Transfer Station forwarded 04.01.17	Note
6. Chiltern Society concerns about planning in AONB forwarded 13.01.17	Note
7. Oxfordshire LEADER Funding January update forwarded 13.01.17	Note
8. Oxfordshire's health and care services consultation forwarded 17.01.17	Note
9. FOBL William Ryan Talk forwarded 19.01.17	Note
10. FOBL 100 club Appeal forwarded 12.01.17	Note
11. SODC Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement 13.01.17	Note
12. As above 2 <sup>nd</sup> e-mail forwarded 13.01.17	Note
13. OALC Training courses for 2017 forwarded 13.01.17	Note
14. Thank you letters from OAB and Samaritans for grants of £100 & £130	Note
15. Nomination of Neighbourhood Planning Group for Don Fletcher Award	<b>Action CLK</b>
16. Request to hold Masons Fun Fair on Sunnyside in June f'wd 18.01.17	<b>Action CLK</b>
17. Consultation on new Unitary Authority for Oxfordshire f'wd 19.01.17	<b>Action All</b>
18. Use of Bob's corner: 11 <sup>th</sup> March (Benson Striders) & 3 <sup>rd</sup> June (FOBS)	<b>Action CLK</b>

19. Request from Age UK to use the Car Park for their Bus f'wd 19.01.17	<b>Action CLK</b>
20. Conservative Party Candidate request to address Council f'wd 19.01.7	<b>Action CLK</b>
21. Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan forwarded 23.01.17	Note
22. Didcot Garden Town Draft forwarded 20.01.17	Note

**Action Items: Clerk to action/respond to requests**

15 Refer to the Awards Committee

16 Councillors were happy for this to go ahead providing Drip trays were provided under axels etc.; any ruts were made good; if wet there may be the need to cancel.

17 Councillors should respond individually to the Consultation

18 There were no objections to either of these

19 Again – no objections

20 To be invited at 7.15 on 23<sup>rd</sup> February

b. To review Parish Office Notes as detailed on attached list (to follow). None attached.

16. **Finance:**

a. To sign off the reconciled bank statement for the current account as at 28<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

**Members present unanimously resolved to approve the reconciled bank statement as at 28<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

b. To consider Grant applications payable under powers from 1972 Local Government Act (s137) for the following:

i. Application from the Millstream Day Centre for £1200.

**£1200 Granted (Members voted 9 in favour and one against)**

ii. South and Vale Carers Centre for £150.

**£150 Granted (Unanimous)**

iii. Home Start Southern Oxfordshire for £300

**£150 Granted (Unanimous)**

iv. Parishes Against Gravel Extraction for £1250

**£1250 Granted (7 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention)**

**Action:** Accounts to be circulated and Benson population figure to be identified.

**CJF**

v. Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice Bureau £750

**£250 Granted (7 in favour, 3 against)**

vi. Friends of Benson Library for £1300

**£1300 Granted (Unanimous)**

vii. St Helens Church for £907.20

**£907.20 Granted (Unanimous)**

viii. Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice for £150

**£150 Granted (Unanimous)**

c. To sign cheques as detailed on the attached list (to follow). Completed. .

17. **Questions to the Chairman:** There were no questions to the chairman. However, Council entered a Confidential Session to discuss staffing matters.

18. **Items for Councillors to Note.**

a. Cllr Lovesey noted work should start on the 2018 End of the Great War Celebrations asap.

**Action:** Clerk to liaise with History Group and British Legion.

**CLK**

b. Cllr McCann suggested members should investigate the use of My Parish website and the establishment of a webpage where members could access documents without the need for attachment to e-mails.

**Action:** both items to be referred to the next Tech Committee meeting.

**CLK**

c. Cllr Stevenson informed the meeting that he has a quantity of Hazel from Millbrook Mead available in his compost bin. Please help yourselves – voluntary contributions welcome.

19. **To confirm the date of the next council meeting.**

Thursday 23rd February 2017.

20. **Dates of Next Meetings:**

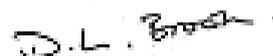
a. Parish Council Meeting. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017.

b. Finance Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

c. Halls Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

d. Recreation and Lands Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

e. Planning Meetings (to be notified).



Dianne Brooks  
Parish Clerk  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## **Annex A SODC Report from Cllr F Bloomfield**

### **Planning Matters.**

Didcot Garden Town is a major part of our plan for development in the District, offering a significant number of jobs and home. Following the consultation, all comments from the website, events and conversations with community groups are being used to help prepare a draft masterplan for the Garden Town. This masterplan and vision for the area, supported by a Garden Town delivery plan setting out how this vision will become a reality, will be published in spring / summer 2017, at which point the community will have another opportunity to comment. I am often asked questions about highways, education and health matters however, if you have concerns about any of these areas please contact your County Councillors or the Cabinet Members responsible at County Hall. Their details can be found on the OCC website. As a planning authority we consult OCC about these three areas when large planning proposals are submitted and it is important they have a clear picture of local issues, whether there are faults with the highway infrastructure or places at local schools and medical centres are near capacity etc. If OCC object to planning applications on any of these matters it gives us as the planning authority more robust reasons to refuse proposals and to fight them should they go to Appeal.

### **Neighbourhood Planning Up-date.**

During December, Minister For Housing Gavin Barwell MP, announced new ways Neighbourhood Plans will affect development. This has significant implications for existing and up and coming Neighbourhood Plans and emphasises the importance of keeping them up to date. Naturally, developers are none too keen on this, which puts planning back in the hands of democratically elected representatives and local communities rather than developers barristers and they are challenging the Minister's decision with a Judicial Review.

### **Enforcement**

- 46 new cases opened
  - 30 cases closed
  - Seven cases closed were more than six months old
- Our six week performance was 96 per cent this month well above target. We are continuing to find success in persuading landowners to regularise breaches (voluntary compliance). Seven out of nine cases closed as 'not expedient to pursue' were householder issues relating to fences, decking and sheds. Four cases are progressing to formal action.

### **A competition for new businesses**

Together with our partner Council, Vale of the White horse, we are sponsors of a new competition for businesses which are less than two years old.

Southern Oxfordshire New Business Competition 2017 (SONBC '17) is accepting applications from 1 January to 28 February. Judges are looking for the brightest rising stars in local business, whatever their trade or industry.

The winner will receive a serviced office rent-free for a year, plus a host of other great prizes to help boost their business including: expert branding and website advice, social media coaching, IT consultancy and support, accountancy services and a full programme of business mentoring. For more information and to download an application form go to [www.sonbc.co.uk](http://www.sonbc.co.uk)

### **Grants available to help get residents active**

New funding from Sport England will be available to councils, community groups and sports clubs from January 2017. The funding is aimed at projects which reduce inactivity, increase volunteering and improve facilities.

- Community Asset Fund for capital projects to provide new or enhanced facilities, or new facilities in fields or unused buildings. Types of projects that could be eligible include renovating a sports pavillion, installing floodlighting or creating a new sports pitch. £5,000 - £150,000 is available.
- Inactivity Fund for revenue projects that increase activity levels in people aged 55 and over such as Walking Football or care home activities. Funding is anticipated to be between £250,000-£500,000.
- Volunteer Funding which targets under-represented groups and young people aged 10-20 years. Projects could include charities and organisations working with groups to promote volunteering opportunities for example matching volunteers to sports club volunteering roles.

For more information please contact Cath Dale, Participation Officer on 07801 203 551 or 01235 422222 or by email [cath.dale@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:cath.dale@southandvale.gov.uk).

### **The Syrian Crisis And Refugees.**

The plight of people in Syria is a tragedy and we, as a District are doing our bit. The Government's policy is to take refugees directly from the camps and we have signed up to take two of the families identified by the officials on the ground. The first of these families will arrive later this month and a home has been made available for them under the Government's scheme. This will provide a safe environment for these people until things in Syria are stable and they are able to return home.

### **Councils' meet Food Standards Agency targets**

The Food Standards Agency has recently published its report on local authority food law enforcement for the period 2015-16.

Out of the 323 English authorities that provided data, only 18 met the target to complete 100% of inspections scheduled for the year. Both South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are included within these 18, and are the only Oxfordshire authorities to have met this target. Both councils also achieved the national average of 93% for food premises that are 'broadly compliant' with food law.

You can read more in the full report which also includes details of enforcement action taken and activities such as food sampling at this link which you will need to cut and paste !

<http://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=08c4b424a5&e=eda6ce4f57>

### **Adverse weather plan**

During the winter months waste collections might be disrupted by adverse weather conditions. Our Adverse Weather Plan sets out how the councils and Biffa will address the operational issues caused by snow and ice and flooding.

Adverse Weather Plan (South) is here and yes, it is another long link to cut and paste:

<http://southandvale.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=2a8495f1e1&e=eda6ce4f57>

We will keep people up to date with disruption information through our websites, social media, the local press and media.

If you suffer any long term disruption you can call the Biffa call centre on 03000 610 610.  
For more information about waste collections during adverse weather contact 01235 422406 or email the Waste Team.

Councillor Felix Bloomfield  
South Oxfordshire District Council

## **Annex B: Littleworth Road Response**

### **Neighbourhood Planning Strategic Infrastructure Team**

#### **1. The Big Picture**

It is disappointing that OCC appear to be pressing ahead with the road changes associated with Littleworth Rd Phase 1 when so many other proposals are now in the pipeline which have a bearing on these arrangements. We would very much wish to get OCC Planning round a table to discuss the Big Picture at the earliest opportunity and before this consultation is actioned and our options reduced.

#### **2. Alternatives**

We are currently engaged with the Chalgrove Planners (GVA), with the possibility of an edge road around Benson centre very much on the agenda. It has to be a discussion point as to how many of these changes on Littleworth will be required if an edge road becomes a reality. It could well be that a developer could save money on Littleworth changes to help finance an edge road.

Alternatively, if an edge road never becomes a reality, then Littleworth would offer the only viable alternative route through the village from Watlington, and it would seem unwise to limit options at this stage. It might be worth pointing out that this is what the appeal Inspector envisaged in allowing the appeal.

#### **3. The Nightmare Scenario**

The team consider this to be the nightmare scenario – that Watlington gets an edge road but Benson doesn't. Thus there would probably be no weight limit on the B4009 into Benson, there would be extra Watlington traffic on top of the Benson new traffic plus all the Chalgrove traffic as well. Our calculations (which are matched by the Chalgrove people) show traffic down Watlington Rd could increase by 50% – 60%, and there would be an increase in heavy traffic as well. If Littleworth is not available as an alternative, then the existing through routes of Oxford Rd and Church Rd would become seriously overloaded in our view.

#### **4. Detail**

- Crossings: At both the proposed Watlington Rd and Littleworth Rd crossings the team would wish to see more than a zebra crossing. A light controlled crossing on each would be our preference for different reasons.

- 20 mph zone: we will be recommending further 20 mph areas in the village and would prefer to see such measures consulted on in one package to reduce costs and for overall understanding

- Weight Limit: We believe the OCC Officer introduced this to avoid safety issues with heavy traffic turning across the traffic flow at the eastern end of Littleworth. However, we believe there is an alternative strategy (re-align the road) and do not support the view that all HGV traffic route through Castle Square. We need an alternative route.

- Build Outs: This will all depend on the envisaged use of the road.

#### **5. Summary:**

The team suggest that the PC seeks a delay in this consultation to enable further discussions to take place. Such discussions should include someone from the NP team as well as the PC, along with someone from GVA and our MP to emphasize the bigger picture.

## Annex C: Benson Neighbourhood Plan Report



### Benson Neighbourhood Plan Report – January 2017

#### **1. BEN3 / BEN4**

A meeting with the developers of BEN3 / BEN4 (David Wilson Homes and Turley) was held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. They are proposing to submit a planning application for 260 dwellings in April. They are also going to be providing a 6m “Edge Street” through the development and provide land to the Parish Council at the northern edge of the development.

I asked them to reduce the number of houses planned to the North of Port Hill Road but they stated this would not be possible. To be continued.....

#### **2. Draft Plan**

The Pre-Submission Plan (Draft Plan) is going to be produced next month. There is then a 6 month statutory process to get the Plan to Adoption. The Draft Plan will be ‘reserving’ space for an Edge Road as it is unlikely confirmation of the Chalgrove Airfield development will be received in the timescales required for our Plan.

#### **3. Village Meeting**

A village meeting is being held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 19:00 to update residents on progress with the Plan and where the Plan will be proposing development takes place.