

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2019

AT ST PETERS CHURCH, HORTON AT 6.30pm

Page 1015

Public Forum

- A) 7 members of the public in attendance of the meeting.
- B) Cllr Linda Vijeh was in attendance of the meeting. Please see attached report (**Appendix 1**) written by Cllr Linda Vijeh for SCC/SSDC Councillor Monthly Report.
- 3065 PRESENT** Cllrs Adele Brady – Chair, David Johnson – Vice Chair, Philippa Woodman, Julie Layzell, Ann Richards, Ray Buckler and Ann Winter.
- 3066 APOLOGIES** Cllrs David Lester and Richard Clifford.
- 3067 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.
- 3068 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** Minutes of the meeting held in September having previously been circulated were approved as a true record and correct record of the meeting, subject to the amendment above. Cllrs approved, seconded and unanimously agreed.
- 3069 PLAYING FIELD UPDATE**
- Please refer to **Appendix 2** for an update on the playing field project.
 - Cllr Ray Buckler brought to the attention of the Council that the Playing Field Company missed missing rivets etc when auditing the site in the summer. Clerk to speak with Winsham Parish Council as it was understood they have experienced the same issues with the same company.
- 3070 REVIEW TENDER APPLICATIONS AND APPOINT CONTRACTOR**
One completed and one incomplete tender application were received. It has been decided that the review and decision will be deferred at this time to allow the Clerk to find out more about the services that SSDC offer. Item to be listed on December's agenda.
- 3071 A358 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS** Chairman of Broadway Parish Council, Cllr Peter Gregory, requested this item was listed on the agenda as he wanted to address Horton Parish Council with the concerns relating to the A358 improvements and SSDC's Local Plan Review and the impact that this could have on Horton and Broadway. Please refer to **Appendix 3** for a copy of the reports produced by Broadway Parish Council and that was presented to the Council.
- 3072 SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION – MEETING DETAILS** Cllr Ann Winter has been liaising with Somerset County Council and the Village Hall to find a date a time suitable for all parties. The date agreed for the presentation will be on the 19th May 2020 and will be between 9am and 1pm.
- 3073 WEBSITE & ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS** Clerk received an email from a company called TEEC Limited who produce websites. Cllr Ray Buckler has looked into the proposals from TEEC Limited and informed the Council that the cost of a new website would be £10 per month. Various other emails have been received from website companies offering their services, however, it was unanimously agreed during the meeting to appoint TEEC Limited to produce a website. Clerk to contact company and start the process of building a new website which will be compliant to the new Accessibility Regulations coming into force in 2020.

3074 PLANNING APPLICATION(S)

- A) 19/02432/OUT – Land at Nyworthy Farm, Whitney Hill, Whitney - Outline application for the erection of up to 9 dwellings with all matters reserved except access.

Discussions were held. During the Parish Council meeting held earlier this week (18th), planning ref. 19/02432/OUT was considered. The Parish Council comments are as follows:

- Support the outline plan for the idea of building the houses on the farm site however, unnecessary extension to Village boundary, when there are other infill sites closer to the village centre.
- Nine units is too many for an edge of village location and the arrangement looks too regimented. The layout doesn't reflect the character and pattern of this part of the village which is more of an informal ribbon development along Pottery Road and Shave Lane - with just some pockets of land behind built on as infill.
- The units look the size of 3/4 bedroom dwellings - another development potentially not providing lower cost / smaller houses for the open market for first time buyers or younger people wanting to stay in the village
- It would be good to see some affordable homes built on this development.
- There must be mix of different sized houses including some affordable ones not all large ones.
- Concerned about traffic issues, the access road, the junction around Pottery Road, Crock Street and Shave Lane and the volume of traffic from the new houses. Also, the access road is near the A303 bridge and any cars coming out from the access road may not be seen by cars coming into Horton as they will be hidden by the overpass. This part of the road is outside the 30 limit and cars come past rapidly until they reach Martins Farm further up the hill.
- Access road is near the A303 bridge and any cars coming out from the access road may not be seen by cars coming into Horton as they will be hidden by the overpass. This part of the road is outside the 30 limit and cars come past rapidly until they reach Martins Farm further up the hill.
- Only about three years ago we agreed planning for a very large barn on this site looking at the new proposal this building and several other farm buildings will be demolished to make way for the new houses.
- It would be nice to get a donation for the playing field if it goes through.
- Loss of farm business in rural setting
- Close to Mobile phone mast.

- B) 19/02880/FUL – Horton Cross Farm, Old A358, Horton – The change of use of ground floor from dwelling (Use Class C3) to a mixed use of workshop (Use Class B1) and a retail shop (Use Class A1) and installation of a flue to the east elevation.

Discussions were held. The Parish Council unanimously voted to support the application.

- C) 19/02885/LBC - Horton Cross Farm, Old A358, Horton – Alterations and improvements to refurbish farmhouse including ventilation flue to east elevation, new stairs, new door to existing stairs, repair of windows, installation of secondary glazing and other improvements.

Discussions were held. The Parish Council unanimously voted to support the application.

- D) 19/02769/HOU – 3 Orchard Mead, Horton - Demolition of existing porch and erection of new larger one with hipped roof.

Discussions were held. The Parish Council unanimously voted to support the application.

E) Amended Plans – 19/01309/OUT – Former Lamb Inn, Horton Cross

The parish council were due to consider the amended plans notification re the above site during the meeting last night. However, the proposed changes are unknown. Furthermore, there are no documents upload to the website which explains the amendments. Consequently, until the details of the amendments are known, Horton Parish Council still uphold their objection to the application.

F) Amended Plans – 19/01189/FUL – Land at Riverside, Horton

The consultation letter gave a reply date of the 7th November. The Clerk requested from the case officer an extension of time. The response received from SSDC was:

‘With this application there have been a series of delays due to the change in case officer. We should have reconsulted on this one weeks ago and the applicant has been very patient. The only changes are the rearranging of the two westernmost bungalows to improve the parking and the deletion of the gable window on the southern gable of the house on Goose Lane. In my opinion the new arrangements are an improvement on the earlier scheme. The Parish Council last commented on the previous scheme on 20/5 and voted to support the scheme subject to measures to protect the two retained trees on the site. Our Arboricultural Officer has agreed tree protection measures that will ensure the trees are retained. Due to these delays I am reluctant to go back to the agent and request a further extension of time. There is always the risk that they will lose patience and lodge an appeal against non-determination which would take control of the application out of our hands and would have financial implications for the Council. As your members will be aware the site has been cleared and it would be better for the amenity of the area if work was commenced as soon as possible. For these reasons I am reluctant to extend the consultation period. I would be grateful if you would raise these concerns with your Chair and get back to me.’

The proposed amendments were considered during the meeting. The Council note the amendments and have no further comments to make.

The planning application was ‘approved subject to conditions’ on the 15th November 2019.

3075 PLANNING DECISIONS None.

3076 FINANCE

- a) Proposal - To Approve Financial Statement
- b) Proposal – The draft budget for 2020/2021 was discussed, amended and unanimously approved. The budget will be added to January’s 2020 meeting for formal approval.
- c) Proposal – To approve payment of the following cheques:
 - M F Salmon – Grass cutting – Cheque No. 000750 - £53.00 – Unanimously Approved.
 - C Duff – Wages and expenses – Cheque No. 000751 - £502.29 – Unanimously Approved.

3077 CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- An email was received from:
 - Yeovil Without Parish Council – The email was sent to a number of clerks informing them that Yeovil Without Parish Council have resolved in principle to a 3-year funding commitment to St Margaret’s Hospice in the 2020 budget. Horton PC discussed this matter and resolved to add it to December’s agenda for further consideration.
 - Somerset County Council providing an update on the winter service for 2019/20. Noted. Clerk to forward email to all Cllrs.
 - What3Words – The email was to touch base with parish councils and to offer any support, if required. Noted.
 - House of Commons – MP Marcus Fysh has written to all parish council within his jurisdiction informing them that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has released a letter concerning ‘protecting England’s heritage. Noted.
 - Somerset County Council – The email contained details of a temporary road closure of Suggs Lane on the 25th November 2019 for 1 day. Noted.
 - South Somerset District Council – ‘Notice of Particulars’, ‘Polling Stations’ and ‘Statement as To Persons Nominated and Notice of Poll’ were received. The relevant notices to be displayed in Horton PC’s noticeboard.
- Clerk informed the Cllrs that new Antivirus software is required for the parish council’s laptop. Clerk to look into sourcing correct antivirus package.

3078 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN

- Update from Horton Village Hall - Councillor Ann Winter gave a report to Horton Village Hall Committee In November 2019. Please refer to **Appendix 4** for the update that was given.

3079 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 16th December 6.30pm.

3080 CLOSED SESSION: The clerk has agreed to stay in position for the foreseeable future, but the letter of resignation is to stay in place. Clerk informed the Council of payrates of other surrounding Council’s and it was unanimously agreed to award a pay rise to the clerk. The agreed hourly rate for the clerk is now £11.50.

APPENDIX 1 - ILMINSTER DIVISION COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – OCTOBER 2019

SSDC – Homeless & Rough Sleeper Strategy

There were 478 homeless application decisions taken in Somerset during 2018/19. Of these, 218 were owed a homelessness duty. The most common reason being the loss of an assured shorthold tenancy, and the main priority need was having dependent children.

58% of eligible applicants were aged 25 – 44; with 25% of applicants aged 16-24 year old.

1495 prevention and relief cases were received during 2018/19, with 133 assisted to remain in their accommodation and 516 assisted into alternative accommodation.

SSDC is the only Somerset authority with no-one currently housed in B&B accommodation.

SSDC ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY (ES)

At this month's meeting the proposed initial plans for the ES approved, acknowledging that it is still in its early stages.

The objective of the ES is to help achieve the aim of caring for and enhancing the natural environment and to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change by promoting the development and adoption of a sustainable environment, economy and communities in South Somerset and to achieve a reduction in SSDC's carbon emissions.

Support for cycling to work initiatives are part of this.

Four priority outcomes have been identified:

- reduce reliance on fossil fuels
- reduce emissions
- minimise waste and increase recycling
- offset carbon emissions

SSDC are currently the only local authority actively engaging with Somerset Rivers Authority.

Battery Energy Storage Site (BESS)

As part of its increasing its green investments and commit to its new ES, SSDC's Battery Energy Storage site (BESS) is to expand to its maximum capacity by developing another 5MW with SSDC Opium Power Ltd to produce and store more clean and renewable energy, to provide support to the National Grid.

The site near Taunton, developed earlier this year, is one of the largest battery storage facilities in the country. This project is intended to provide a significant financial return over the next few decades and is seen as an important step towards securing Somerset's contribution to help achieve the UK's Carbon Neutral target.

AVON & SOMERSET POLICE - INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP

Operation Remedy was launched 6 months ago to tackle Drugs, Knife Crime and Burglary.

Results have been positive, with officers making four arrests per day. There has been a sustained reduction in the number of burglary offences (661 fewer than last year)

Drugs-related arrests are up by 7%, with officers seizing £1.3m. worth of drugs

There has been a 45% inc. in the number of knife possession offences as a result of intelligence-led stop and searches, multiple knife sweeps and active train station presence.

Other recent activity has focused on reducing incidents of hate crime, and also heightening awareness of modern slavery in the area.

The recruitment of more officers is actively underway. New Outreach Workers have completed their initial training and are keen to get involved in any community events taking place, with the purpose of driving up recruitment activity within local communities, who are not well represented at the moment. In addition to this, Outreach Workers offer 'Discovery Workshops', where residents can find out more about what it means to work for the police.

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Discussion in relation to the future shape of the fire service continues, with significant input from local communities, and those officially representing firefighters.

One of the options being considered is the use of roving appliances, as used by other emergency services, in order to maximise resources, and assist in handling ongoing challenges in relation to the recruitment of on-call firefighters.

BROADBAND UPDATE

In September the Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) board voted to end its contracts with Gigaclear; they were unable to agree an acceptable recovery plan with Gigaclear following significant delays in its roll-out of full-fibre broadband.

Gigaclear is now evaluating its commercial plans for the region, focussing on completing works in progress. Those in areas previously covered by Gigaclear's contracts are advised to contact them for information at <https://www.gigaclear.com/devon-and-somerset>

At central government level there remains commitment to ensuring that residents will benefit from world-class broadband infrastructure. CDS have been working on a new procurement process to commence a tender process to contract new serviced providers.

CDS continue to identify companies that are building broadband commercially in the area to gain a more accurate view of the areas that will continue to need public subsidy.

CDS aims to launch the 'Invitation To Tender' process before the end of Dec., with the intention of receiving tenders by late Spring, and to have a preferred bidder in place by Sept., expecting to award contracts by Nov. 2020, once due diligence is complete.

The rural gigabit voucher scheme remains open to all residents. The scheme focuses on aggregated community solutions where there are a number of premises in communities with low broadband speeds. Group projects are when two or more residents and/or SMEs combine vouchers towards the shared cost of installation. The first step is to find a supplier in your area, available from this website page: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/>

The Better Broadband scheme, which may help some residents to secure a basic broadband service remains open until 31 December 2019.

COMMUNITIES PREPARED PROGRAMME

This hub offers in-person training, advice and support for community emergency volunteer groups. Flexible training modules on incident management, flooding, snow and utilities failure are also available as free downloads, along with sample flood and emergency action plans and resources to support volunteer groups, and fundraising. There is also an online members' forum and a map of community resilience activity nationwide, will enable sharing of knowledge and best practice. Visit communitiesprepared.org.uk for more information.

DONYATT TRAFFIC

The section of road around Pound Corner on the approach to the village from the north, and accidents in this area, continues to cause concern, despite traffic calming measures currently being installed.

CHAFFCOMBE ROAD CLOSURE

Considerable concern has been raised in relation to the planned closure by Wessex Water on 4th Nov, for 4 weeks, as this is the main route in and out of Chaffcombe.

Local residents have suggested introducing a one-way system for the village as the other 2 roads are not appropriate for sustained 2-way traffic.

The closure also affects 2 local businesses which use the road.

To date I have not received a response from either Wessex Water or Highways.

RIGHTS OF WAY – LONG DROVE BRIDLE APPLICATION

I met with the officer this month in relation to ongoing case work. The report has now been prepared and a final decision is expected to be taken at SCC's Regulation Committee, possibly in Dec.

SSDC - FIVE YEAR LAND SUPPLY

The Five-year Housing Land Supply Report has now been updated and published on the SSDC web site - <http://membersportal/planning/five-year-housing-land-supply-report/>

The report shows that there is currently a **4.5 year** supply. This is an improvement on the 4 year supply of 2018, but does mean that the adopted Local Plan policies relating to housing supply are considered to be out-of-date for the purpose of making planning decisions, leaving the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in paragraph 11 of the NPPF.

PLANNING

This is an area which continues to give rise to a number of complaints. A new planning portal has been set up in order to make it simpler for members of the public to access information, track applications, and also to report planning breaches or enforcement issues.

Concern has been raised over the proximity of any proposed new developments to the A358 trunk road. Highways England (HE) have been sending out sound proofing application forms to those who will live close to the road, which will become noisy if their predictions are accurate. It is felt that in considering future applications planning officers need to take this into account and consult with HE for noise and pollution guidance before approval is granted.

Across the country, a number of village halls are experiencing light and noise issues, as a result of new housing developments being built close to them. Several complaints have been subject to legal action, where the village halls in question have then been liable for substantial bills for sound proofing and other noise abatement solutions.

SSDC AUDIT COMMITTEE

Former District Councillor, Derek Yeomans, has been appointed as Independent Member of this committee for an initial period of one year.

SSDC TRANSFORMATION

Completing the transformation programme continues to pose a number of challenges, with several areas still not operating as expected. Plans are in place to remedy this.

FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local authorities met this month, and concern has been raised about the number of pockets of deprivation across the county which have been identified. It is anticipated that a report, giving options for consideration will be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

SSDC CHRISTMAS WORKING

The front office at Brympton Way will be closed to the public from 3pm on 24th Dec., until 2nd Jan., although staff who choose to work during this period will be able to do so, either office based, or remotely from home.

ALLOWENSHAY WATER SUPPLY

I met with local residents this month with a view to facilitating a meeting with SSDC officers to try to resolve the situation. Discussions are ongoing.

GYPSY/TRAVELLERS

I continue to be in regular contact with officers and others to increase contact with this group, with a view to supporting improvement in their lifestyle, with particular emphasis on health and education.

MUCHELNEY HOUSE

I have been contacted by Yarlington in connection with SCC's decision to remove some of Somerset's Extra Care services.

SCC Adult Social Care have indicated that Muchelney House will be the next Yarlington scheme to be decommissioned from Extra Care.

Residents of Muchelney have an average age of 85 and is a popular scheme with a significant waiting list and the proposed changes would have a significant impact on them:

- Removal of 24/7 scheme management currently provided by Yarlington & Somerset Care
- No evening, night-time or weekend scheme presence
- Move to Yarlington's 'Assisted Living' service with weekly customer welfare contacts and weekly health & safety checks
- Properties allocated via Homefinder Somerset to anyone over the age of 55 regardless of care/support need

I have a meeting planned with SCC and Yarlington officers at the end of Nov.

SSDC COMMUNITY GRANTS

Ashill have been received a grant of £1,000 towards their community defibrillator.

MENTAL HEALTH

A free 2-day Mental Health First Aid Course is being held on Weds 29th Nov. and 6th Dec. to help attendees to spot the signs of Mental Health and to provide assistance on a First Aid Basis. Further info. is available from Sophie Chivers - SChivers@Somerset.gov.uk

FRIENDS OF ILMINSTER LIBRARY

The purchase of several items of equipment has been well received. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 23rd Nov. 10am-12noon.

DILLINGTON HOUSE

Winter Wonderland this year will run be on 30th Nov. and 1st Dec., with Christmas stalls and a skate rink.

HORTON PLAYING FIELD PROJECT

The next fund-raising breakfast will be on Sun. 1st Dec.

GEMINI CARNIVAL CLUB

Their next fund-raising breakfast will be at Donaytt VH on Sun. 10th Nov.

ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS

1/10	SSDC – meeting with CEO
1/10	SSDC – Scrutiny Committee
2/10	Ilminster Carnival Quiz
3/10	Avon & Somerset Police – IAG
3/10	Rights of Way meeting - Ashill
3/10	Ilminster Entertainment Society AGM
5/10	Broadway Harvest Supper
6/10	Fund raising b'fast - Horton Playing Field Project
6/10	BHMC – Harvest Service
8/10	Knowle St. Giles parish meeting
10/10	Fairtrade
11/10	Ashill School open day
11/10	Ilminster Cricket Club fund raising event
13/10	Donyatt VH b'fast for Gemini Carnival Club
13/10	Chillington & Cudwoth Harvest Lunch
13/10	Ashill Harvest Service
13/10	Donyatt Harvest Service
14/10	Ilminster Lit. Fest.
14/10	Youth meeting
14/10	SCC – meeting re: Gypsy/Travellers
14/10	Dawes Twine Works visit - Yeovil
14/10	Allowenshay Water Supply meeting
15/10	SSDC – Regulation Committee
16/10	DSFRS member forum
16/10	Allowenshay water supply meeting
17/10	Greenfylde School harvest service
17/10	SSDC – Leader meeting
17/10	SSDC – full council
19/10	Whitelackington VH tabletop sales
26/10	TakeArt performance – St. Mary's Church Isle Abbotts
27/10	Dowlsh Wake community service
28/10	SCC – Rights of Way meeting
28/10	SCC – Gypsy/Traveller meeting
28/10	SCC – Improving Lives Fund meeting
29/10	SSDC – Regulation Committee
30/10	Somerset County Show meeting
31/10	Ilminster Education Foundation
31/10	Horton Playing Field Project Hallowe'en event

APPENDIX 2 – PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

1. Quotes
 - a. Skarryn Coombes, who has been working on the Tenders with Roger, has secured two of the three quotes for the first major works to be done as covered in previous meetings. One further contractor is being chased to supply the third. The gate has now been included in this process
2. Events
 - a. The project team are trying to find ways to create sustainable regular events, that match the yearly calendar. By using the well-known days in the year – we will try to combine bringing the community together on special days along with supporting the facilities in Horton for the longer term.
 - b. Since the last meeting in September we have had a very well attended Big Breakfast on 6th October (150 visitors) and a sell out for the new seasonal themed Halloween party (110 tickets + adults). Together they are likely to add a further £1,000 to the project funds
 - c. Further events underway are another first for our project, being a Family bingo evening on 23rd November, followed by our Christmas Big Breakfast on the 1st of December (we are looking for some breakfast volunteers as several regulars are away on this date).
3. Website
 - a. This is now in full use and we would welcome any thoughts on additional material that could be placed on the site.
4. Grants
 - a. Tesco is delayed until next year
 - b. SCC – Linda to advise on the current situation (purdah due to elections)
 - c. Yarlinton – not this time we have reapplied
 - d. Carling - not this time we have adjusted application and reapplied
 - e. National Lottery – a work in Progress
 - f. Clarks Foundation – pending approval of SSDC
 - g. SSDC – needs the confirmed minutes plus a letter from Parish
 - h. Grant application help – 3rd party professionals have not worked out, need to rethink
5. Maintenance of the field for 2020
 - a. Tenders to be decided tonight
6. Walking Football
 - a. Weather may be in the way of setting this up for 2019, but from initial response by Phill Brady, we should be able to set up a group for 2020

APPENDIX 3 – BROADWAY PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Horton PC's meeting 18 November 2019

Pleased to have the opportunity to address Horton PC. I am Peter Gregory and, as of May this year, Chair of Broadway PC. I would like briefly to touch on 2 important issues where I believe the interests of Horton and Broadway are closely aligned and where it would be desirable for us to work together: the Preferred Route for the A358 and the proposed revision of the SSDC Local Plan.

The first is the one on your agenda: Highways England's Preferred Route for the improvement of the A358. I have sent you a copy of a paper which Broadway PC has approved and sent to Highways England setting out our analysis of the impact of the Route on village life, suggesting ways of mitigating it and asking for a meeting, probably in concert with other PCs. As you see from the note, this boils down to 2 aspects; the closure of the Broadway Street access to the A358 and the minimal improvement to the Southfields Roundabout. It is clear to us that these 2 issues will cause local residents longer journey times and mileages and increased cost, in other words significant inconvenience, plus problems for the emergency services and for non-motorised road users. But we also believe that there are ways around the problems the Preferred Route will pose, some more helpful than others.

The purpose of my raising all this with you this evening is really 3-fold:

- To ask you to formally note our submission to Highways England.
- To encourage discussion of whether the note reflects the views of Horton PC or might be augmented in some way.
- And to suggest that the collaboration between PCs so far and which is planned should benefit from Horton's continued support, Julie Layzell having participated in the first joint meeting and subsequent correspondence.

I am keen to hear what you think.

The second issue is the revision of SSDC's Local Plan. This is not for the most part exciting stuff, but it is very important because it sets the framework for the future development, or protection from over-development, of our 2 communities. I have sent you a copy of Broadway PC's response to SSDC, which was drafted after a colleague and I had a meeting with a member of the

APPENDIX 3 – BROADWAY PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTATION

Planning Department. Our paper focusses on what we believe is the key issue for the future of Broadway – and for Horton; housing.

SSDC propose a shift of one third in the housing development planned for Yeovil to the wider district. In order to do this SSDC propose both a redistribution of planned housing and the creation of a new tier in its hierarchy for development. Currently Broadway and Horton are separate communities, within the Rural Settlement tier, the lowest of the 5 tiers. This means that they are to be protected from significant housing development. The District's failure to identify a 5-year supply of housing land has allowed more housing development in Broadway than would otherwise be justified, but in principle Broadway and Horton are protected by Rural Settlement status.

What is now proposed is that, as part of the redistribution of housing development intended for Yeovil to other areas, Broadway and Horton would be one of 12 free-standing or linked communities designated as Villages, a new tier for development above Rural Settlements. Moreover, each Village would be expected to be the location, on average, of between 60 to 90 additional houses. The impact of this would be to increase the pressure on our communities to provide land for new houses in 2 ways. First, by increasing the presumption in favour of development of land already deemed suitable and available by SSDC. Second, by the encouragement it would give to developers to look for land beyond that already deemed suitable and available.

Broadway PC opposes this approach for reasons set out in our paper. We would like Horton PC to note this formally both because we do not believe that the 2 communities should be regarded as one Village and also because we believe that there could be a significant impact on both our communities, but which might be greater on Horton than on Broadway, because of the availability in your parish of more suitable and available land than in ours.

So I should like you to:

- Note our paper and to consider whether, in any further representations to SSDC, Horton PC would wish to join with Broadway.
- To ask for your reactions to our paper, whether now or separately.

APPENDIX 3 – BROADWAY PARISH COUNCIL – INITIAL RESPONSE TO HIGHWAYS ENGLAND

BROADWAY PARISH COUNCIL

INITIAL RESPONSE TO HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S
PREFERRED ROUTE FOR THE A358 SOUTHFIELDS TO THE M5

Introduction

1. Broadway Parish Council has considered the A358 Preferred Route at 2 public meetings, at each of which members of the public and Councillors expressed serious misgivings about its impact on village life. This note, which was formally approved by the Parish Council on 5 November 2019, sets out its objections to the Preferred Route and suggests ways of mitigating its impact.

Overview

2. The Preferred Route would permanently sever Broadway's direct access to the A358 via Broadway Street (also known locally as Church Road or Lane). The Parish Council also notes that only minor changes are proposed at the Southfields Roundabout, which is already congested at peak and holiday times.
3. The Parish Council believes that in combination these 2 factors would:
 - Have a significantly harmful impact on Broadway by diverting traffic onto country lanes in the village not capable of accommodating it;
 - Involve significant detours and thus delays and costs for local people in travelling to or from the M5 and Taunton;
 - Disrupt Broadway's access to and from communities either side of the Preferred Route, forcing local people into long detours, particularly to the B3168 and blocking access to routes either side of the A358 for non-motorised users;
 - Add to the already serious congestion at the Southfields Roundabout and so disrupt locals' access to the services provided by Ilminster and to the A303 east-bound.
 - Also have a detrimental impact on nearby communities, including Horton, Donyatt and Ashill.

The current position

4. At present, the most direct route to the A358 for Broadway residents is via Broadway Street past the village church. That route provides access north to the M5 and Taunton, east to Ilton and the B3168 beyond and south to Southfields Roundabout, while permitting south-bound traffic on the A358 to reach Broadway via Broadway Street. The Highways England traffic data show that this is a very significant route for such traffic, it being the busiest western side road to the A358 south of the A378. Its importance is demonstrated by Broadway Street being the only side road off the existing A358 south of the A378 which is included in Somerset County Council's winter gritting programme.
5. Occasional closures of Broadway Street for work by utility companies or the County Highways Department have provided evidence of what happens when the route is not available. The alternative route map for a closure in December 2019, for instance, shows that traffic which would have used the Broadway Street junction is advised by the Highways Department to detour via Southfields Roundabout, Horton, Goose Lane and Broadway Road, or the reverse. Goose Lane is not an ideal alternative because of congestion caused by parked cars outside the village shop/post office and the narrowness of Bullen Bridge. It is significant that the Highways Department does not include the shorter route of Suggs Lane as an alternative. This is because for much of its length Suggs Lane is a narrow single-carriageway, with passing points; it is a route unsuitable for vehicles larger than cars, as is confirmed by the HGV advisory sign at its junction with the road from Horton.

6. Broadway residents wishing to visit Ilminster for shopping, work or recreation or to reach the east-bound A303 do so via Southfields Roundabout. However, at peak and holiday times the roundabout can be very congested, with vehicles on the A358 from Chard backing up, sometimes as far as Donyatt. When this happens locals may opt to reach Ilminster by way of Donyatt and Sea, but for those waiting to reach the east-bound A303 there is no alternative unless they wish to use the route via Sea and Ilminster to the A303 at South Petherton, a much extended detour.

The Impact of the Preferred Route:

Access to the A358

7. Between Southfields Roundabout and the junction proposed with the A378 the only access to and from the Preferred Route would be via a grade-separated junction at Rapps, located there for HGV access to and from Ilton Business Park. Looking at the convenience of Broadway villagers wishing to reach the A358, the absence of other junctions than the one at Rapps would result in travelling longer, less convenient routes involving passage through Ashill. This would mean a significant increase in journey times, mileage and traffic in both Broadway and Ashill.

Access from the A358

8. There would be no access from the Preferred Route to Broadway via Broadway Street. For south-bound traffic on the A358, access to Broadway would have to be either by leaving at the proposed Rapps junction or negotiating the Southfields Roundabout to reach Horton and Broadway. The result would be to increase traffic on unsuitable local roads via both routes, to extend travelling times and mileages for traffic and to increase traffic and thus congestion using Southfields Roundabout.

Connectivity across the A358

9. At present access to and from Broadway to villages east of the A358 is good, but the Preferred Route would change this significantly. Traffic from Broadway wishing to reach Ilton and beyond would have long detours to the proposed junction at Rapps via Ashill, or via the Southfields Roundabout and then either north to Rapps or into Ilminster to pick up New Road to the B3168. Journeys to Hatch Beauchamp/Beercrocombe would in future mean a detour via Stewley.

Impact on roads in and around Broadway

10. The provision of a junction only at Rapps would put more traffic onto local roads around Broadway which are unfit to accommodate them. Traffic including lorries, tankers, vans, buses and cars wishing to reach Broadway or to join the Preferred Route from the village would have to use the network of country roads in and around Ashill, Kenny, Hastings and Windmill Hill. The frequent use of these roads by large farm machinery increases the likelihood of congestion.
11. The closure of the Broadway Street junction, and the certainty of increased congestion at Southfields, would see increased use of the unsuitable Suggs Lane, Goose Lane, Broadway Road and Pound Road by out-of-village traffic forced to use the proposed Rapps junction.

12. A particular concern for Broadway residents is that the Preferred Route's changes to the use of local roads, especially the closure of the Broadway Street junction, would have significant implications for the emergency services, including large fire tenders and ambulances, which at present have direct access to the village from the A358 via Broadway Street. Quick access to Broadway would no longer be available. Instead emergency vehicles would have to reach the village via the proposed Rapps junction and Ashill or the Southfields Roundabout and then, for larger vehicles, Horton and Goose Lane, in both cases significantly increasing response times and adding to current concerns over larger vehicles negotiating significant numbers of parked vehicles in Broadway Road.
13. It is also the Parish Council's view that the economic and financial justification for the Preferred Route fails to take account of the economic and social cost of its impact on traffic flows and travellers' convenience on local roads.

Southfields Roundabout

14. Highways England proposes only minor improvements to the Roundabout. Five routes join here (four of which are A Class and one B Class road). Of these, the west-bound and east-bound A303, the A358 from the M5 and the A358 from Chard experience long tail-backs at peak and holiday times. The Preferred Route is predicated on west-bound A303 traffic being directed north onto the dualled A358, rather than proceeding on along the A303 and A30 to the M5 at Exeter. This would result in substantially more traffic than at present turning in front of vehicles seeking to enter the roundabout from Ilminster, the southern A303 and the southern A358. Such an outcome would have 2 significant impacts on Broadway residents.
15. The increased congestion at Southfields to be expected from the Preferred Route's only modest improvements there would increase the likelihood and length of tailbacks on the southern A358 and thus the volume of traffic from Horton and Broadway diverting via Donyatt and Sea, with an impact on both villages and longer journey times and mileages.
16. Second, Broadway residents wishing to reach the east-bound A303 would have 3 unpalatable options: to join the congestion on the southern A358 to reach Southfields, to travel north to the proposed Rapps junction and then proceed south to Southfields or to detour via Sea and Ilminster to pick up the A303 at the South Petherton junction. All of these involve increased travel times and the last 2 significantly increased mileage.
17. According to the latest traffic figures presented by Highways England, traffic using the section of the A358 immediately north of Southfields Roundabout in 2023 is forecast to increase by 67% for the Preferred Pink Route compared to the base traffic levels given (2015). At present Southfields Roundabout is already a huge frustration to road users, with vehicles travelling south from Junction 25 of the M5 even now queueing back as far as Rapps. It is not difficult to see that, with only minor alterations to Southfields Roundabout currently proposed and predicted substantially increased future traffic, frustrated queuing A358 traffic heading southbound (whether local or wanting to travel to London or the south coast) will turn off at the new Rapps junction and use inappropriate minor roads through Ashill, Broadway and Horton.

18. Highways England traffic modelling predictions show increases in traffic for which the Preferred Route will have to cater. Such increases apply also to the area crossed by the Preferred Route, including roads which are congested with the current level of traffic using them. This would be exacerbated by housing developments in the area of the Preferred Route. Broadway and Horton are proposed to be a site for 60-90 new houses in the District Council's proposed revised Local Plan. Such new housing, some of it in the centre of Broadway, will inevitably increase existing congestion in the village, causing further problems for local traffic to and from the A358.

Impact on non-motorised road users

19. The network of roads crossing the A358 is used by pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists, including Broadway Street in Broadway. The Preferred Route would sever access to and across the A358 for these users as it would for vehicles. In particular this would disrupt the route which cycle clubs use through Broadway.

20. Moreover, the Preferred Route would curtail use of footpaths in Section 2 of the Route. Of the 13 footpaths, only 2 (CH1/21 and CH1/6) might be capable of rerouting to use the Rapps junction crossing. At a best estimate, therefore, some 11 footpaths currently available to walkers to cross the A358 would be closed with no future safe provision for crossings, including 3 from Broadway (CH2/15, CH2/16 and CH1/6).

Environmental impact

21. As it stands, the Preferred Route would extend journey distances and times for those Broadway residents wishing to drive to or from the M5 and Taunton or to reach communities to the east of the Route. Increased congestion at the Southfields Roundabout for those wishing to reach Ilminster or the east-bound A303 would increase traffic idling or divert traffic via Donyatt and Sea, thereby increasing journey distances and times. The consequences of all these changes would be to increase CO2 emissions, an outcome directly contrary to the stated objectives of the Preferred Route.

What should be done to overcome the problems created by the Preferred Route?

22. The issues of access to, from and across the Preferred Route are clearly interlinked, as is that of the relationship between motorised and non-motorised access. The Parish Council believes that there are solutions which should be thoroughly investigated by Highways England and the results made public before the public consultation prior to submission of the Application for the required Development Consent Order.

Broadway's access to, from and across the Preferred Route.

23. The Parish Council believes that there are 3 potential solutions to the problems created by the closure of the Broadway Street connection to the A358:

- Option 1: A slip road at the end of Broadway Street to take north-bound traffic off the A358 and village traffic onto it going north;
- Option 2: A bridge from Broadway Street over the dualled A358 to connect with the Cad's Road route to Ilton and to the proposed Rapp's junction;
- Option 3: To move the line of the dualled A358 to the east (as proposed at Kenny) to permit the retention of the existing road, making it available for traffic to move directly between Broadway and Rapp's junction.

24. The Parish Council does not favour Option 1. While it recognises that there would be some benefit for those wishing to travel north or reach the village from the south, it would do nothing to facilitate access to Broadway for south-bound traffic on the A358, including emergency vehicles, or crossing by non-motorised users. Option 2 would facilitate access to and from the A358 via Cad Road and the Rapps junction and to communities to the east of it for vehicles and non-motorised users. Option 3 would achieve the same result as Option 2, though more efficiently for traffic going to the A358 from Broadway or the reverse, but less efficiently for users wishing to reach Ilton and beyond. Options 2 and 3 would also facilitate access for emergency vehicles, more efficiently in the case of Option 3.
25. The Parish Council believes Highways England should seriously consider Options 2 and 3, together with any variants of its own which would achieve the same outcomes, and publish the outcome of its analysis.

Southfields Roundabout

26. The Parish Council is clear that the current proposal of minimal improvement of Southfields Roundabout to facilitate access for A358 south-bound traffic to the east-bound A303 is wholly inadequate for reasons already explained. Moreover, the Parish Council believes that it would also seriously undermine the case for the Preferred Route, since it would have the effect of increasing congestion at the roundabout for southwest-bound traffic from the A303 seeking to reach the M5.
27. It is strongly of the view that the only option consistent with Highways England's objectives of relieving congestion, improving journey reliability times, supporting economic growth and improving safety is to have a continuous, unbroken connection (preferably dual carriageway) between the eastern A303 and the Preferred Route, with access to it from Southfields Roundabout by way of a new grade-separated junction and short link road connection to the northern side of the roundabout to take traffic onto and off the strategic route. This could be augmented by a slip road for west-bound A303 traffic wishing to leave to join the Southfields Roundabout and a slip road from the current A358 north from that roundabout to join the north-bound Preferred Route. Alternatively, a new dumbbell grade-separated junction (similar to the one previously proposed by Highways England for the Rapps junction) could be provided with a 2-way connection link to Southfields Roundabout, thus reducing the number of legs at the roundabout from 5 to 4 and improving circulation efficiency and safety. That would not only solve the problems posed by the Preferred Route at this point, but also remove the considerable disruption which would be caused in the future by the construction work involved in joining the proposed dualled South Petherton/Ilminster A303 to the Preferred Route.

Non-motorised users

28. The Parish Council does not believe that the needs of these users should be ignored. There must be a commitment to safely join the main severed footpaths to the crossings which are proposed where possible. A bridge at Broadway Street, Broadway would assist crossings for all users at this point.

Conclusion

29. Broadway Parish Council believes that, in severing Broadway Street's link to the A358, the Preferred Route would have a hugely damaging impact on Broadway residents by removing a convenient route to, from and across the A358, substituting for this:
- Longer and less suitable routes to reach the M5, Taunton and communities to the east of the A358;
 - Requiring emergency vehicles to take longer journeys to respond to calls from the village;
 - Denying access across the A358 for Broadway residents travelling as pedestrians, cyclists or equestrians.
30. The Parish Council also believes that the failure to commit to joining the Preferred Route directly to the A303 at Southfields would very significantly increase congestion at the roundabout, extend journey reliability times and distances and disrupt access to the locality's main shopping, employment and recreation centre, together with forcing local and non-local traffic on to unsuitable local roads.
31. The consequence of all this would be inconvenience and additional cost for Broadway residents and increased CO2 emissions.
32. The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to put these points directly to the A358 Preferred Route team, perhaps with representatives of other affected villages, and to do so before it consults on the draft Development Consent Order. It also believes that Somerset County Council's Highways officials should be involved in such a meeting order to establish what mitigation planning that Council is undertaking in case the Preferred Route were approved.

5.11.2019

33.

APPENDIX 4 – VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Horton Village Hall AGM – 14th November 2019

Report from Ann Winter, representative of Horton Parish Council on the Horton Village Hall Committee.

The main aspects of my role are –

- Liaison between Horton Parish Council and Horton Village Hall Committee.
- Act as a liaison where appropriate between the hall committee and the playing field committee and the parish council. The parish council and the hall committee are supporting the Playing Field Committee in raising funds etc. I would like to record my thanks to the hall committee for their generous contribution in providing the hall for fund raising activities throughout the year without charge.
- Support the hall as a member of the committee in various fund raising activities and events that take place for example, film club and Festive Feast.
- I am able to bring to both meetings issues that may affect both the village hall and the community, for example, the cutting of the hedge along Broadway Hill at times when a events are taking place and the access path to the hall is not easy to use.
- Work to promote and celebrate the work of hall committee, ensuring the parish council is kept aware of new projects etc.

Ann Winter
November 2019.