Old Catton Parish Council
The Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton, NR6 7DS

Response to Questions Raised at Parish Council Meeting on 12 October 2026

1. Highway Safety and Parish Partnership Scheme

Q1: Will the Parish Council submit an application under the Norfolk County Council Parish Partnership Scheme before the December deadline for highway safety improvements, particularly School Keep Clear markings and speed restrictions around local schools?

The Parish Council is currently working with Norfolk County Council Highways and the local County Councillor to identify potential highway improvements throughout the Parish, including consideration of measures around local schools.

Any proposed application under the Parish Partnership Scheme would need to meet the scheme's eligibility criteria, be supported by Norfolk County Council Highways and have the necessary funding approved by the Parish Council.

Q2: Can the Parish Council undertake fundraising, with support from residents, to contribute towards highway safety improvements?

Community fundraising may be an option towards the cost of an agreed project. However, any proposed highway improvements would first need to be considered by the Parish Council and supported by Norfolk County Council Highways.

Any funding raised would not guarantee that a proposed scheme could proceed, as all highway improvements remain subject to the necessary approvals.

2. Hire of community facilities – Buxton Lodge

Q1: Why will the Council not reconsider its decision regarding the hire of Buxton Lodge for a wedding reception, particularly when the resident indicated that she would be willing to pay £1,000 for the hire?

The matter of hiring Buxton Lodge for a wedding reception has previously been considered and responded to, including within the published responses to questions raised at the August and September Council meetings.

The Council's position, as sole-trustees, remains unchanged.

3. Recreation Ground – Opening Hours and School Access

Q1: Will the Parish Council consider opening the Recreation Ground at 8am during the winter months to provide residents with a safe, dog-free area for exercise and allow use of the car park for school drop-off?

The Recreation Ground is available for exercise and recreational activities during its established opening hours of 9am until dusk. Full Council confirmed at its meeting on 9 June 2026 that the Recreation Ground would return to its established opening arrangements.

The Recreation Ground car park is provided for users of the Recreation Ground and is not a designated school car park.

The Council's decision remains unchanged.

Q2: If the Recreation Ground cannot open at 8am, why can the pedestrian access between the Recreation Ground and Old Catton Junior School not be opened?
The Council's decision to withdraw the permissive pedestrian access between Old Catton Junior School and the Recreation Ground access driveway was made at its meeting on 9 June 2026, following consideration of the associated safety, site security and operational concerns.

The matter has been the subject of considerable correspondence and discussion, and the Council's reasons for its decision have been previously explained.

4. Catton Park – Dog Control
Q1: A resident supported the request for the Recreation Ground to open at 8am, to provide a dog-free area for early morning exercise. Would the Council reconsider its opening arrangements?
The Recreation Ground opening hours are addressed in Section 3. The Council's decision remains unchanged.

Q2: Would consideration be given to providing a designated dog exercise area within Catton Park, allowing other visitors to enjoy the Park without encountering off-lead dogs?
Catton Park is enjoyed by a wide range of visitors, including walkers, runners, families and dog owners. Signage is in place on all entrances to the Park requesting that dog owners are considerate of other visitors and keep their dogs under control.

The Park also has a designated dog-free picnic area, providing approximately two acres of open space for visitors who prefer to exercise or enjoy the Park without dogs.

Catton Park is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and it would not be practical or financially viable to provide a dedicated dog warden to supervise the Park throughout these hours. There are no plans to introduce a designated dog exercise area within Catton Park. As a Grade II* listed historic country park, the introduction of a designated dog exercise area would not be considered appropriate or in keeping with the historic character and landscape of the Park.

5. Speeding and Highway Safety at Lodge Lane Mini-Roundabout
Q1: Will the Parish Council investigate concerns regarding vehicles travelling at excessive speeds along Lodge Lane and crossing the mini-roundabout towards Repton Avenue without slowing down, and consider whether traffic calming measures are required?
The Parish Council acknowledges the concerns raised regarding vehicle speeds and safety at the Lodge Lane mini-roundabout.

The Parish Council has not received any reports of accidents or incidents at this location. It is important that any road traffic accidents or incidents are reported to the Police to ensure they are appropriately recorded.

Norfolk County Council is responsible for highway safety, and the concerns raised will be included in the Parish Council's ongoing discussions with Norfolk County Council Highways regarding traffic safety throughout the Parish.

October 2026