

Response to Questions Raised at Parish Council Meeting on 18 August 2026

1. Traffic speeds and future development traffic

Q1: What can be done to address excessive vehicle speeds in this area? Planning condition of the Sewell Meadow development is to shut-off St Faiths Road before junction with Money Road. St Faiths Road from the Lodge Lane mini-roundabout will be a dead-end with Cemetery and any other vehicle movement being directed through Sewell Meadow development along Money Road.

Q2: Will the existing road closure remain in place to prevent development, airport or industrial estate traffic using the route through the village? Facilitation of construction traffic to Sewell Meadow development via Meteor Close was agreed by LPA for the duration of construction works. This access will cease when works are completed.

Q3: What measures are in place to prevent the route being reopened to through traffic? This route is a planning condition only – any further changes would require a consultation period.

2. Speeding on Spixworth Road and Community Speedwatch

Q1: What can be done to address speeding on Spixworth Road? Parish Council can raise the issue with the Police. Residents can also raise the issue with the Police, either via the website or by attending the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings held every three months. Next meeting being held on 22 September 2026 at 6pm at The Hub at Wroxham – details published on the Parish Council website:
<https://www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Q2: Is there a process for establishing a Community Speedwatch scheme in Old Catton? The Parish Council previously organised a Community Speedwatch team. Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers, compounded by the restriction that the Speedwatch team are unable to carry out checks on 20mph road, the team folded. If the Parish would like the Parish Council to consider this again – 30mph roads in Old Catton are: Oak Lane, Spixworth Road, The Paddocks and George Hill – please email the Council Office. This can only be considered if willing volunteers are available.

Q3: If a Community Speedwatch scheme were established on Spixworth Road, would the necessary equipment be available? Yes, subject to Norfolk Constabulary supporting the scheme, equipment being available through the Police and sufficient volunteers being available to operate the Speedwatch on a regular basis.

Q4: Can the impact of additional traffic arising from future development be considered as part of this? The Parish Council are aware there is already significant impact from development in the Parish and that this will only increase. Concerns have previously been raised regarding lack of infrastructure and the requirement for the East-West Link Road to be completed before the Beeston Park development starts have been raised and left unanswered. The Parish Council continues to raise these concerns with the Local Planning Authority.

3. Recreation Ground/school access – evidence and transparency

Q1: What evidence and assessments were considered when the Council made its recent decisions concerning the Recreation Ground and closure of the school access?

The Council considered risk assessments relating to pedestrian and vehicle movements, child safety and the safe operation of the Recreation Ground, together with the practical operation of the site, existing and alternative access arrangements, and construction and operational vehicle movements.

Further risk assessment has subsequently been undertaken in relation to site security and the measures required to protect the site and assets.

Q2: How were residents kept informed about the evidence considered and the reasons for the decisions? The school access was a permissive arrangement between the Parish Council and the school. The school was formally notified of the Council's decision to withdraw the arrangement to enable it to make the necessary arrangements for the change.

Q3: Does the Council consider that its decision-making process was sufficiently transparent and in the public interest? Yes. The decision was made by Full Council having regard to safety, operational requirements and the Council's responsibility to manage its land and facilities in the wider public interest.

4. Publication of answers to public questions

Q1: Will the Council publish its responses to the questions raised during public speaking so that they are available to everyone? Yes. Q&A published on the Parish Council website – www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

5. Planning applications – Persimmon

Q1: Why did the Council resolve to make no objection to the Persimmon application when, according to the resident, councillors had been unable to access a significant supporting document? The Council was aware that some supporting documentation was unavailable at that time. However, the application related to the discharge of a

planning condition and the Council considered the information available and concluded that there were no substantive grounds on which to object.

Q2: Would the Council consider displaying planning applications and supporting documentation on the meeting-room screen while applications are being considered, so that councillors and members of the public can see the information under discussion? No. Planning applications and supporting documents are publicly available on the Local Planning Authority's planning portal, with details of how to access the relevant applications provided on the meeting agenda. Residents may therefore view the documentation in advance of the meeting.

6. Publicity for Council meetings

Q1: Why were the signs advertising the meeting removed rather than being retained and amended/reused for future meetings? The signs were not issued by the Parish Council. Notices displayed on Catton Park noticeboards require authorisation and are restricted to information relating to Catton Park; if unauthorised signs were placed on these noticeboards they would have been removed.

7. Recreation Ground – vehicle movements during school times

Q1: How frequently do maintenance vehicles actually enter or leave the Recreation Ground during school drop-off and collection times? There is no fixed frequency. Council staff require access to the Recreation Ground throughout the working day, and contractors undertaking grounds maintenance, tree works and other works may also require access. The Council cannot restrict necessary operational access to avoid school drop-off and collection times where alternative school access points are available.

Q2: Could maintenance and vehicle movements be arranged to avoid these relatively short periods rather than withdrawing the school access? No. The Recreation Ground is an operational Council site requiring access throughout the working day. Following identification of the risks associated with pedestrian and vehicle movements, the Council considered it necessary to manage those risks rather than continue the previous arrangement.

Q3: As part of the health and safety review, was consideration given to limiting machinery movements and deliveries to times outside school drop-off and collection periods? The Recreation Ground is an operational Council site requiring access throughout the working day. The Council cannot reasonably restrict necessary staff, contractor and delivery movements to avoid specific periods.

Q4: If machinery in the car park presents a danger to the public, how is the safety of other users, including disabled people, being managed? The presence and movement of vehicles and machinery is managed in accordance with the Council's health and safety procedures. The particular risk identified in relation to the school access concerned children crossing the Recreation Ground driveway during busy collection and drop off periods and potentially entering the path of moving vehicles or machinery.

Q5: Will the Parish Council noticeboard be moved to a safer location? There are currently no proposals to relocate the Parish Council noticeboard. Site safety arrangements will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

8. Recreation Ground Car Park – Planning and Vehicle Movements

Q1: When the Recreation Ground works were originally planned, was sufficient consideration given to the need for machinery to cross the car park and the resulting restrictions on public use? Yes. Construction access and the need for temporary restrictions on public use formed part of the planning and management of the works.

Q2: Were the proposed restrictions/change in use of the car park put to the public during the planning stage? There has been no change of use of the Recreation Ground car park. Temporary restrictions required to facilitate construction works and ensure public safety were operational measures associated with the delivery of Phase 1.

9. Recreation Ground – Site Security

Q1: Why wasn't the diesel theft and bolt cutting of the gate reported to the police and parishioners. Both incidents were reported to the Police. The cutting of the gate lock was also reported to the school. No further information has been received from the Police in relation to either incident. There is not requirement for the Council to routinely publicise individual security or criminal incidents occurring on its land.

10. Bowls Club – Full-Season Play and Keyholding

Q1: Can the current restriction on full-season play be reassessed? No. The seasonal arrangements have been confirmed to Clubs on a number of occasions. Access is permitted from the third week of April, weather permitting (or from 1 May where necessary), until 31 August. This allows essential annual maintenance to be carried out during the first two weeks of September. The Council does not intend to vary this arrangement.

Q2: Can the current arrangements for Bowls Club keyholding and access to the facilities be reconsidered? No. Hirers of Recreation Ground facilities are not provided with keys to secured areas. This is a site safety and security measure that is applied to all hirers.

10. School access – historic approach to traffic and wider impact

Q1: Given that traffic and congestion have increased since those arrangements were introduced, what has changed in the Council's approach? The historic arrangement referred to dates from the 1980s. The Council must manage the Recreation Ground based on current circumstances, patterns of use, operational requirements and identified safety risks. Previous arrangements do not prevent the Council from reviewing and changing how its land is managed where circumstances have changed.

Q2: What consideration has been given to the impact that withdrawal of the school access may have on congestion in the surrounding area? The Council has considered the implications of withdrawing the access. However, the Parish Council is not responsible for managing school-related traffic or parking on the surrounding highways. Its responsibility is to manage the Recreation Ground and its access safely and appropriately.

Q3: When making decisions concerning land which it owns or manages, does the Parish Council consider the potential impact of those decisions on the wider surrounding area? Yes. However, the Council must balance any wider impacts against its responsibilities for the safe, appropriate and effective management of the land for which it is responsible.

Q4: An independent appraisal carried out in 1982-83 recorded that the Parish Council encouraged parents to use the Recreation Ground car park to relieve congestion. With this in mind, what arrangements have been made for when parking provision is removed? The arrangements referred to date from the 1980s. The Parish Council is not responsible for providing school drop-off, collection or parking facilities and must manage the Recreation Ground according to current operational and safety requirements.

Q5: Does the Council consider the wider consequences for the community beyond those areas it directly manages? Yes. The Council considers wider community impacts when making decisions, balanced against its responsibilities for the safe, appropriate and effective management of the land and facilities for which it is responsible.

11. School access – temporary closure becoming permanent

Q1: What changed between the temporary closure in March 2026 and the subsequent decision to withdraw the permissive access permanently? The initial risk assessment considered child safety during the temporary closure. Subsequent assessment identified wider and ongoing risks associated with pedestrian and vehicle movements, operational use of the site and potential Council liability. These risks extended beyond

the temporary closure during the construction period and informed the decision to withdraw the permissive access permanently.

Q2: Why has the temporary closure of the gate between the Recreation Ground and school now become permanent? Subsequent risk assessment identified wider and ongoing risks associated with pedestrian and vehicle movements and the operational use of the site. As these risks extend beyond the temporary construction period, the Council resolved to withdraw the permissive access permanently.

12. School access – reconsideration

Q1: In light of the petition and the strength of feeling expressed by residents, will the Council reconsider its decision to withdraw the permissive school access? The decision was made by Full Council on 9 June 2026 in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and relevant legislation. That decision remains the formal decision of the Council and remains in place. Under Standing Order 7, a resolution of the Council cannot be reversed within six months except by a special motion in accordance with the provisions of that Standing Order –

www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/images/pdfs_foi/2026/Model-Standing-Orders_2026.pdf

13. School Access – Emergency Services

Q1: What consideration was given to emergency-service access when deciding to close the school access? The school access was a permissive pedestrian access and was not provided or designated by the Parish Council as an emergency service access point. Emergency access to the Recreation Ground is maintained through the Council's designated vehicular access.

Q2: Could the closure impede access or escape in the event of a fire, particularly a wildfire? The access was a permissive pedestrian route across Council land and was not provided or designated by the Parish Council as an emergency escape route. The school is responsible for ensuring that its emergency arrangements provide appropriate evacuation routes using access that is available to it.

Q3: Could the closure affect ambulance access in the event of a child being injured on the school field? The permissive access was not provided by the Parish Council as an ambulance or emergency service access route. The school is responsible for ensuring that appropriate emergency access arrangements are in place for its site.

14. Recreation Ground – School Drop-off/Pick-up

Q1: What provision is being made for school drop-off/pick-up at the Recreation Ground? The Parish Council is not responsible for providing school drop-off or

collection facilities. Arrangements for pupils arriving at and leaving school are a matter for the school and Highways.

15. Hire of community facilities – Buxton Lodge

Q1: Why is the venue no longer available for private/community hire when such use was permitted before Covid? [Decision to revert hire of Buxton Lodge to original use which is as an educational building.](#)

Q2: Why was the previous arrangement not reinstated following the end of Covid restrictions? [The building was designed as an educational building and, following Covid, the decision was made to revert back to the original usage.](#)

Q3: Could the facility be made available for birthday parties, celebrations and similar community/private events for an appropriate hire charge? [Ad-hoc and one-off hiring of Buxton Lodge, even educational hire, is not considered.](#)

16. Provision of a public seat/bench

Q1: Would the Council support or permit the provision of a seat at the suggested location? [Yes. The Council supports the proposed installation of a bench at this location.](#)

Q2: What permissions or regulations would need to be considered? [Highways consent would be required before installation. The Council Office is currently liaising with Highways regarding this.](#)

17. Neighbourhood Plan Vision

Q1: Does the Council consider that the decisions it has made during the current year remain consistent with the vision contained within the Old Catton Neighbourhood Plan? [Yes. The Council considers that its decisions remain consistent with the overall vision and objectives of the Old Catton Neighbourhood Plan, while also taking account of its responsibilities for the safe and effective management of Council land, facilities and services.](#)

Q2: How does the Council believe that closing a long-established access route, which residents say has increased congestion and reduced accessibility, supports the Neighbourhood Plan vision? [The Council considers the decision is consistent with the overall vision of the Neighbourhood Plan. The reasons for the withdrawal of the access, including safety considerations, and the potential impact on the surrounding area are addressed in the responses above.](#)

18. Community Impact

Q1: Was sufficient consideration given to how closure of the school access would affect the local community and whether this accords with the Neighbourhood Plan?

Yes. The Council considered the wider implications of the decision and considers it consistent with the overall vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Q2: What impact will the decision have on traffic on surrounding roads, including Church Street and Garrick Green? The Council acknowledges that withdrawal of the access may affect individual travel and parking arrangements. However, management of school-related traffic and parking on the surrounding highway is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Q3: Does the decision deliver any community benefits? Yes. The decision addresses identified safety risks, removes pedestrian and vehicle conflict at an operational Council site and supports the safe and effective management of the Recreation Ground for the wider community.

19. CCTV and the school

Q1: Was the potential recording of children attending the school specifically considered within the Council's CCTV privacy impact assessment? Yes. The Council's CCTV Privacy Impact Assessment and subsequent addendum considered the potential capture of children and other members of the public within the camera's field of view.

Q2: If it was not considered, on what basis has the Council declined to alter the camera coverage? Not applicable. The matter was considered as set out above.

Q3: Would the Council allow the school to review the CCTV coverage to provide reassurance regarding safeguarding? No request to do so has been received from the school. CCTV footage is managed in accordance with the Council's CCTV Policy - www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/images/pdfs_foi/2026/CCTV_Policy_2026_revised.pdf - and data protection requirements and is not routinely monitored.

Q4: Why was the school's previously raised concern regarding CCTV not addressed in the Council's letter dated 24 June 2026? The school's CCTV concerns had already been considered and formally responded to by the Council on 22 April 2026. The letter of 24 June 2026 related specifically to the withdrawal of the permissive access arrangement.

Q5: Why is the CCTV camera focused on the school rather than Council assets such as the pavilion? It is not. The camera monitors the Council's access road and entrance to the Recreation Ground for community safety and the protection of Council assets. Any visibility of the school site is peripheral and incidental.

Q6: Has the Council considered repositioning the camera rather than restricting a long-established community route? **Yes. The camera position has been assessed and is considered necessary and proportionate for its intended purpose. Repositioning would reduce its effectiveness in monitoring the access point.**

20. Request for an independent investigation

Q1: Will the Council commission an independent investigation into the running of the Parish Council?

Q2: Will the Council cease signing further documents pending completion of such an investigation?

Q3: Will the Council suspend further capital expenditure pending completion of such an investigation?

No. The Council operates within established statutory governance and financial control arrangements, including its adopted Financial Regulations and internal systems of financial review and control. These arrangements are subject to regular scrutiny, including two internal audits each year undertaken by an independent external provider, together with the annual AGAR process and external auditor review.

No specific evidence of financial or governance irregularity requiring a separate independent investigation was presented to the Council at the meeting. In the absence of such evidence, the Council considers that there is no basis for commissioning an additional investigation.

There is similarly no basis for the Council to cease signing documents or suspend properly authorised capital expenditure. The Council will continue to conduct its business in accordance with its established governance, financial controls and audit arrangements.

21. Council Website – Costs and Accessibility

Q1: What is the annual cost of the Council's website, including VAT? **The Council does not incur a separate annual website support charge. Website support is provided as part of the Council's wider IT support arrangements, with separate hosting/domain costs and any additional support charged as applicable.**

Q2: Why are Parish Council meeting minutes not available on the website beyond approximately one year? **This is incorrect. Archived Parish Council minutes dating back to 2010 are available on the Council's website - <https://www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk/i-want-to/read-the-latest-minutes-agendas.html>**

Q3: Why are other documents, including financial information, not readily available on the website? A wide range of information is available on the Council's website, including financial information, Council policies and governance information, parish information, news and events, local contact details and other Council documents.

August 2026