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PLANNING COMMITTEE	
DATE:	WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2021 9.30 AM
VENUE:	KING EDMUND CHAMBER, ENDEAVOUR HOUSE, 8 RUSSELL ROAD, IPSWICH

For consideration at the meeting on Wednesday, 15 DECEMBER 2021, the following additional or updated papers that were unavailable when the Agenda was printed.

ADDITIONAL TABLED PAPER

Page(s)

- b **DC/21/04477 PARSONAGE BARN, PARSONAGE LANE, 3 - 4
CHELSWORTH, SUFFOLK, IP7 7HT**

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Agenda Item 6b

Parsonage Lane Chelsworth DC/21/04477

I have been Chairman of Chelsworth Village Meeting for two years. I had hoped to be here in person but tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday.

The village much appreciates the Committee taking time to decide this application rather than delegating it to the officers.

Normally, when I am notified of planning applications, I pass them on to villagers, inviting them to submit comments should they so wish. In this case, so great was the hostility generated by Babergh's approval of the Sturgeon 'electricity sub-station' and subsequent rejection of the Bessells' application for a traditional timber-framed house that I was authorised to lodge a collective submission of support for the Bessells' application, which I did.

We have a population of about 120 living in about 70 properties, yet we are a thriving community renowned not least for our famous annual Open Gardens event, our Church Christmas Fair and The Peacock pub. For us, the issue is simple:

1. Unlike the currently approved design, the proposed one is traditional and fits well with a village whose beauty is widely acknowledged. Policy CS15 of the CS requires proposals **to respect the local context and character**. We submit the approved plan fails that test whilst the current application meets it.
2. The whole village, notably the neighbours on either side, support the application before you and took great offence on learning that, when told of the village view, an officer of the Council retorted that the views of the village 'were of no interest' to her. I understand she has since left the Council.
3. Our local Councillor, Leigh Jamieson, has been fully supportive throughout.
4. The O'Briens, who acquired Parsonage Barn, sought and obtained a substantial revision of the plans submitted by Mr Sturgeon. The Bessells understandably bought the site optimistic that Babergh would favourably entertain a similar request from them. Despite Tom Barker's entirely reasonable assertion that the council is expected to take 'a consistent approach' that clearly has not been the case here.

As the Bessells wrote to me: "*It seems that we are being forced to build something that we don't want, the neighbours don't want, the villagers don't want and will be completely incongruous with the village vernacular.*"

The people of Chelsworth very much hope the Committee will remedy this injustice.

Sir Gerald Howarth

Chairman, Chelsworth Village Meeting

14th December 2021

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