

This is a paper produced by Dennis Thomson.
He moved to the village in 1972 and “was shocked at the lack of forward thinking”.
He says:

“With considerable temerity as a newcomer, I produced a paper about the village as copy attached (rather poor reproduction of a document produced on an old ribbon portable typewriter). Bob (Clarkson) liked it and called a public meeting to debate it and any other concerns of residents. That was in April 1973.

The most tangible result was the re-activation of a dormant Residents Association, 4 of its members deposed the previous 4 on Wonston PC and went on to rectify many of the shortcomings mentioned in my paper. Also we were able to influence Winchester CC through pressures we exercised leading to the Design Brief for a new estate.”

The following paper is transcribed from a copy that is quite difficult to read in places.

SOUTH WONSTON VILLAGE

GENERALLY

The Village Plan for South Wonston was adopted in 1965. The stated objective of the Plan was that the village should be “rounded off to provide a community area to support a reasonable range of facilities” without harming the “Great Landscape Value” of the general area.

The village population was 450 when the Plan was prepared and a maximum of 1,500 was foreseen. Present population is approximately 1,000.

The speed of development has been checked by the absence of mains drainage and by limitations in the water supply but it is expected these restraints will have been removed by 1975.

THE PLAN

We accept the basic principles set out in the plan but we favour a small area of additional development being allowed at the north-east corner of the area. This would permit building on both sides of Westhill Road, northward to Alresford Drove. The east boundary shown on the plan would be extended northward to Alresford Drove and the general area would be infilled (Maximum 15 acres).

We accept this may present a drainage problem and tree screening would also be required to conceal the houses from a distant view. However, it would resolve the problem of the undesirable dwellings already existing in that area and would justify making up the remaining section of Westhill Road so that the village would have the amenity of a road link out to the east, It would be a logical place to site the builder’s yard, village motor mechanic, etc.

POPULATION

We think the original estimate of maximum population, 1,500, is unrealistic and should be recalculated. It appears likely the total will be at least 2,000 and may approach 3,000. It is important to know an accurate maximum population so that community buildings can be correctly planned and so that suitable business people can be attracted to take the proposed shops etc.

THE CHURCH AND CHURCH HALL

The existing buildings will be too small and unsuitable for the enlarged community. It is assumed that the functions of a village hall will be transferred to a new Community Hall elsewhere.

However, it is essential that the Planning Authority be asked to confirm the present site as suitable for an enlarged Church with Parish Room and parking space. If not, another site will have to be considered or the church closed.

COMMUNITY HALL

It is envisaged that the new Community Hall would be sited either with the shops or on the playing field as part of a pavilion complex. The Hall should provide a space of adequate size for meetings and height for games such as badminton, also stage, two smaller rooms, kitchen, toilets and storage.

Adequate car parking will be needed, perhaps shared with the shops and playing field.

CLINIC & DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Consultation is needed with the Health Authority but medical facilities for a clinic and surgery are urgently awaited. It may be possible to include suitable facilities within the Community Hall.

SHOPS

We consider that provision should be allowed for four shops with flats above and generous parking space (on the model of the Harestock estate)
(Tenancies might include butcher, greengrocer, newsagent, draper, bank sub-office, hardware etc)

LICENCED PREMISES

The existing licensed Social Club is in a temporary building on a leased site.

It may be rebuilt on the present site or included near the shops but if the latter, we think the Community Hall would have to move onto the playing field site due to space limitations.

HOUSING

We consider that no high density housing should be allowed in the village and that the generally existing patterns should be maintained.

This would indicate 8 houses to the acre generally, nowhere more than 10 houses to the acre.

Provision for old people's dwellings should be included as a natural acceptance of the community responsibility in this respect.

A£\$ TRUNK ROAD

The Highway Authority should be pressed to implement the proposed diversion so that the hazardous entrance to Downs Road is relieved. We believe this should be completed before the village is further enlarged.

A safe protected footway should be formed along the old A34 from Downs Road to Worthy Down.

Another safe pedestrian way should be provided across the new line of A34 to the downland beyond.

We would also like to see the land between the new and old roads landscaped and formed into common land as an amenity.

ESTATE ROADS

We wish to have street lighting provided throughout the estate. This should be a condition for all new development. For existing streets we think lighting should be provided to a planned programme taking into account financial limits but giving Downs Road priority.

A speed limit should also be introduced as soon as possible.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Although public use of buses may be declining at present, it is probable a service will eventually be required along Downs Road and this option should be preserved.

LANDSCAPING

Proposals for additional tree planting and for preservation orders on specimen trees or groups of trees of landscape importance should be prepared.

This is a matter in which the County Council could provide valuable assistance to the Parish Council.