The Local Plan needs to be inclusive of the interests and views of all the parishes in the Park. Whilst naturally the focus will be on the larger settlements and development sites, the needs and views of the smaller parishes should not be left out. Smaller parishes cannot usually afford, or have the need for, a full blown Neighbourhood Plan. They tend to have lesser documents such as Parish Plans. Nonetheless these set out the problems, solutions and ambitions of the parishes. It is disappointing that a small parish such as Owslebury seems to have been overlooked - its Parish Plan is not even included in the list of plans considered by SDNPA. Yet in area it is a large parish with major tourist attractions and with over 60 rights of way giving access to the beauty of the Park. In many ways it is what the SDNP is all about - protecting the beauty of the landscape for future generations. The major developments planned in neighbouring parishes such as Fair Oak and Colden Common (outside the Park) have a major influence on the Park itself. This leads on to the other major concern - traffic. Whilst the Park has no authority over traffic management, the impact of poor traffic plans in the face of huge developments just outside the Park must be a primary concern and should be included in the local plan. Greater influence needs to be brought to bear on traffic authorities to take account of the impact on rural routes and the tranquility of the countryside as a result of congestion on main routes causing traffic to use rural lanes as rat runs. This is an increasing problem in many parishes and as such should be considered within the local plan.
What improvements or changes do you suggest?

Attachments