



Annual Report to Longwick cum Ilmer Parish Council Annual Meeting Cllrs Gary Hall and Matthew Walsh

Over recent months, Gary and I have been actively engaged in responding to two significant planning applications affecting Longwick, both of which raise serious concerns for the future of the village.

From the outset, we have taken a clear and consistent position: development in Longwick must remain plan-led and aligned with the adopted Longwick-cum-Ilmer Neighbourhood Plan. Both applications propose substantial development outside the defined settlement boundary and on sites that are not allocated within the Plan. As such, we have submitted formal objections on robust planning grounds.

We have worked closely with Parish Councillors, residents, and planning officers to ensure that the full weight of local concerns is properly reflected. This has included detailed representations highlighting conflicts with the Neighbourhood Plan, the cumulative scale of growth already experienced in Longwick, and the clear infrastructure constraints facing the village particularly highways, drainage, and local services.

Given the scale and implications of these proposals, we have also formally requested that both applications be called in for determination by the Planning Committee, so they can be considered transparently and in full. Alongside this, it is important that we look ahead. Work on the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan will be critical in strengthening the village's position and ensuring policies remain up to date.

In parallel, we have also been working with officers to address the ongoing challenges around bus provision in Longwick. This remains a complex issue, with constraints including restrictive Section 106 wording, infrastructure limitations such as road layout and bridge heights, and wider funding pressures. Previous options to extend existing services have not progressed, and alternative solutions are now being explored. While there is no quick fix, work is ongoing to identify both interim and longer-term improvements, including potential integration into the wider network and upgrades to local bus stop infrastructure.

Matt Barbour and Greg Smith MP visited Longwick on 20 February 2026 to meet with Gary Hall and me, alongside Keith and Alan from the Parish Council, to discuss ongoing concerns around road safety and speeding within the village. The visit provided an opportunity to highlight first-hand the issues residents continue to raise, particularly along key routes such as the Thame Road and surrounding roads where traffic speeds and volumes remain a concern. We were able to demonstrate the challenges on the ground and discuss potential measures, including traffic calming, improved crossings, and enforcement options. We will continue working with partners to ensure these concerns are taken seriously and that practical solutions are progressed.

In addition to this, we have been working with Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety along the B4009 Lower Icknield Way. The Parish Council has funded a feasibility study, undertaken by AtkinsRéalis, to explore the delivery of a Toucan Crossing at this location. That work is now complete and recommends a signalised crossing, alongside wider improvements including upgraded footways and shared-use paths to better connect the village.

This is an important step forward. Not only would the crossing improve day-to-day safety for residents, but it also helps futureproof the area by supporting longer-term walking and cycling links, including connections towards the Princes Risborough expansion area. A high-level cost estimate of approximately £240,000 has been identified, with a clear opportunity to fund the scheme through



existing Section 106 contributions. The project is now moving into the next stage of design and delivery planning, and we will continue to work with officers to progress it as quickly as possible.

Alongside these larger issues, it has also been a pleasure to be out in the community. Earlier this month I was delighted to visit Longwick School to present eco certificates to pupils, recognising their fantastic efforts and commitment to sustainability. Gary has also recently joined the Risborough Area Community Bus as a volunteer driver here in Longwick, helping to support this important local service.

We also recognise ongoing concerns around traffic movements within the village, and we agree that Chestnut Way should be considered for a 7.5 tonne weight limit to help address these issues.