Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council, held at Sutton St. Nicholas Village Hall, Bayley Way, Sutton St. Nicholas, Hereford HR1 3SZ on Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.15 pm (SPC/TF/201)

Councillors Present
Cllr Ron Gow
Cllr Ann Burke
Cllr Sharron Haworth
Cllr Ian Nicholas

In attendance
Tony Ford – Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence**
The Parish Council considered and approved apologies for absence for Cllr Richard Andrews and Cllr Katie Bauress.

2. **Receive approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (no SPC/TF/198) held on Tuesday 4th January 2022.**
The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting

3. **Receive approve and sign the confidential minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (no SPC/TF/199) held on Tuesday 4th January 2022.**
The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting

4. **Receive approve and sign the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council (SPC/TF/200) held on Monday 31st January 2022.**
The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting

5. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Dispensations**
There were no requests for dispensation.

6. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.

Councillor	Yes	No	**Agenda Item**		**DPI or NPI**
Cllr Ron Gow		√			
Cllr Ann Burke		√			
Cllr Sharron Haworth		√			
Cllr Ian Nicholas		√			

7. **Herefordshire Council Chief Executive**.
Mr Paul Walker - Herefordshire Council Chief Executive in attendance.
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Cllr Ron Gow asked Mr Paul Walker the Herefordshire Council Chief Executive if Herefordshire Council was a viable Council, The Chief Executive was of the view that it was and highlighted

- Savings made
- The Council was more efficient
- Additional income such as grants were always applied for.
- People Services was where the challenge was
- The Council does not overspend on Social Care.

- Delivering core services
- The Council only gets a one-year settlement rather than a three-year settlement, which impacts on medium term planning
- Stronger Cities grant – £22.4m
- Development of the new library in Maylords Orchard.

Other issues raised with the Chief Executive

- Would Herefordshire Council be applying for grants for SMART traffic lights.
- The Northern Cycle route.
- St Owen St. Cycle way.
- The issues encountered when reporting/logging issues with Balfour Beatty.
- Traffic speeding through the village.
- The increase in traffic volume.
- Traffic Regulations – costs and delays in getting replies to queries.
- Potholes across the village.
- The need for all parishes in the ward to be part of any review on the use/restrictions on Moreton on Lugg Bridge and Laystone Bridge.
- Balfour Beaty was not Value for money
- The Core Strategy was one size fit all and need to drill down.

Cllr Ron Gow Thanked Mr Walker for attending.

Action Mr Walker to follow up on Traffic regulation queries.

8. Questions /Issues, from members of the public present

8.1 Ward Councillors Report

A brief verbal report was received from the Ward Councillor (Appendix 1 refers), in addition with regards to the Bank House planning application Cllr Kema Guthrie agreed to request that the Planning Committee consider the application.

8.2 Questions from other members of the public

There were no questions from the public.

9. Planning Application – 6 Orchard Close, Sutton St. Nicholas HR1 3AU – Proposed rear loft conversion to add two bedrooms and an en-suite, converting existing smallest bedroom into new stairwell to the loft conversion

The Parish council noted that the applicant had appealed the decision by Herefordshire to refuse the planning application.

10. Herefordshire Local Plan 2021-2041- Strategic Spatial Options Consultation.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Neighbourhood development Plan Project Group had considered this matter and having considered advice from Dr David Nicholson had recommended that based upon current knowledge and information Option 1 was the must suited. Having discussed the matter at length the Parish Council resolved to support Option one, which would continue the current rural housing strategy and distribute rural housing growth in settlements that had many key services. This option divided rural growth between a greater number of settlements.

Action Clerk to complete and submit form.

11. Report from the Clerk on Actions from the last meeting

There were eleven actions requiring completion, five were completed, six were work in progress (Appendix 2 refers) Noted

12. Financial Report

- 12.1 Invoices for Payment

	Payee	Amount £	VAT	
1	DJN Planning Ltd	977.50	N/a	11/01/22&25/01/22 (SSN23 7 SSN24) Planning Advice and support
2	DC Gardening Services	588.00	98.00	07/02/22 (SI-1164) Hedge cutting at Sutton Playing Field (second section)
3	Public Works Loans Board	4,298.87	N/a	Direct Debit 04/01/22 Loan repayment

Authorised and Cheques to be signed.

- 12.2 Receipts - Nil
- 12.3 Confirmation of Balances as of 7th February 2022 was £45,606.41 (Appendix 3 refers.
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13. Budget Monitoring Report

The Parish Council considered and noted Budget Monitoring Report as of 4th January 2022. (Appendix 4 refers)

14. Grass cutting 2022/23

Having considered the matter, the Parish Council agreed the grass cutting Schedule (Appendix 5 refers). In addition, it was agreed that the appointed Lengthsman must cut the relevant verges once a month during April to October, and carry out the annual gutter clearance of weeds in June, (locations Appendix 6 refers)

Action Clerk to request quotes.

15. Playing Field – Infant Play Equipment

The Parish Council noted that the planned installation date was during March 2022.

16. Queens Jubilee Celebration

This Item was deferred until the March 2022 meeting.

17. Herefordshire Local Plan Update – Pre-Consultation Engagement

The Parish Council noted the final submission to Herefordshire Council. (Appendix 7 refers)

18. Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

The Parish Council was informed that -

- the draft ND Plan has been sent Herefordshire Council for them to conduct their strategic environmental assessment. (Appendix 8 refers)
- the Statement of modifications was being developed and would be sent to Herefordshire Council.
- the Regulation 14 consultation process including formal approval of the plan by the Parish Council. (Hopefully, March meeting, if not an extraordinary meeting), was being developed.
- there would be information in the Sutton News April Edition.

The Parish Council noted the update.

19. Matters relayed to the Clerk for the Agenda of the next meeting

- Queen Jubilee Celebrations
- Community Garden Facilities

20. Items for Information

Noted (Appendix 9 refers)

21. Confirmation of the date, time, and venue of the next meeting,
Parish Council Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.15pm

The Parish Council resolved to go into closed session

22. Clerks Salary
The Parish Council authorised payment of the Clerks Salary.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm

Ward Councillor's Report

Re: The Rhea

A blocked culvert at the Rhea has been reported and I have been advised that Balfour Beatty hope to do the works within 7 days.

Re: Full Council Meeting held on 28th January 2022

Members of Herefordshire Council voted unanimously to call for the establishment of a Water Protection Zone across the River Wye and Lugg Catchment. The Leader of the Council has sent a letter to the Minister calling for all partners to come together to strengthen the approach to tackling the issue. For more information please view Herefordshire Council's website www.herefordshire.gov.uk

Re: Herefordshire Council's Cabinet proposed 2022/23 budget

The proposed budget will now be put forward for recommendation to Full Council on Friday 11th February 2022

The proposals include a total council tax increase of 2.99%, made up of:

- A 1% adult social care precept which is ring-fenced to support the delivery of social care services
- A 1.99% increase in core council tax which will fund all other areas of council service

For more information please view Herefordshire Council's website.

Re: Local Plan Review – public consultation

The Local Plan 2021- 2041 will set out the planning framework for the county for the period to 2041 and will cover issues such as housing provision, the economy, retail and town centres, infrastructure provision and the environment. It will also set out policies by which planning applications will be determined, in addition to allocation land for housing, employment and other uses.

The Council invite your views on development strategy options and possible rural policy approaches.

The Spatial Options consultation runs from **17th January to 28th February 2022**.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/local-plan-1/local-plan-2021-2041

Re: Planning Application – Bank House, Ridgeway Road HR1 34AU (214505)

I note that there are a number of representations regarding this planning applications and I would like to ask if the Parish Council would like me to submit a Redirection Request to the Planning and Regulatory Committee accordingly,

Report by Kema Guthrie 7th February 2022

COUNCILLOR KEMA GUTHRIE
Tel: 01432 830577
Email: kguthrie@herefordshire.gov.uk

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Appendix 2

Status of Actions from last meeting 04/01/22

Meeting Ref	Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference	Action	Action Owner	Action Taken	Status
01/01	31/07/20	8	Planning Application Sutton Primary Academy – Retention of existing double mobile classroom	Cllr Ron Gow to raise the issue of the Travel Plan with Keith Lawton	Cllr Ron Gow		Work in progress
01/02	02/11/20	8	Vacant Parish Councillor positions	Clerk to put a notice in a future edition of Sutton News	Clerk		Work In progress
01/03	28/06/21	20	Cycle Route	Clerk to liaise with Cllr Kema Guthrie on the matter	Clerk		Work In progress
01/04	02/08/21	15	Queens Jubilee – Plant a Tree/s	Clerk to progress the matter.	Clerk		Work in progress
01/05	06/09/21	15	Sutton Playing Field	Clerk to carry out actions as required.	Clerk		Work in progress
01/06	06/12/21	21	Attendance by Herefordshire Council's Chief Executive.	Clerk to put a note in Sutton News.	Clerk		Completed
01/07	04/01/22	6.2	Questions from the Public	Clerk put a note in Sutton News	Clerk		Completed
01/08	04/01/22	7	Planning Application - The Firs, Cross Keys, Hereford, HR1 3NP (213935	Clerk to inform Herefordshire Council of the Parish Councils decision.	Clerk		Completed
01/09	04/01/22	8	Planning Application – Ordis Farm, Sutton St. Nicholas, Hereford, HR1 3AY (214442	Clerk to inform Herefordshire Council of the Parish Councils decision.	Clerk		Completed
01/10	04/01/22	12	Playing Field – Infant Play Equipment	Clerk to put a note in Sutton News	Clerk		Completed
01/11	04/01/22	16	Herefordshire Local Plan Update – Pre-Consultation Engagement	Clerk to submit final version to Herefordshire Council	Clerk		Completed
01/12	04/01/22	19	Playground Hedge	Clerk to inform contractor	Clerk		Completed
01/13	31/01/22	4	Planning Application – Bank House, Ridgeway Road	Clerk to inform Herefordshire Council of the Parish Council	Clerk		Completed

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Meeting Ref	Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Reference	Action	Action Owner	Action Taken	Status
			HR1 34AU (214505)				
01/14	31/01/22	5	Planning Application – Porthminster House, Sutton St. Nicholas HR1 3BB (214709).	Clerk to inform Herefordshire Council of the Parish Council	Clerk		Completed
01/15	31/01/22	6	Sutton Playing Field -Repair to Multiplay Slide	the Clerk to proceed with the repairs.	Clerk		Completed

Closed	0
Completed	10
Work In progress	5
TOTAL	**15**

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Appendix 3

Bank Reconciliation as at 07-02-22

Opening 01/04/21		26,133.97
Receipts		48,997.83
		75,131.80
Expenditure		29,525.39
Balance		**45,606.41**
Bank balance	**14/01/2022**	51,048.38
os cheques		
1311	166.40	
1322	2,269.81	
1323	588.00	
1325	40.00	
1326	237.41	
1327	158.00	
1328	977.50	
1329	588.00	
1330	250.45	
1331	166.40	
		5,441.97
Balance as at 07/02/22		**45,606.41**

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Appendix 4

	Actual to 2018/19	Budget 2019/20	Actual 2019/20	Budget 2020/21	Actual 31/03/21	Budget 2021/22	Actual 04/01/22	Variance	Comments
Income									
Precept	28,577.00	28,577.00	28,577.00	28,577.00	28,577.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	**0.00**	
Other -	30.23	31.00	32.23	30.00	30.00	30.00	60.46	30.46	
New Lengthsman Scheme	37.37	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Donations	0.00	0.00	2,835.32	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
VAT recovered / estimate	1,877.59	300.00		0.00	1,401.98	800.00	0.00	**-800.00**	Vat return due
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	not budgeted for
P3 Scheme	670.77	0.00	115.38	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lottery Grant	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
COVID 19 Grant	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	8,937.37	8,937.37	not budgeted for
Total Income	**31,192.96**	**28,908.00**	**31,559.93**	**28,907.00**	**30,258.98**	**30,830.00**	**48,997.83**	**18,167.83**	
Expenditure									
Clerks Salary	4,536.12	5,000.00	4,734.03	5,100.00	3,877.97	5,100.00	3,833.80	1,266.20	
Admin/Office Expenses	364.96	400.00	598.30	500.00	588.40	500.00	779.76	**-279.76**	Increased costs, more printing than planned
Training	0.00	130.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	
Subsidy to Village Hall	3,592.00	0.00	1,836.20	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Insurance	489.05	500.00	507.63	600.00	639.62	650.00	646.65	3.35	
Membership Subs	551.20	550.00	601.38	600.00	592.39	650.00	0.00	650.00	
Auditors	260.00	300.00	260.00	300.00	260.00	300.00	275.00	25.00	

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

	Actual to 2018/19	Budget 2019/20	Actual 2019/20	Budget 2020/21	Actual 31/03/21	Budget 2021/22	Actual 04/01/22	Variance
Services Repairs and Maintenance	1,807.90	2,600.00	1,336.70	1,800.00	555.00	800.00	946.95	**-146.95**
Lengthsman	428.75	2,000.00	1,327.37	2,200.00	2,335.90	2,200.00	965.00	1,235.00
Donations	0.00	200.00	652.00	2,200.00	500.00	700.00	500.00	200.00
Elections	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	85.02	0.00	0.00	
Loan repayment	8,597.74	8,597.74	8,597.74	8,598.00	8,597.74	8,598.00	4,298.87	4,299.13
Lottery Grant Neighbourhood Plan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bin Collections	60.00	200.00	170.00	200.00	630.00	500.00	148.00	352.00
SIDs	205.98	450.00	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rent	0.00	1.00	5.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Website	200.00	250.00	150.00	200.00	165.00	200.00	100.00	100.00
Neighbourhood Plan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Community Garden/Playing Field/Open Space	2,128.60	2,600.00	4,987.98	3,360.00	3,235.90	3,000.00	3,097.30	**-97.30**
Good Neighbour Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
P3 Scheme	902.00	1,027.00	1,205.00	1,500.00	1,197.80	1,600.00	600.00	1,000.00
Vat	331.44	300.00	598.33	309.00	565.20	350.00	923.23	**-573.23**
Corona Virus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,117.05	2,000.00	429.50	1,570.50
Sutton News	1,326.78	650.00	428.60	650.00	1,071.06	700.00	300.00	400.00
Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Comments

Includes unbudgeted cost of £226.95 bus shelter maintenance

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

	Actual to 2018/19	Budget 2019/20	Actual 2019/20	Budget 2020/21	Actual 31/03/21	Budget 2021/22	Actual 04/01/22	Variance	Comments
cost of 1/2 share of SID	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Litter pickers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Consultancy - Rural Area Site Allocation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Swing Seat & Anti Climb Frame	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	271.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Consultancy - Mast	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Data protection Compliance	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Play Equipment							1,891.51	**-1,891.51**	Grant received
Benches							1,038.00	**-1,038.00**	Out of reserves
NDP Grant							2,270.00	**-1,188.00**	NDP Grant
Reserves	500.00	2,652.26	4,200.00	0.00	0.00	1,082.00	0.00		
Total Expenditure	**26,282.52**	**28,908.00**	**32,376.26**	**28,907.00**	**27,295.45**	**30,830.00**	**23,243.57**	**7,586.43**	

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Appendix 5

Grass Cutting Schedule 2022/23

	Location	Service	Frequency April to September	Note	Cost Per Cut	Cost per cut above Planned frequency.	Comments
1	St. Nicholas Churchyard, Ridgeway Road HR1 3BB	Cut, drop & strim around all gravestones and trees	10	Hold a cut in reserve for Armistice Service in November			
2	Willow Rise/MillWay open space HR1 3DH	Cut, drop & strim around trees	10				
3	Community Garden-Village Hall Bayley Way HR13SZ	Cut, collect, and remove grass and strim around borders and perimeter fence	12	Grass to be cut to a level to ensure easy passage by very young children.			
4	Sutton Playing Field – Orchard Close	Cut, drop & strim around equipment and perimeter fence. Strim verge in front of Playing Field	16	Grass to be cut to a level to ensure easy passage by very young children.			
	Please enclose a copy of your public liability insurance cover with at least £5m cover.						

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Appendix 6

Gutter Weed Clearance Locations -June 2022

- Churchway
- The Craft
- Millway
- Willow Rise
- Ridgeway Road
- St. Ethelbert
- Fieldway
- Main Road off Golden Cross Junction.

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Herefordshire Local Plan Update – Pre-Consultation Engagement

General Questions:

1. What elements of the strategy and policies in the current Core Strategy do you consider to have been successful or not? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

The Parish Council considers that the strategy addressing development, traffic and transport is flawed. Traffic volumes have grown but this has not been matched by adequate highway infrastructure around Hereford, with adverse implications for the parish. Traffic flows on the A4103 Roman Road are beyond maximum capacity at the railway bridge with single lane traffic lights between the VW and Land Rover Dealerships. This has become a critical bottle neck for travellers to Worcester, Gloucester and beyond and vice versa.

With the use of car and HGV sat navs constantly looking for the quickest route, vehicle drivers are guided to bypass the A4103 when traveling from the west of Hereford on the Roman Road to Worcester etc. They now come through Moreton-on-Lugg and Sutton St. Nicholas and pick up the A4103 later on their journey. To make matters worse the opening of the Bloor Homes bypass through the new housing estate to the A49 north of Holmer for the relief of traffic traveling from west to east on the Roman Road has pushed even more traffic through Moreton-on-Lugg and Sutton St. Nicholas. This has resulted in excess of 250 vehicle movements through the village in the peak weekday hours on a route which passes through the Conservation Area, is unlit and generally without footway. **Highway safety and village character is being harmed by the significantly increased volume of traffic.**

2. What elements of current core strategy policy could be improved? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

The Parish Council considers that aspects of the local delivery of rural housing could be improved:

- The aims of the strategic approach are to “bolster existing service provision, improve facilities and infrastructure and meet the needs of the communities concerned” (Core Strategy policy RA2). This is a problem because directing growth through a percentage figure applied to all rural settlements in each Housing Market Area is too blunt an instrument to maintain and strengthen locally sustainable communities. **Attention needs to be given in each case as to whether further development can reasonably be expected to boost rural sustainability, or just mean more people travelling by car to access goods, services and employment elsewhere, adding to the increases in through traffic displaced from around Hereford**.
- Whilst policy RA1 promises that “local evidence and environmental factors will determine the appropriate scale of development” in practice the growth allocations have been applied by the Council and NDP Examiners as minimum requirements. Neighbourhood planning becomes a housing numbers game which has eclipsed the opportunity to balance social, economic and environmental factors at the parish level. This has made it harder for communities such as Sutton St. Nicholas to genuinely address local housing needs and to thereby support services, employment and facilities. **More freedom and flexibility should be given to local communities in determining what is appropriate, including taking account of the actual pattern of local services.** For example, since the Core Strategy was formulated bus services from the village into Hereford have been reduced, yet this cannot be reflected in local policy under the present approach.

- The approach whereby the larger the village the more growth is expected of them is not one that can be pursued indefinitely without harming the character of the community concerned. Sutton St. Nicholas has doubled in size in the last 40 years. As a result, it has lost much of its socio-economic identity and social 'glue'. This harm is continuing - in 2011, there were 389 households in the parish; since then, 104 new homes have been built, given permission or allocated – an increase of over 26%. **What is now needed is a period of consolidation in the period up to 2041 so that the community can recover its identity**.
- The Core Strategy places a welcome emphasis on the role of NDPs in delivering housing in a planned way. Given this, a clearer expression in policies RA2 and/or RA3 that land **outside** but **adjacent** to settlement boundaries defined in NDPs is in the countryside in planning policy terms (and so subject to policy RA3) would be helpful. As it stands, scheme proposers point to the words "in or adjacent" in policy RA2 as supporting their proposals, even though they may be outside an NDP-identified settlement boundary.

3. Are there any key planning policies that are missing for the current year?

The Parish Council are not aware of any notable omissions.

4. Are the policy areas that are devolved to NDPs at the right level? Please explain your reason for the answer.

Yes, subject to the comments above as to need for greater flexibility to be made available to balance an appropriate scale of development with local services, facilities and employment in working towards a sustainable community. With this caveat, the Parish Council supports the role given to them in meeting local housing requirements, defining a settlement boundary for the village and designating Local Green Space.

5. If you have an adopted NDP, do you consider it has been a success? Please explain your answer.

Yes, in that it has met the challenge set by the Core Strategy to identify a minimum amount of new housing and in so doing enabled the community to set in place a settlement boundary and identify Local Green Space, as well as setting out policies on housing mix, landscape character and other matters.

No, in that the NDP has not been able to respond to local evidence or environmental factors in determining the appropriate scale of development. Accepting and enabling new development through the NDP has **not** proved to be a means of bolstering or improving existing services, facilities and infrastructure. A particular issue that the NDP can do nothing to address is the harm to highway safety and village character arising from traffic being displaced from around Hereford to route through Sutton St. Nicholas (see above).

Current Core Strategy Settlement Implementation

1. What impact has the current settlement hierarchy had on your Parish? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

The settlement hierarchy identifies Sutton St. Nicholas as a "main focus" settlement. The Parish Council has sought to manage and control the scale of development that this might have brought through the preparation of its NDP and adoption of a settlement boundary. Now there is a five-year housing land supply and plans are up-to-date we feel we have some protection against development which the settlement hierarchy may otherwise have brought. This does not mean we are not under pressure from disproportionate proposals, and we are dependent on the local planning authority taking decisions in accord with the NDP.

2. Do you consider the current distribution of proportional growth in the named settlements RA2 of the Core Strategy achieved its aims of rural sustainability? Please explain the reasons for the answer.

No. This is because the distribution of growth by means of a percentage figure applied to all identified rural settlements in each Housing Market Area is too blunt an instrument to deliver rural sustainability. It directs more growth to larger settlements with insufficient attention paid as to whether such development will actually serve to "maintain and strengthen locally sustainable communities" (policy RA2). In Sutton St. Nicholas, there is no evidence that the community is more sustainable as a result of growth since 2011 or that planned in the NDP. There has been no increase in services, jobs, facilities or infrastructure in this period and bus services have reduced. There is no sign of any improvements to come (it is acknowledged that some affordable housing will result from the two NDP allocations in due course). The non-implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy has exacerbated this position. **With no clear link between more houses and better services and facilities, if more housing development is to be sought in Sutton St. Nicholas it will mean the village will continue to evolve into a dormitory settlement to Hereford rather than as a sustainable community.**

Services and Facilities

1. Have existing services been retained or new services and facilities provided through development in your Parish? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

No. Whilst the Village Hall and Sutton Primary Academy were delivered in 2008 alongside new housing, otherwise services and facilities have reduced: the village shop has closed and bus services have declined, limiting transport options into Hereford.

2. What would consider to be the key services and facilities required to support proportional growth over the next twenty years? Please explain reasons for your answer.

The NDP household survey shows residents want to see a village shop, Post Office and hairdressing salon. A local convenience store selling day-to-day essentials like bread and milk would be of notable benefit, particularly given the older demographic (26% of the parish residents are now estimated to be aged 65 or over, up from 22% in 2011).

A further issue is car parking at the Village Hall for community events and hirings especially during school term time. Since the new school opened the number of children has grown from circa 60 to 185. The shared car parking space serving the school and the Village Hall has not grown at all. This is becoming a serious issue creating congestion and needs County Council resolution should the school want to increase its Planned Admission Number to accommodate further proportional growth.

Future Settlement Hierarchy

1. Are there any constraints to new development in your parish which would affect future growth? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

The public consultations for the NDP and recent planning applications have highlighted the following constraints to future growth in the parish:

- Water quality in the River Lugg (part of the River Wye Special Area of Conservation) which runs through the parish.
- Flood plain of the River Lugg, limiting edge-of-village development opportunities to the south/south-west.
- Open and exposed landscape setting of the village particularly to the east, north and west limiting development opportunities on prominent and overly large sites.

- Lack of village services, facilities and infrastructure whose range and capacity will need to be improved before new development is to be contemplated. The school cannot expand unless the car park is bigger for both the Village Hall and the School. Public transport needs to improve significantly – i.e., more than three buses a day.
- Volume of traffic through the village needs to significantly reduce.

2. Would you consider your area to be a sustainable community for proportionate growth? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Sutton St Nicholas is no longer a sustainable community which is able to accept more "proportionate growth". The aims of the strategic policy are to "bolster existing service provision, improve facilities and infrastructure and meet the needs of the communities concerned" (Core Strategy policy RA2). But new development has proved to be a blunt tool for achieving these aims at village-level. Services in the village have declined not grown in recent years with the closure of the village shop and more recent reduction in bus services. There is no sign that recent development or promise thereof is having any effect at all on expanding or improving services, facilities and infrastructure. Rather, pressures and demands on the existing facilities have simply increased. New households continue to have to travel further afield generally by car to access day-to-day services. This generates more traffic on the unsuitable rural lanes which as explained above are also coming under increased pressure as a result of a lack of transport infrastructure around Hereford and the unintended consequences of development outside the parish. There is no sign that this situation is likely to change in the next 20 years particularly given that the Community Infrastructure Levy remains unimplemented. **If yet more development is to be directed to the village in the Local Plan review, Sutton St Nicholas will be a less, not more sustainable community in years to come.**

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Appendix 8

Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

Please see separate document

Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council

Appendix 9

For Information

By Email

- **Herefordshire Council –** Leaders Newsletter January 2022
- **Balfour Beatty –** Public Realm Round -up December 2021
- **NALC –** Newsletter 12/01/22
- **Herefordshire Council** - Talk Community Newsletter 14 January 2022.
- Follow up from meeting with Anna Toon and Adam Westlake at Sutton St Nicholas Primary School surgery.
- **Herefordshire Council** - Spatial Options Parish Council Information Evening.
- **Herefordshire Council** - Talk Community Newsletter 21 January 2022.
- **Boundary Commission for England**
- **Herefordshire Council -** Planning and Regulatory Committee 9 February 2022 13 The Craft, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford, HR1 3BZ 214263.
- **Balfour Beatty -** Road closures – February 22
- **Herefordshire Council -** Talk Community Newsletter 28 January 2022.
- **Herefordshire Council -** Talk Parish Meeting Recording 17 January 2022**.**
- **Herefordshire Council** - Feedback your views about the Healthy Minds website.