

## **Sutton Benger Parish Council**

### **Report: 2026 Annual Parish Meeting**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report has been prepared to remind Council members of the inputs and outcomes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 in the Sutton Benger Village Hall.

#### **2. Background**

It is a requirement that each Parish Council should hold an Annual Meeting for the public to gain a better understanding of the role of the Council and to give the local residents a chance to have some input into the priorities and objectives of the Council within the local area.

#### **3. Aims of the meeting**

Last year the Council held a general consultation on the local needs and wishes for individual members of the public. The consultation took place at a major celebration of the events surrounding the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

This year it was decided to have a more focussed meeting looking at options for spending capital sums received by the Parish Council as a result of local development decisions, together with raising the range of activities available for volunteers in and around the Parish.

#### **4. Opening Introduction**

Councillor Adam Carwardine opened the meeting. He thanked the community's extensive network of volunteers, many of whom were represented in the hall. He also welcomed some of our local businesses. He wanted those present to take this evening as an opportunity to network and to understand more about the range and scope of community organisations. He reminded us all that Sutton Benger Parish Councillors were there to consider individual and business thoughts and feedback on two key subjects:

Firstly, what do those present think we should be spending the community's money on: and secondly the range of volunteering opportunities within the community. He reminded us that, as a community, we are blessed with many committed, hard-working volunteers, but we could always benefit from having more. Sutton Benger Parish council are planning to co-ordinate a central listing of the volunteering vacancies available within the Parish and hope to help match willing people to those vacancies. The Council has a new leaflet available explaining who are and what we do.

#### **5. Feedback**

Feedback was encouraged during the informal networking, and the following is a list of thoughts and ideas collated during the evening:-

- Traffic Calming between Charles Church and the village Centre.
- ANPR on speed cameras
- Speed Reduction (traffic calming) along High Street
- Extend 30 mph past Charles Church
- Safer Road Crossing
  
- Roundabout at Draycot Cerne – Safe way out of Draycot Cerne
- Footways from Draycot Cerne to Wellesley Arms and to Langley Burrell

- Fitness Trail – Outdoor Gym
  - Younger Play Area (early Teens)
  - Youth Club Facilities
  - Squash Court / Paddle Pitch
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- Village Hall – extension to increase letting area, making it more viable

Feedback was also requested from the participating groups and enterprises, and their responses are summarised below:

- The networking was excellent and a chance to meet new people.
- Maybe next time we could show some speed data/graphs for the public.
- Encouraging new members is difficult
- Suggest a flyer around village homes so that all can know more about the Council
- May need to think about how to get a more diverse range of socio-economic groups to join in. What about community communicators for certain areas/ streets so that when we are doing an event like this, we make sure that a person door knocks half a dozen houses to make sure everyone knows that any event is also for them, not just for the other people?
- Perhaps some more focus on updates on local issues that matter, such as traffic and planning, would attract a few more people.
- Try to make better use of the new AV screen.
- Interested to hear about the current thoughts on traffic calming in the village as the speeding, numbers of HGVs and poor driving seem to be getting worse.
- Need to attract more people from the village but keep the networking event separate and advertise it as such.
- Many thanks for including us in the event and feedback,

## **6. Recommendation**

The Council is asked to note the contents of this report, together with their own recollections of thoughts and ideas from the members of the public that they met on the evening.

David Thomson

Vice-Chair