Comments from Village Appraisal

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| The number of additional houses being built creates problems for schools and GP surgeries in that there are not enough of them to meet increased demand. |

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| As a visitor enters Mere Road the first impression is dull and depressing because of the high and unkempt leylandii hedge on the left hand side. It needs to be cut down or dug out, the near-hanging branches prevent pedestrians from walking on that side. It is a fire hazard. I am pleased the other offending overgrown leylandii hedge has been cut down which lets in daylight and further along Mere Road on the right hand side.  Next, things that need doing is tidy up the two little cottages opposite the pond. Find out who owns them and issue an order to the owner to restore them to habitable condition so that they can become a modern house for a young couple to live in. At the moment and for many years 10 or so they appear to be derelict and dilapidated. |

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| It is such a pity that we lost our village shop and post office. I know that Rocklands only just breaks even, if that – but it’s a long way to go for stamps and milk, etc.! Gt Hockham used to have 5 shops and now has none due to supermarkets and cars |

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| Re question 29 – Housing  Development in Stow Bedon seems to favour executive commuter style houses, and nothing for lower paid people or starter homes at all. It is becoming a totally up market suburb of Watton and no longer a country village. It is vital to widen the property available for young families and first time buyers – at the moment it is becoming a NIMBY’s paradise! |

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| I go by car or bike to the next village for my paper, milk or post office about 4 times a week and to Norwich about once a week. I have to be very careful at the crossroad at the end of Mere Road. The sight line to the right is very inadequate due to the hedge, oncoming traffic is usually FAST – it is very DANGEROUS. |

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| Stow Bedon is a beautiful location, but it is evidently not looked after by all its residents. Grass verges and hedges are overgrown – our location should be nurtured and respected and this would help dissuade the rubbish being thrown along the roadside as those driving through would be able to see how much we all love our community. Sweeping up grass cuttings is a simple thing to do! More signage for the Homewatch scheme wold be great as the current ones have faded or have shrubs hiding them.  Since we moved to Stow Bedon we have wiped the Mere Road signage several times to help make it look cared for. There are not many residents but it would be lovely if we could all help cherish our beauty spot! |

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| It would be nice to see police trying to stop the ones what speed along here on the A1075 road. A speed limit should be only 50 mph. |

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| More housing could bring more facilities to the village. |

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| Q 30, 31, 32  Rather than a blanket ‘No’ to additional housing and accommodation types or for the contrary a blanket ‘Yes’ – I believe there is in any community carefully selected and considered opportunities for development of housing and accommodation. For some communities such development may be a single property for others larger numbers. I believe Stow Bedon could accommodate minimal additional housing but this should be in appropriate sites with due recognition to environmental impact and the wider consequences. |

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| Q61 – field hedges are responsibility of farmers and governed by the EH laws. Domestic hedges along highways are responsibility of homeowners and should be kept trimmed to stop encroachment onto roads. |

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| Q40 – the Pingo trail car park attracts anti-social behaviour and fly tippers. The lorries that use the layby overnight leave their motors running which can be clearly heard in all nearby properties.  There is an issue with speeding on the A1075 with a number of crashes and ‘spin-offs’. The limit needs reducing to at least 40mph as exiting properties is getting increasingly dangerous. |

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| Q29 – Very concerned about the amount of planning permission being sought for housing in our village. It is being sought for reasons other than necessity and will spoil the whole environment of the village.  Q42 – Broadband and mobile signals are a joke. |

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| Q25 – would be good to be on a bus route even if only 2/3 times a week.  Q30/31 – think SB&B is large enough especially as there is no infrastructure to support further growth. Should be any new housing it should be low cost for local people or first time buyers that will contribute to the community and appreciate the surrounding environment. I think that large executive 5 bedroomed houses with 2 or more garages are inappropriate for the locale and are only wanting to be built for someone to make big profits. It would also lead to the country lanes becoming more dangerous. People are already driving around with little regard to the narrow lanes and the possibility of children/people round a bend on bicycles or ponies (seen many near misses).  Q40 – see comments above – I see so much breaking of the speed limit through the villages |

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| Too many outsiders moving into the village buying up all the smaller houses and turning them into mansions so there’s nowhere for locals to live.  Everyone in the village wants big gardens with lots of hedges and trees but no one wants to maintain them, the state of the hedges from Walnut Farm down to Breckles House is appalling and if left the road will soon be impassable in anything other than a small car. |

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| Q31 – development – infrastructure, schools, doctor’s surgeries, etc. ?  We have lived in the village for 5 years, seems to be no public transport. |

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| Q30/31 – there is space for half a dozen new homes along Mere Road. Better they be built in ones and twos than wait for a local developer to force in ten or twenty!  Q36 – fine idea, but realistic?  Q64 – many people do not wish to live in the market towns or service villages, people living here should be less intent on not letting others enjoy the quality of life that we are privileged to have. Reasonable development could bring about a more united and harmonious community. |

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| Q46 – no water, no toilet facilities, inadequate parking – no point in saying this building can be used for any activities. Parish council needs to liaise with Diocese on the money already spent on the church will be wasted.  Q32 – housing needs to expand to enable the community to survive. |

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| What is the resident’s association? We have never been invited! Surely a resident’s association should be open to all residents to belong and not selected households? |

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| Q31 –   * depends what new housing would look like * Variety of types, styles and sizes of architecture   Q32   * prioritised new to existing locals and first time buyers * whilst important to offer property to local people, this could not be at the expense of making a property ‘saleable’ in the longer term. If required, suggest a time limit of say 3 months to local people first, then on open market. What is meant by local? Resident of SB&B, or within 5 mile radius, for at least 5 years? Needs careful consideration. * Would be difficult to police.   Q38 – already happens enough through neighbours.  Q41 – people need to cut their hedges at roadside so it doesn’t affect traffic.  Q50 – to go at village sign  Q61   * Keep hedges as they are * Let hedges grow naturally where it doesn’t affect anyone else (in your land but trim them back if they overgrow into road therefore narrowing it) |

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| Q32 – if any further housing is permitted it must be low cost, affordable housing for young local people already residing in the village or surrounding villages to have priority.  Q61   * The hedges in parts of the village have been allowed to grow into the road and have reduced the road to single file in some places. The stakes and obstructions placed outside properties on the roadside verges are hazardous to traffic when trying to give way to vehicles coming the other way. * The hedges and ivy-covered trees on the B1111 from White Post towards Spinney Corner need attention as larger vehicles risk breaking wing mirrors when passing oncoming vehicles. |

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| Q36 – regarding possibility of a defibrillator, in the event of a heart attack, experienced by a resident, would it be quicker to call out the first response team? Also, where would it be kept and who would be trained to use it?  Q38 – not having enough information of how Homewatch operates to give an opinion. |

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| Q29 – I think the housing in Stow Bedon is at its maximum. There is signs of problems with sewage in water courses, the current drains, etc. can just about cope if people maintain their individual systems. If more were to be introduced the local natural systems would not cope.  Q33 – I was moved to East Harling from Watton. East Harling is very good but away from area/work. This I feel needs to be highlighted to councils and governments and also needs to be considered with developments. |

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| Additional notes   * Speeding through 30mph zones. Not just be ‘visitors’ to the area but also by residents of these areas. Driving fast around corners hazards can be waiting – pedestrians, cyclists - 30 means 30. * Speeding by tractors – a topic often discussed at Parish council meetings – aren’t they supposed to be limited to 25mph now? Often charge along our narrow lanes (on the phone) with no consideration to others – and if they come across other road users, rather than wait, they drive along the verges damaging it. * There are a number of people (within SB) who tend to look after various parts of the green areas along Mere Road, keeping it tidy and cleaning up and also planting flowers * As well as addressing planning applications the Resident’s Association could look at recruiting fellow villagers to help with litter picks, help to look after signs, etc.   Q55 – with regard to planning applications being advertised more widely – Rocklands PC tend to use the shop to advertise current planning applications – on an A4 page – could the PC for SB&B be able to look at something similar – using local businesses as well as other means? |