Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council
21st October 2026 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL

104	**Attendance & Apologies** Cllr Sue Barnes Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Geoff Pike Cllr Guy Reynolds (Chairman) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver Cllr Jane White Cllr Will Chakawhata (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward) Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 17 members of public present **Apologies received:** Cllr Wrettham Ladbrooke-Chartres (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Peter Finney
105	**Declaration of Interests & Requests for Dispensation** None.
106	**Confirm the Minutes of the meeting held 23rd September 2026** The minutes of the meeting held 23rd September 2026 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
107	**Public Open Session** • A resident of Holt Lane made a representation on behalf of a number of residents attending in respect of speed and volume of traffic using this route and a lengthy discussion followed. ***See Appendix A*** *In response, Cllr Sue Barnes presented the Highways Working Group report to residents during the Public Open Session which covered Holt Lane and other areas of work in the parish.* ***See Appendix B*** *Members encouraged residents to report any traffic incidents or near misses to Dorset Council: https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report-a-non-injury-collision-or-near-miss* *Evidence supports any requests by the Parish Council to address road safety. The Clerk will share on HOLT Together.*

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	• Residents are interested to see the results of Speed Surveys commissioned by the Parish Council and data from the SID's. *Noted, however SIDs are not data collection tools, they are signs placed on the highway for the education of drivers on speed awareness. They are setup face onto to oncoming traffic and record the information coming towards it. The results they record are prone to inaccuracy because they record multiple "hits" from a single vehicle. In addition, there has shown to be some sporadically high and low readings within the data set, skewing the figures.* • A resident encouraged more volunteers to join the Holt Community Speed Watch so that more sessions can be held across the Parish. *This data can be used as supporting evidence. Note, training by Dorset Police is necessary for volunteers who can then operate with a minimum of 3 persons utilising the Parish Council equipment. Volunteers should contact the Clerk to join the team. The CSW is well supported by Dorset Police CSW Enforcement Officer and the Police Camera Van visits the Parish regularly.* Cllr Will Chakawhata confirmed that Holt Parish Councils work on highways is commendable however Dorset Council has limited resources so working in partnership is crucial.
108	**Dorset Councillors Report** ***See Appendix C***
109	**Planning & Tree Applications/Planning Enforcement Matters** ***See Appendix D***
110	**Dorset Local Plan Scoping Consultation** This consultation is not asking about individual development sites or detailed draft policies. The Local Plan will help guide how Dorset changes in the future. It will set out where new homes, infrastructure, community facilities and environmental improvements should happen and will be used, once adopted, to help decide planning applications across the Dorset areas. Rather than complete the online questionnaire, members agreed to submit a written response. *Members agreed that GC/JW/SB will prepare the response to share with members for approval and submission by the deadline of 26th October.* ***See Appendix E***

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111	**Highway Matters** • Holt Lane Traffic Concerns – please refer to the Highways Working Group Report: ***See Appendix B.*** *Members approved expenditure for a speed survey in Holt Lane to collect data on traffic speed and volume.* • As per recommendations by the Highways Working Group in Appendix B, members agreed to proceed with an application to Dorset Council for a 20mph speed limit at Furzehill; approved expenditure for a speed survey; agreed the potential requirement for a SID and to proceed with the public consultation. See the Parish Council website to complete the survey. Closing date 27th November 2026. • At the request of the Church, members considered the addition of 'Holtwood Methodist Church & Hall' to three existing fingerposts: Members agreed to obtain a quotation to refurbish the two signs in the traditional style at Pig Oak and Pond Head and include this wording. *The Clerk will ask Vale of Alen PC if Holt PC can add a blade to the Horseshoes fingerpost which is within their parish*. The Church have offered a contribution toward costs. • The white lines need re painting at Horseshoe Crossroads since resurfacing. *Clerk to report online.*
112	**Rights of Way Matters** Cllr Sarah Weaver reported: • Held a meeting with the National Trust and looked at Mannington where we have suggested that a path could take pedestrians off the road between FPs E45/ 70 and 9. They were receptive, agreeing in principle that the suggestion is valid and said would pass it on up the NT levels, but that a response could take a while! • Have reported the need for significant tree clearance on FP E45/5) in Holt Forest, on the boundary with Queens Copse. • The National Trust has removed yet another hazel branch that was leaning on the wire at Bilberries Corner and apparently are currently doing the tree safety surveys in the area and may consider coppicing as a solution to this recurrent problem.
113	**Plan in the event of Fire** Cllr Sarah Weaver has expanded the draft document to raise community awareness of, and preparedness for, a wildfire event. Further work is required with the input of the Fire Service before a document can be formalised including clarifying the extent of boundary of area to be included. The National Trust has indicated there has to be a balance between wildlife and humanity. The Chairman commended Sarah for her work and for further development of the document. Further input from the Fire Service would be useful at this stage. Once a final document is prepared, we can engage with residents on involvement.

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114	**Actions from Village Green Inspection Report** The Chairman and Cllr Jonathan Cutts will remove the 2 dead Ash Trees and the Oak saplings growing around the base of 2 telegraph poles. The Clerk will ask the National Trust at placing dragon's teeth at the bottom of the Green to prevent vehicles parking as this area contains one of the rare plants identified during recent the SNCI survey. Cllr Jackie Egan will organise a date to invite volunteers to help cut and clear around the trees in the Spring in conjunction with the National Trust who can supply the equipment needed.
115	**Woodland at Queens Copse Lane** Members deferred this item to the November meeting.
116	**Correspondence received and circulated in advance** The Transfers & Disposals Manager for Dorset Council has provided an update on the current situation with the former Council Offices at Furzehill: *In relation to the restrictive covenants, I have recently written to affected homeowners explaining that the Council wishes to explore, by agreement, the release of any restrictive covenants that may affect future development proposals. If agreement cannot be reached, the Council may need to make an application to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) under section 84 of the Law of Property Act 1925 seeking the discharge or modification of the restrictive covenants.* *With regard to the footpath, the Council remains committed to securing a permanent pedestrian link through the site. We continue to propose dedicating a public footpath along the route applied for by Cllr Chopping through his Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) application. Initially, the route will be fenced to demarcate the new path, discourage public access to the wider site, and provide clarity regarding the route. Before any fencing works are undertaken, we have instructed ecologists to carry out a survey to identify any measures required in relation to badgers or other protected species. We expect to receive this report this week. Once the fencing has been completed, we intend to proceed with the formal dedication of the route, after which residents will be able to use it to access the woods.* *The property remains available for sale after negotiations with the previous preferred bidder came to an end, which has inevitably delayed progress on the disposal of the site. We are now in discussions with alternative developers. Once a preferred developer has been selected and terms agreed, it is likely that they will require a period of approximately 18 months for the planning application process.*
117	**Financial Matters & Expenditure** • The Clerk provided members with up-to-date bank account balances and reported that a Community Infrastructure Levy payment is due from Dorset Council this week for £5584.67. • Members considered a third quotation from Kiteleys Solicitors for the expenditure in connection with acquiring the Holtwood Community Farm as a community asset. It was resolved to instruct Kiteleys to proceed and to notify Dorset Council. *Clerk to action.* • Members reviewed half year spend against budget for 2026/27 from which there were no matters arising.

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	• Members were unable to consider expenditure for maintenance of the Gaunts Common Noticeboard as the contractor has not yet supplied a quotation. • Members authorised the Clerk to pay the following items utilising online banking including Clerk's Salary: ONLINE Clerk — Reimbursement of Expenses — £171.85 ONLINE M. Clifford — Groundworks Holt Cemetery & Grass Cutting — £120.00
118	**CLOSED SESSION Clerks Annual Salary Review** Members agreed to defer this item to the November meeting.
	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 7pm

Meeting closed 21:32

These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman after approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed: …… 18th November 2026

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Appendix A

Address to Holt Parish Council: Road Safety on Holt Lane

Councillors, Clerk to the Council, and residents of Holt,

My name is [redacted], and I live at [redacted] on Holt Lane. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise an issue that is of growing concern to many residents: the safety of our roads, particularly Holt Lane.

The volume and speed of traffic on Holt Lane, and indeed on other nearby roads, appear to be increasing. Residents have reported a number of near misses, and many feel increasingly vulnerable when walking or cycling along the lane.

This is not simply a theoretical concern for me. After a car narrowly missed me while I was walking my dog, I felt compelled to take action to protect myself. Many of you will have noticed my car parked outside my house on the lane. While this has proved to be a surprisingly effective measure for residents along our stretch of road, it is not a permanent solution, nor is it without controversy.
We would much rather work constructively with the Parish Council to find a practical, lasting and less contentious way of making our roads safer.
I have written to Vikki Slade MP and Councillor Will Chakawhata to highlight the concerns of local residents. Both acknowledged the Parish Council's efforts on this issue and expressed their full support for further action to reduce vehicle speeds through Holt. Vikki Slade also suggested that I start a petition, which has so far attracted **225 signatures in support of further action**.
This demonstrates that road safety is a concern shared by a significant number of people. We now need to turn that concern into meaningful progress.
Residents who have contacted me directly or contributed to local chat groups are keen to understand four things:

1. **What has been achieved so far?** What action has already been taken to address speeding in Holt, and what is the proposed next step?
2. **What does the evidence tell us?** What speed and traffic data has been collected on Holt Lane, and what conclusions can be drawn from it?
3. **What measures would make a real difference?** Which traffic-calming options are most likely to be effective, and how can we move towards implementing them as quickly as possible?
4. **What is preventing progress?** Why does it take so long to turn concerns and proposals into practical action, and is there anything we can do collectively to accelerate the process?

Residents of Holt Lane have suggested several measures for consideration:

- An average-speed enforcement camera covering the stretch from Pig Oak to The Old Inn pub.
- A 20-mph speed limit between The Old Inn pub and Pig Oak.
- Speed bumps between the green and Springfields Close.
- Improved digital speed signage to replace the older model, with residents willing to explore fundraising to help fund this.

These are suggestions for discussion, rather than a presumption that any single measure is the right answer. We recognise that feasibility, evidence, cost and the relevant authorities' approval will all need to be considered. What matters most is identifying measures that will genuinely improve safety and establishing a clear route towards delivering them.
We appreciate that the Parish Council may not have direct control over every aspect of road safety, and we recognise that some measures will require the involvement of other authorities. However, we hope the Council can help us understand where responsibility lies, what options are available, and how best to progress this matter.

Above all, we are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for a safer environment for residents and road users.

I would therefore welcome a clear update on the work undertaken to date, the next steps being considered, and a realistic indication of the timescale involved. If further evidence, community support or coordinated action is needed, residents would like to understand how we can help.

We have the benefit of your collective experience and knowledge, and we would like to draw on that to ensure our efforts are directed towards the most effective solution.

With 225 people already supporting further action, there is a clear willingness within the community to engage constructively. I hope we can use that momentum to move this issue forward.

Thank you for listening, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts and discussing how we can work together to make Holt's roads safer for everyone.

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Appendix B

Highways Matters and Highways Working Group Update

Holt Lane Traffic Concerns
The breadth of concern and issues raised by many residents of Holt Lane in connection with traffic volume and speed are noted. This is a concern the HWG share and is an issue across many areas of the Parish. The level of feeling and support for action being taken from residents is helpful to us being able to progress matters with Dorset Council who we very much try to work in partnership with on the concerns being expressed. A number of those in the public open session wanted to become more involved in Community Speed Watch which is appreciated.

We continue to make steps to address traffic issues and regularly provide updates at the monthly Parish Council meetings and also on the Parish Council website. In the last year we have been able to progress the following:

- the addition of a new SID in Lodge Road. All our Parish SID's are now powered by solar panels and are rotated / maintained by Dorset Council. This is funded by the Parish.
- working in partnership with Dorset Council introduced reduced speed limits at a number of locations in the Parish this year. This had taken a number of years to achieve.
- increased the number of Community Speed Watch activities this year.
- received approval for a new Community Speed Watch location.
- instigated a number of traffic speed measurement surveys through Dorset Council.
- escalated concerns at the level of collisions / near misses at Broomhill crossroads.
- contact with Dorset Council Highways teams on issues and with Cllr Will Chakawhata. In particular, sought a site visit from the DC community Highways team, to consider the possibility of visual narrowing (details below). This was particularly in connection with improving pedestrian safety where no pavements are present.
- Updated Vikki Slade MP on our actions. Vikki had already indicated her support for a 20mph application in Furzehill and has again recently e-mailed to reinforce her support for action being taken on rural roads.

Action:
- Those submitting interest in becoming a CSW volunteer to be sent the necessary Dorset Police registration form for completion.
- A specific training session for new CSW volunteers to be arranged with Dorset Police
- With the increased number of CSW volunteers more frequent CSW sessions to be held along Holt Lane

Meeting with DC Council Highways Team in August
A meeting was held in August with the Community Highways Team. A number of items and actions were followed up by e-mail to Dorset Council, including that a site visit to Holt Lane or Broomhill be arranged to determine the possibility of 'visual narrowing' line painting.

Action:
- As no confirmed date received, Parish Council will send date options to the Community Highways team, so that a date can be fixed.
- Cllr Will Chakawhata to be cc'd on correspondence

CSW activity continues to progress with further CSW activity (weather dependent) and have some new volunteers which we are grateful for. A further session is scheduled in November (location tbc). Dates are scheduled in advance (usually, up to 4 months in advance), to ensure we have enough availability of volunteers. One of the safety criteria for any volunteer led CSW activity is that it is operated in dry conditions during daylight hours. Given that we are approaching the winter months, new dates will be proposed during December to February but additionally we will also seek that the Police Camera Van presence is operational at some of the sites (not all locations are suitable for the van to park up).

Action:
- Proposed new date / times for CSW activity to be circulated for December to February
- Seek dates for Police Camera Van to be deployed at some specified locations during December to February

Broomhill Crossroads
After a local petition and significant number of incidents at Broomhill crossroads, we had written to DC in September seeking a fundamental review of the crossroads to improve safety.

Responses had been received which reinforced work already undertaken and a request that residents report any verge / hedgerow visibility issues near to the junction on the Dorset Council site.
It was confirmed that an additional crossroads warning sign on Harts Lane had been installed and the addition of Slow road markings by the new sign were scheduled, along with Slow markings and 4 yellow bar markers on Colehill Lane.
Whilst consideration for the installation of new mirrors had been requested, it was not supported by the Council as their experience indicated they can increase rather than reduce road safety risks. The importance of having an active CSW in the area was recognised.
With regard to the suggestion of introducing a STOP sign, this was something that was noted and maybe reviewed further after the effectiveness of the interventions already made were understood.

Action:

- Seek feedback from Broomhill on effectiveness of actions taken February 2027

Proposed 20 mph limit at Furzehill
One of the criteria for any submission by the Parish Council is evidence of significant community support. To enable this a survey has been drafted. When applying for 20 mph limit DC criteria requires 3 elements to be met:

1. They are in towns or villages where there is a depth of residential development and high levels of pedestrian and cycle movement or there is a potential for high levels of pedestrian and cycle movement if a 20mph scheme was introduced
2. Where existing mean speeds provide a realistic opportunity for compliance. DFT guidance states that 20mph schemes should be self-enforcing. If the mean speed is already at or below 24 mph introducing a 20mph speed limit through signing alone is likely to lead to general compliance with the new speed limit. Mean speeds above 24 mph are likely to required additional traffic management or enforcement measures.
3. There is significant community support. In assessing community support the local ward member and town/parish council should consider residents views to best ensure there is broad consensus.

The last traffic survey data for Furzehill in November 2024 recorded average speeds of 27 mph, so slightly above the level DC were seeking for a 'self-enforcing scheme'. Tony Burden, Road Safety Manager DC was contacted to gain clarity. Any application would need to be assessed by a 20mph panel, and that without prejudicing any future decision made, the extent of the proposed scheme appeared proportionate, but it would be likely that the Parish Council would need to apply for a SID to help support compliance with the lower limit **and** it would also be prudent for the Parish Council to commission a new speed survey closer to the shop on Smugglers Lane.

Parish Council approval sought on the following to enable progression of any application:

1. In the event a 20mph limit was approved by DC, then the Council would support a SID for the village (this can then be referenced in the application) **Approved.**
2. The Parish Council approve expenditure for an additional speed survey near the shop (this data would be used to support the application, along with the data already available from Nov 24) **Approved.**
3. That if 'yes' to the above, the Parish Council approve the survey and the poster. **Approved**

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Appendix C

Report Cllr Will Chakawhata

1. Holtwood Community Farm

- No current updates. (*on the agenda this evening for Parish Council update*)

2. Stone Lane, Wimborne

- Stone Lane improvement works remain on schedule, with resurfacing underway. Some temporary delays may occur as traffic management adapts, but we are doing everything we can to keep disruption to a minimum.

3. Cranborne Road Safety Improvements

- Petition still going, over 1200 signatures.
- Formal review underway and report due in November, last incident led to serious injuries for a local family.

4. Julian's Bridge, Wimborne

- Traffic volumes are exceptionally high on Wimborne Road, with independent surveys recording 84,000 to 93,000 vehicles per week, equating to well over 10,000 vehicles per day on this residential route.
- Speeding is widespread, not isolated, with more than 50% of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit in survey periods outside homes on Wimborne Road.
- Police enforcement confirms the scale of the issue, with 70 speeding offences detected in just 90 minutes during a Dorset Police TruCAM operation near Lambs Green Lane.
- Residents are calling for practical, relatively low-cost safety measures including a village gateway, speed limit reductions, pedestrian crossing facilities, additional traffic calming, road markings and improved speed management.
- The statement argues these improvements should be delivered now alongside the

5. DWFRS Report on Holt Heath Fire August 2025

- This has been shared with Chairman Reynolds. (*The Clerk has circulated to all members*)

6. Former East Dorset Council Offices, Furzehill.

- Security remains an issue, windows left open.
- Residents written to regarding covenants and next steps.
- Pathway issues unresolved.
- Asked them to move the security car.

7. Defibrillator The Stocks Inn

- Visited the site and it is locked in but not council owned.
- Not easy to relocate.

The Chairman added he has visited The Stocks Inn and the contractor has actually been very proactive and has already informed the ambulance service that the defibrillator is temporarily inaccessible, and therefore members of the public will not be directed there in the event of an emergency - the case requires a code from the ambulance service to access the defibrillator, so they are responsible for access at a time of need. There are other defibrillators available at St James' School, Colehill Post Office, the Old Inn pub and the Cross Keys pub.

8. Road safety

- Received a number of emails regarding road safety at Holt Lane by the Green, referred them to attend tonight's meeting, police aware and resident concerned.

9. Transport and Connectivity

- Dorset Council is considering a £67.6 million, seven-year programme to transform public and community transport.
- The Wimborne to Blandford bus corridor is expected to form part of future transport discussions.
- Routes and service details have not yet been decided, but the proposed investment provides a significant opportunity to improve connectivity where it matters most.

10. Electoral Boundary Review

- The review of Dorset's political boundaries is currently underway.
- Submissions are being accepted until **1 November**.
- A Community Governance Review, looking at parish boundaries, is expected to follow.
- Residents and parish councils are encouraged to have their say before the deadline.

11. Devolution

- The Government today backed plans for a **Wessex Mayor and devolution**, giving the region a major boost in its bid for devolved powers and funding. The proposed authority would give more local control over transport, housing, skills and economic growth, with councils now working with Government on the next steps.

12. Community conversations

- 28 planned and halfway through, a priority for the council, to elicit views from stakeholders to ensure not remote and be engaged.
- About co-production.
- Last event in December.
- Positive feedback so far.

13. Clayford issues

- Planning issues and enforcement remain a concern, enforcement team non-responsive.

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Appendix D
Planning Applications

Application Number	Location	Description	Parish Council Comment
P/HOU/2026/05101	**29 Access Road to Grange Farm, BH21 4HX**	Single storey extension to the existing detached garage to provide a store/workshop. Removal of a section of existing native hedgerow and formation of a new vehicular access with gate and driveway entrance from the highway.	No objection.
P/FUL/05704	**Holtwood Methodist Church, BH21 7DT**	Install ramp and handrail for disabled access at rear of property. Replace window with new bi-folding doors.	No objection.
TPO/2026/0055	**Land adjacent to 12 Dogdean, BH21 4HA**	Provisional Tree Order (TPO) has been made on 3 Oak Trees because it is considered by the Authority that the premature removal or extensive pruning of the trees would have a significant negative impact on the amenity to the local environment and its enjoyment by the public.	Support.
P/PAED/2026/05480	**Westbrook, Holtwood, BH21 7DR**	Application to determine whether or not Prior Approval is required for the erection of additional storey.	*Noted.*
P/CLP/2026/05479	**Westbrook, Holtwood, BH21 7DR**	Certificate of Lawful PROPOSED use.	*Noted.*

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Appendix E

Dorset Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation response

The Parish Council has reviewed the Dorset Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation. Rather than providing input to each individual question asked, the Parish Council has focussed on a high-level assessment of the issues the plan should address to provide their input. The plan is intended to guide how Dorset changes in the future and where new homes, jobs, infrastructure, community facilities and environmental improvements should happen, however, in doing so we feel there are a number of areas that are significantly lacking either in totality or in the breadth of the scope. These are largely relating to core infrastructure and are outlined below.

We support the ambition of '***improving connectivity and accessibility for all and promoting sustainable and active travel options as an alternative to private car use'.*** However, to achieve this there is a fundamental element which needs to be set out as a foundation stage which is the importance of addressing core infrastructure in the main routes through Dorset. There needs to be a critical requirement for improvements on the A31 which is daily heavily overloaded at Canford Bottom, Merley, Lake Gates roundabouts, creating gridlock through Wimborne. The additional effect of this, is many of the rural backroads which are not suitable for heavy volumes of traffic are now overloaded with traffic trying to find alternative routes. Long Term planning to address this issue and consider alternatives such as a relief road need to be part of the scoping consultation. Addressing this is also a key component to enable the ambition of attracting future commercial investment in Dorset.

The scoping plan recognises the importance to the area and its residents of ***the environmental quality of the area, its rural landscapes, biodiversity, rich heritage, beautiful coast and picturesque towns and villages – is what makes Dorset a special place to live, work and visit.*** We are proud to be in an area of outstanding natural beauty and protected natural heathland, the importance of which is growing to communities year by year. But this natural environment is now under significant threat with Dorset experiencing some of the worst wild-fires in the last year in its history. The Country has still not sufficiently replenished its water supplies following the summer of 2026, with ongoing summers predicted to be much hotter and drier. Demands for such resources are only going to increase. The scoping document must include a strategy for preventative actions to avoid such catastrophic situations, and a strategy as to how it intends to manage its responsiveness to such situations and also how it intends to provide the necessary resources required.

Throughout the document it references need for planning for the future housing needs, recognising that the majority of this is set at a national level. This area has already been impacted by significant growth of multiple new developments in the area. Core infrastructure to support such growth has so far been sadly lacking. Going forward if future development is to be sustainable, it must be complemented by accompanying investment and growth in Doctors Surgeries, Schools and local recreational amenities. This should not be seen as an 'add on' but an essential requirement for any development proposals with a set timescale for delivery.

Finally, as a scoping document there are elements which are omitted but we would deem as essential to be able to fully consult on what is set out in the scoping document. These are the inclusion of a completed Spatial Development Strategy and an up-to-date Settlement Hierarchy. It is essential that to be able to maintain **the *environmental quality of the area, its rural landscapes, biodiversity, rich heritage, beautiful coast and picturesque towns and villages*** and avoid rural areas being consumed by the needs of other larger conurbations such as BCP both of these documents would have critical elements that would influence our responses to the proposed Scoping. The lack of inclusion of these at this scoping stage is a flaw in the approach.