

Chilbolton Parish Council
Questionnaire on Parish & Parishioners Aspirations & Priorities 2024
Summary Report April 2024 – Draft 1.0

In parallel to the TVBC housing needs survey in March 2024, the residents of Chilbolton were offered the opportunity to complete a paper-based survey to let the Parish Council know their view on what the current Parish resident aspirations / priorities, should funds / resources become available (i.e. grants, community infrastructure levy arising from new developments in the parish, rural exception sites or other opportunities). The options given were based on the outcome of the Chilbolton Neighbourhood Development Plan survey undertaken in 2018.

These results will be used to help guide any future plan changes over the next 20-30 years. Residents were asked to consider that changes may take many years to plan and implement and outcomes are dependent on sufficient funding and support from the relevant bodies. No commitment or finite decision is made in this report. Any decisions as a result of this questionnaire will involve the Parish being fully consulted first.

Residents were asked to consider for their household, the top 5 priorities for Chilbolton Parish using the scale of 1-5 where 1 was the most important, and 5 being the least important. However, the survey responses varied by form and was inconsistent. Therefore, where any score was assigned, they have been included as an identified priority.

Summary

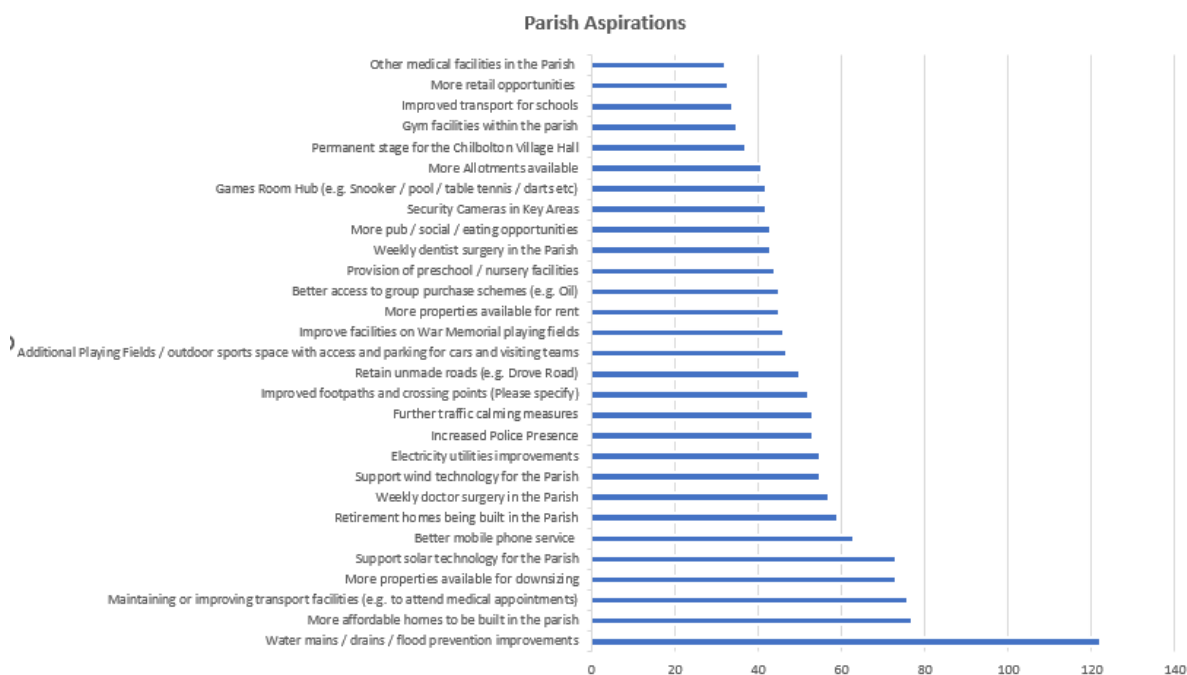
2018	2024
166 surveys completed	135 surveys completed
Solar Park to serve the needs of the village is favored over a wind farm	Water issues are clearly the priority for the parish. Solar location is still a major factor for parishioners.
Parishioners interested in group purchase schemes for oil etc.	Parishioners are still interested in group purchase schemes for utilities.
Transport buses are essential for the community. Lack of buses to Winchester in particular.	Transport to and from key towns / facilities / surgeries is still an issue for many parishioners who don't drive
	Reduction in support for permanent stage
The playing area addresses the needs of younger children, but consideration should be given to providing fitness equipment for older children & adults	Still a priority for some residents
There is little for teenagers in the village. Some want meeting place and either the provision of additional clubs & societies or transportation to clubs & societies outside the village	Good support for a games room / Hub for all ages
Speeding in village is still an issue most people do not think additional speed restrictions should be introduced.	The fact that the 20mph is not enforced is still biggest issue across village. Suggestions for improvements have not changed.
Many negative comments about mobile service	Service has improved with some isolated areas of concern
Keep unmade roads	No change
Support Pub and Shop - keep services in the village	Don't want more shops / pubs but want the current businesses to thrive and have any support required to stay open.

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Parish Aspirations 2024

Parish Aspirations	Priority Count
Water mains / drains / flood prevention improvements	122
More affordable homes to be built in the parish	77
Maintaining or improving transport facilities (e.g. to attend medical appointments)	76
More properties available for downsizing	73
Support solar technology for the Parish	73
Better mobile phone service	63
Retirement homes being built in the Parish	59
Weekly doctor surgery in the Parish	57
Support wind technology for the Parish	55
Electricity utilities improvements	55
Increased Police Presence	53
Further traffic calming measures	53
Improved footpaths and crossing points (<i>Please specify</i>)	52
Retain unmade roads (e.g. Drove Road)	50
Additional Playing Fields / outdoor sports space with access and parking for cars and visiting teams	47
Improve facilities on War Memorial playing fields	46
More properties available for rent	45
Better access to group purchase schemes (e.g. Oil)	45
Provision of preschool / nursery facilities	44
Weekly dentist surgery in the Parish	43
More pub / social / eating opportunities	43
Security Cameras in Key Areas	42
Games Room Hub (e.g. Snooker / pool / table tennis / darts etc)	42
More Allotments available	41
Permanent stage for the Chilbolton Village Hall	37
Gym facilities within the parish	35
Improved transport for schools	34
More retail opportunities	33
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Water mains / drains / flood prevention improvements

70 comments noted in this section

The majority of comments relate to Village Street and the tankering of waste water. This is a priority for residents as current Southern Water infrastructure is too old and inadequate / insufficient for the current capacity. Any adverse weather currently overloads the system and leads to stop gap tankering. This is not acceptable as a long-term solution. Improvements are clearly essential. Specific points raised include:

- Tankers constantly present in Village Street affecting local homes and traffic
- Infrastructure improvements completed before any new building
- Southern Water should be encouraged to invest to eliminate the need for tankers
- During heavy rain Drove Road water flows onto Village Street, adding more staggered drain ditches requested

The outcome requested is to avoid the flooding which has been witnessed on the winter of 2023/2024.

The River Test should not be used for any waste water overflow to maintain the clear chalk river to save the common and all homes nearby.

- The purleygig bridge should be lengthened to maintain access due to high water levels.
- The river should be protected and managed to prevent flooding
- Southern Water should work in consultation with parish to ensure absolute minimum river pollution

Other water issues raised:

- Water pressure can be variable at times
- Too many water outages / Low pressure
- There are too many homes for current system to cope with.

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[More affordable homes to be built in the parish](#)

41 comments noted in this section

Residents agree affordable 1/2/3-bedroom houses required as current housing profile is unaffordable for many especially for young families / those starting out or downsizing. This approach could sustain the long-term future of the community in the parish.

Other points raised:

- Infrastructure - size of roads, utilities, sewage capacity, transport links etc does not support this
- Only large houses have been built in last 20 years
- Family members of all ages have had to leave the village or can't move here as lack of affordable homes.
- Current housing is too expensive (£1M+) to make downsizing worthwhile
- Use space wisely. Homes need to be smaller footprint (max sq. feet) both for commercial purchase and some for 'affordable' rent
- Smaller affordable homes will encourage balance - younger couples / families into the parish to help regenerate clubs / preschool / activities in parish etc. and improve diversity
- This will help keep a balanced history of locals
- Retained control for the future by the village residents and parish for future generations
- Some concern raised about Aster managing current properties

[Maintaining or improving transport facilities \(e.g. to attend medical appointments\)](#)

39 noted in this section

Most comments in this section related to maintaining and improving the bus services for those who are elderly / approaching mature years or do not have access to their own transport.

- More regular services at suitable times to Andover / Stockbridge / Winchester / Basingstoke as well as to medical centres (Gretton / Stockbridge) / dentists / Hospitals / train / coach services / leisure facilities
- Better frequency (convenience) and more destinations will make public transport more appealing
- Busses are a lifeline for some residents but not used at all by others

Other comments:

- Care group formed to assist those with transport issues, more volunteers are needed.
- Less reliance on good will to cater for aging population
- Encourage use of public transport with better notice of what is available
- Reduce pollution, reduce global warming, help poorer people without cars

[More properties available for downsizing](#)

33 comments noted in this section

Residents agree 2 or 3 bedroom bungalows with gardens or 1 or 2 bedroom apartments are needed to enable ageing residents who wish to downsize and stay within the parish and release larger homes for families. Too many suitable homes have been made bigger which do not suit older residents.

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Other Comments:

- bungalows and small community complex required, to allow old residents the chance to stay in the village
- Better balance of house size needed - smaller homes also needed for younger families (3/4 bed homes) these could double as starter homes – see section on more affordable homes in the parish.
- Add restrictions on these into the future for expanding the properties
- Houses are too big, and expensive to move so residents stay in family homes longer
- Older residents in large houses should stay in a more appropriately sized home
- Infrastructure does not support more housing – this should be addressed first
- Many houses now in excess of £1M. Too many smaller properties have been demolished to build massive homes for the wealthy (e.g. Station Road) outpricing locals
- Without smaller properties, older and single people will be forced to leave the village.

One comment strongly disagreed with this suggestion as NO, many could still not afford the largest property vacated.

Support solar technology for the Parish

29 comments noted in this section

Many of the comments made in this section were only one or two words, these included Carbon, Climate Where? Green Energy, Net Zero. The general response was this would be an ecological and environmentally positive thing to do, but more information is needed on the Pros and Cons before anything should be done.

Other comments:

- storage facility on old grid system inadequate
- Invest for the future, become independent in infrastructure
- Would this be private projects?
- Can we club together with other villagers to get a good deal?
- Would be fantastic to have a village solar farm supplying parish
- Run community facilities in a cost-effective manner
- Necessary for today's living
- Location:
 - on roofs only
 - village hall roof
 - wherever possible
 - plenty of room to move to green energy
 - Only consider subtle but not intrusive initiatives

Only one negative comment was noted which was “no ugly”.

Better mobile phone service

41 comments noted in this section

Some comments indicate no current issues or happy with service. Despite asking for location and network not all respondents provided this data. Where a network was mentioned and no location given this is shown in count in the table below.

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Network	Count	Location / Issue
02	4	Drove Road x2 Durnford Close Cart Lane Branksome Avenue (very poor) Village Street x2
BT	3	Drove Road x3
EE	1	Central village area (Low Lying) Drove Road x3 Durnford Close Abbots Mitre x2 Station Road (Top) difficult to hear
Vodafone	3	Centre of 'old' village not reliable Village Street / Abbots Mitre x2 Outside is very poor in village. No 4G coverage
ID Mobile / 3		Drove Hill x3 Village Street Church
Sky		SO20 6AH (2 or less bars)
Virgin		Winchester Road
Unspecified		Joys Lane x3 poor network in this area very poor network, needs a lot of improvement

Those who mentioned masts / towers either did not want them or don't believe we would get one anyway.

Other Comments:

- Mobile network not needed should be using WIFI
- Important as are BT stopping land lines in the near future
- EE network - not good reception. Replacing copper to fibre land lines causes problems including if power cut unable to use mobile too.
- 4G coverage is non-existent in the eastern part of the village

[Retirement homes being built in the Parish](#)

24 comments noted in this section

Residents who wish to remain in the village as there is a lack of affordable housing for the aging population. The average age of residents in the village is increasing. There are many 3+ bedroom homes in the parish currently with single occupation, having retirement homes would expand their choices. The need is for 1 or 2 bedroom residential style homes/ apartments to be available to allow the older generation to remain in the parish and be part of their established community.

Other Comments:

- Bungalows preferable for mobility issues
- Better balance of house size needed - smaller homes also needed for younger families (3/4 bed homes) these could double as starter homes – see section on more affordable homes in the parish.
- Infrastructure does not support more housing – this should be addressed first

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- Transport facilities would have to be improved or the trend to move nearer towns would continue.

One resident commented they had tried to build in their back garden to downsize. They need somewhere or they will have to move away.

This comment not understood?? Not to allow downsizing as villagers still unable to afford larger property.

Weekly doctor surgery in the Parish

23 comments noted in this section

Most comments indicated this would be well received despite local location of GP Surgeries, primarily due to transport issues for some residents. If introduced it should cover all local surgeries but the concern, is it would be overwhelmed if open to everyone in the community and local surgeries may struggle to staff it.

Other Comments:

- Positive feedback about service received at Stockbridge Surgery
- Would reduce road miles to access medical services
- Threatened loss of bus service

Some indicate this is unlikely to happen / unrealistic and wishful thinking. Current local surgeries considered close enough.

Support wind technology for the Parish

21 comments noted in this section

The general response was this would be a green thing to do, but more information is needed on the Pros and Cons before anything should be done. This supports the move to net zero.

Other comments:

- Invest for the future, become independent in infrastructure
- Necessary for today's living
- Village Wind Turbine
- Location:
 - Depends on where they are
 - By the observatory
 - plenty of room to move to green energy
 - Make use of the elevated position, rather than covering fields with solar
 - Preferable to solar panels taking up space on farmland
 - unlike solar this valley needs to be a shared enterprise
 - Only consider subtle but not intrusive initiatives
 - Wind farms may be OK as long as land is not cleared

Negative comments noted were “no ugly” and disfigures the landscape / less practical.

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[Electricity utilities improvements](#)

21 comments noted in this section

The most recurring comment related to the number of power outages / intermittent service, they would like to eliminate the causes. Some residents would like to remove overhead cables. Some residents find the supply satisfactory.

Other Comments:

- Link to solar energy
- More homes are being built but the electricity demand needs to keep pace
- supply upgrades to facilitate more domestic solar panels
- Power wires need to be cleared from trees
- upgrade existing facilities / grid systems to transit into green energy

One resident experiences power cuts whenever its windy.

[Increased Police Presence](#)

17 comments noted in this section

This was seen as desirable as security and a deterrent to discourage theft, vandalism, speeding, antisocial behaviour and drug dealing.

Other Comments:

- particularly for cow common in summer
- police and other public services need investment

The negative comments:

- difficult to see how there could be less / increase from zero – we are vulnerable
- no point they wont come
- Why? To catch poachers?

[Further traffic calming measures](#)

28 comments noted in this section

Some considered what is in place is sufficient, with enough signs in place or no change required. Comments relating to speeding where the current 20mph neither policed or adhered to. This makes it dangerous to walk along the roads without footpaths. The desired outcome is elimination of noisy cars and motorbikes which disturb the peace and are a danger to pedestrians. Hotspot identified along Coley Lane from Drove Road to Station Road where vehicles travel way too fast.

- Add sleeping policemen / speed bumps
- Add a “your speed” sign
- Enforce and monitoring existing 20mph limit
- Speed camera
- More speed limit signage
- Calming measures for Romsey / Winchester Road
- Signage for cow common car park from Coley Lane to be better
- Safety measures for all road users that demonstrate the very limited road space

Additional comments on parking and access, but no location specified.

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Improved footpaths and crossing points (*Please specify*)

30 comments noted in this section

Many footpaths need regular maintenance / clearing to keep them passable. During winter months the footpaths to the common and other parish areas seem overgrown, sodden and muddy. Sympathetic Drainage and surfacing (resilient to wet weather) is requested. The areas Identified are as follows:

- West Down and behind Station Road (one suggestion was horses and cycles should be banned from footpaths)
- Mark Way (clear and cut back)
- Coley Lane – pedestrian safety
- Drove Road
- Test Way behind Watch Cottage deteriorating
- Cow Common - Purleygig Bridge needs attention after recent floods and Long Bridge

A safe crossing from the village to Fullerton / Mayfly / Leckford would be welcome.

Retain unmade roads (e.g. Drove Road)

20 comments noted in this section

Most comments confirm the current unmade roads should be retained as they are. This will ensure traffic slows and Drove Road does not become a rat run. Unmade roads provide a quiet and safe place to walk children.

Other comments:

- Pot holes are terrible / Dangerous to travel
- Drainage and road maintenance as all rainwater migrates to village street
- Last tarmacked in the war!
- Less traffic = better

Negative Comments:

- Drove Hill improvements would help restore traffic through main street. (Village Street)
- NO, Drove Road should be made into a road
- Surfacing the top section and connecting it to Martins Lane would help reduce traffic through the village

Additional Playing Fields / outdoor sports space with access and parking for cars and visiting teams

19 comments noted in this section

The comments in this section were very mixed, varying from current facilities not being used / they are already sufficient (Playing fields, West Down & common) to requesting a sports environment with easier access (creation of a hub to incorporate gym and games facility in one location), thus creating a more cohesive community facility that every villager would like to frequent.

Additional requests:

- Tennis courts
- Additional Parking (including parking on the common)

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- Better facilities near village hall
- Encourage children to exercise with more outdoor activities

One comment referred to the path between Coley Lane through the watch estate to the playing fields might be considered.

Improve facilities on War Memorial playing fields

20 comments noted in this section

Comments in this section indicate no real consensus as they are underused currently, facilities being fine and they have been improved recently. There was also some concern about vandalism.

Facilities Requested:

- better playing fields for children with Additional items on play park, skate board park, cycle track and play apparatus for smaller children (toddlers) to enjoy the space
- A 'trim trail'
- Tennis Courts
- Camera to stop vandalism
- New clubhouse / Improve facilities to clubhouse
- Toilets
- Improve access and parking facilities for events
- More community activities

One comment indicated no need to encourage more visitors.

More properties available for rent

16 comments noted in this section

Everyone needs a home and this would help sustain the long-term future of the parish. Most comments given were in support as this allows people on low incomes to live in the village. The Parish council strategy group are looking at community land development which could lead to affordable rent for the less well of. There is concern that the local infrastructure (size of roads, sewage capacity, transport links etc) does not support more homes.

Other Comments:

- Housing Association Houses
- May help youngsters get on property ladder
- Allows young and old to remain in village
- With future" no buy" policy
- Needs to be means tested

Better access to group purchase schemes (e.g. Oil)

14 comments in this section

The responses indicate some clubs already exist but not everyone know about them or has access to them. Any help to lower cost of oil for residents would be good.

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Other comments:

- Current clubs are not open to all but appreciated by those in them
- Homes with LPG also interested in group purchase scheme

Homes with heat pumps do not need this scheme.

Provision of preschool / nursery facilities

10 comments noted in this section

Half of the comments received indicated this would be an asset to the parish (or local area e.g. Wherwell) and would make life easier for mothers with children of different ages. Currently families are required to travel to local towns.

Other Comments:

- Additional information requested
- No need currently but this may relate to their own circumstances.

Weekly dentist surgery in the Parish

12 comments noted in this section

While some respondents consider this unrealistic and unlikely to happen, the general response was positive for access to NHS dentistry for the elderly and those without transport. Patient lists giving priority to local residents.

Other Comments:

- Possibly a joint venture with Wherwell / Stockbridge
- Location village hall or mobile unit
- If not weekly maybe monthly
- Not private dentistry

More pub / social / eating opportunities

18 comments noted in this section

Many comments advised the 2 pubs in the area is enough, they provide a good service and are insufficient demand for additional facilities. Any focus should be on supporting the current enterprises and retaining and helping them thrive within the parish.

Other Comments:

- Could do with one more option
- More opportunity for socialising. Make more use of village hall
- Parish has good pubs and the Home Guard Club in Wherwell.

Security Cameras in Key Areas

14 comments noted in this section

Positive Comments: As there is little police presence key areas need to be monitored for antisocial behaviour (including theft). This is a useful deterrent in areas such as Cow Common, Playing Fields, Village Hall, Pub, shop and to monitor and record all cars at all 3 roads into Chilbolton 24/7.

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Negative Comments: No thank you, too urban, privacy invaded and not respected, is it really necessary?

[Games Room Hub \(e.g. Snooker / pool / table tennis / darts etc\)](#)

15 comments noted in this section

From the comments this is a good positive suggestion for social wellbeing for all ages in the parish. Some facilities are already available at the Home Guard Club. Suggested this is part of the Village Hall.

Other Comments:

- Could all be used in one building with gym
- For the pleasure of both the retirees and the increasing younger fraternity
- Marginal benefit and would need investment
- Currently nothing local – requires transport to get to local towns
- Use of School and Village Hall as community area.

Some respondents indicated this facility would not be required. Facilities have been previously provided but removed.

[More Allotments available](#)

9 comments noted in this section

The responses here indicate this is good facility for the village resident's wellbeing but current offerings are poor. Would like level area with water and parking readily available. Could be considered as part of any new development to promote self-sustainability.

Some concerned current ones are not fully used, many people already have large gardens and don't need this.

[Permanent stage for the Chilbolton Village Hall](#)

10 comments noted in this section

Many comments here appeared to indicate current stage not used / underutilised and therefore this should not be a priority.

Other comments:

- This would save the effort in lowering the current stage
- We need a drama group
- To attract more amateur dramatics and events

[Gym facilities within the parish](#)

8 comments noted in this section

Comments here vary from unrealistic / not required to good to have this within the memorial playing fields to encourage exercise. Seen as some marginal benefit but needs big investment. Equipment to be included would be a static rowing machine / Bike etc

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Other Comments:

- could all be used in one building with games room
- Andover Leisure centre is brilliant

Improved transport for schools

10 comments noted in this section

Comments vary from Ok as it is, not applicable / don't have any need, busses already exist for schools in catchment and parents will still drive. There is a clear link here to improving transport. One respondent asked for more info to be able to comment on this section.

More retail opportunities

18 comments noted in this section

Comments support current facilities are ok and no further retail / pubs / eating opportunities needed, but we do need to ensure that the pub and shop are supported and can thrive.

Other Comments:

- Café / Tearoom
- More stock needs to be available in village shop / Stock limited
- Shame current shop not a little bigger
- Don't see a supermarket being built
- Shop is already struggling and people can shop online

Other medical facilities in the Parish

14 comments noted in this section

These could possibly be delivered at the village hall. This would make transport easier for those who don't / can't drive. Some considered surgeries and hospitals are not far away.

The services suggested are as follows:

- Blood tests
- Vaccinations
- Delivery of prescriptions from Gretton and Stockbridge Surgery
- Physio and Chiropody
- Triage Service
- Mobile Chemist
- Optician

One comment indicated this was unrealistic, another wanted more info to be able to respond to this section.

Other Comments submitted

14 additional comments were submitted

The following are the additional comments residents completed at the end of the survey and are in no particular order. Some have been edited for readability. Many just want to identify key priority important to the authors.

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- I am sorry to say this is all too late, we have missed the point of no return. To make many of these proposals the key factor is the growth of the humanity verses environment, the fact we are facing inverse settlement of land loss for the projects which will be defeated in an exponential way due to humanity following demographic growth.
- Coley Lane is getting too narrow through mud movement onto the road and overgrowth on opposite site, too many drivers driving in middle of road who will not move over, specifically trade vehicles.
- Drainage improvements required.
- Pressure needs to be applied to improve the state of roads and hedges around the village.
- Measures to combat the flooding of the draining system to avoid tankers and over pumping is a key priority.
- It's not a priority for us now personally, because we already live here, but it would be beneficial to others (from our personal experience) to have more 1st time buyer, retirement and downsizing homes and reduce the existing supply of little homes being super-sized. Also, not on this list but it would be #1 if it was. I would really hate to find the village shop less. I would support all possible support to go to Nicky and were she ever to leave, some sort of parish led project to take it over if all else failed.
- Where is the land coming from to build these houses?
- Climate change challenge awareness
- more buses for non-drivers in the village
- Crowd Fund purchase of Test Valley Farm for Community
- As there is no money how are these facilities to be paid for?
- Stop deterring people from visiting cow common.
- Unusual to have 5 worst and 1 best. This is a village if people require all the additional facilities probably best to live in a town / City. Chilbolton should avoid being a conurbation.
- Thank you for Collating this information.

End of Report