

# Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Support Our Parish Council

## Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming more common in everyday work, with nearly 30% of professionals in the UK already using AI tools to improve productivity (source: People Management). AI helps by automating repetitive tasks, streamlining processes, and offering insights based on data.

## How AI Could Help Ide Parish Council (IPC)

AI tools, like ChatGPT, can assist the Parish Council in several ways, making it easier to manage our responsibilities. Some of the ways AI can help include:

- Drafting meeting minutes or emails
- Researching topics for community projects
- Summarizing long documents into key points
- Preparing for meetings by analyzing lengthy documents
- Providing insights on planning applications or local issues

AI is easy to use and generates clear, simple responses, making it helpful even for councillors without specialized knowledge in areas like planning or law.

## Recommendation

I propose that each councillor try using an AI tool, such as ChatGPT, to assess its usefulness for council work. ChatGPT is free to use and can assist with a variety of tasks. ChatGPT is browser-based so can be used on any computer – Mac or PC.

Here's how to get started:

1. Visit OpenAI's website.
2. Sign up using your email.
3. Start asking questions or requesting help with council tasks.

To get the best results, be sure to provide some background information when asking questions. For example, specify the topic you're dealing with and request responses in simple, clear language.

For an example of AI in action, please refer to the appendix, where ChatGPT has summarized the key points from a 32-page planning appeal decision.

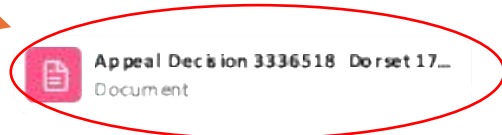
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## Appendix

Document uploaded



What ChatGPT was asked to do



Analyse and summarise the attached. I am particularly interested why the appeal was dismissed.



What ChatGPT produced

The appeal for a 1,700-home development at Alderholt was dismissed due to several critical reasons:

- Highway Safety and Accessibility:** The primary reason for dismissal was the inadequacy of the local road network to support the significant increase in traffic from the development. The rural roads surrounding Alderholt were deemed insufficient in width and structure to handle the additional vehicular load safely. Despite proposed widening measures, many roads, especially the B3078, Kent Lane, and routes to Fordingbridge and Ringwood, remained unsafe or unsuitable for the increased traffic volume. Furthermore, proposed improvements were doubted due to unclear boundaries of highway land and a lack of specific agreements with Hampshire County Council regarding traffic mitigation in Fordingbridge ([Appeal Decision 3336518...](#)).
- Excessive Reliance on Car Travel:** The development would still rely heavily on external car trips to access employment, retail, health, and education facilities located outside the village. Despite plans for a village center and public transport initiatives, the inspector concluded that the new facilities would not significantly reduce the need for long car journeys. This contradicts national and local planning policies aimed at reducing the need for travel and encouraging development in more sustainable, accessible locations ([Appeal Decision 3336518...](#)).
- Inadequate Infrastructure Improvements:** Although the appellant proposed various road improvements, the level of investment and intervention was not considered sufficient to mitigate the negative effects of the increased traffic. The inspector noted that greater investment in the local highway network would be necessary to service a development of this scale ([Appeal Decision 3336518...](#)).
- Conflict with Local Plan Policy:** The development conflicted with Local Plan Policies KS2, KS9, and KS11, which prioritize locating new development near existing services and transport links. Alderholt's distant location from major service centers and its lack of public transport connections made the proposal unsuitable under these policies ([Appeal Decision 3336518...](#)) ([Appeal Decision 3336518...](#)).

These reasons led to the conclusion that the adverse impacts of the development significantly outweighed the benefits, including the provision of new housing, and thus the appeal was dismissed.