



*Longwick-cum-Ilmer
Parish Council*

Public Meeting 12th August 2026

Apologies: Cllr Ayre and Cllr Atkinson and Neighbourhood Plan Consultant

- Cllr Smith gave an update on what has happened so far including an update on Traffic Calming, Playgrounds, VAS, improvements to bridleways / footpaths, youth football on the playing field, coffee van and the summer activity programme. It was highlighted that we are also looking to improve CCTV coverage, improvements to MUGA and the photographic competition which is running.
- Buckinghamshire Councillors: An overview was provided of the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan which is being prepared to run up to 2045. Under recent national policy changes Buckinghamshire has been given an increased housing requirement of 91,000 homes to be planned for by 2045. He outlined the implications for the wider area, noting that the Green Belt cannot be built on and ends at Princes Risborough which is why Risborough without that protection has seen significant housebuilding. Buckinghamshire Council is required to produce a Local Plan that meets the 91k requirement; if it fails to do so, the government can step in, write the plan and allocate sites directly, removing local influence. The latest draft includes an additional 600 homes within the Princes Risborough Expansion Area through densification. He also noted that Longwick had previously been considered for significant expansion but both he and Cllr Walsh challenged this and were successful. The plan is now at Regulation 19 consultation and residents are encouraged to submit comments online before the deadline of 6 September at 11.59am. It was highlighted that Buckinghamshire Councils five-year land supply must be met. It was emphasised that getting the Local Plan approved is what ultimately protects Longwick as an adopted plan provides the strongest defence against speculative development.
- Cllr Livingston summarised the Local Plan and stated that the Parish Council have to build a strong neighbourhood plan which is supported by evidence. Settlements are divided into different tiers and Longwick are in tier 4 which has certain criteria we need to meet. The most exposed Councils will be those without a Neighbourhood Plan which is why it is crucial for residents to supply evidence of flooding, sewage, bats, newts etc anything that can be used to flag concerns. Any concerns should be sent to the Clerk who will circulate to the relevant member working on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Cllr Gummer provided an update on planning application PL/25/4603/FA for which he had attended a planning committee meeting as an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State due to non-determination. The reasons given for objecting to the application were: site outside village boundary, site not part of call for sites, not supported by local infrastructure i.e. train station, school, shops, sewerage, no legal agreement with regards to s.106 funds, greenfield encroachment and visual impact. The decision on the day was an objection however, as an appeal has been made this will now be in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate. It was highlighted by Planning Officers present at the meeting that natural growth was to the South of Thame Road.

Questions raised and discussions:

- Sewage: Thames Water have a legal obligation to meet the needs of a development.
- From 31 October 2026, the powers available to Buckinghamshire Councillors will reduce and planning applications for developments of fewer than nine homes will no longer be eligible to be called in.
- Bus Stops: questions were raised about where bus stops are in the village.
- Village Hall: The Parish Council remains Custodian Trustee only but we are exploring what options may be available within that role. Residents raised strong concerns about the lack of an AGM, the absence of publicly available accounts and how committee members are appointed.

Note: This was not a formally convened Parish Council meeting and no decisions were made