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## Welcome to Genie's 'Public Information' newsletter

**Public Information** reports on important news relevant to our local area. There is no specific publication schedule, as it goes out 'as and when' the information justifies a newsletter. To comment on this or any Genie story, please email [contact@genienuews.org](mailto:contact@genienuews.org) (no anonymous comments will be published).

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## Annual Christmas Eve Torchlight Procession and Carol Singing Event to take a break this year



### The following statement has been issued for release today by the Morrell Room Management Committee:

As all those who have attended the traditional Christmas Eve torchlight and carol singing event will be aware, the evening has become increasingly popular with attendees, many of whom are visitors from outside our two villages. This popularity and the number of flaming torches has brought growing safety concerns for the organisers. These issues are naturally of paramount importance and the committee has explored the possibility of using safer light sources than wax torches and naked flames, but could find no satisfactory alternatives which would not alter the traditional atmosphere and charm of the event.

Also, the ability to find sufficient people to help manage the event satisfactorily on an evening when many understandably want to be with their families, not to mention the issue of clearing up afterwards on Christmas Day, has become increasingly difficult.

Given this, the committee has very reluctantly decided that it will not be organizing the event for this year, but it is anticipated that it will be held in 2018, although probably in a modified format. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but the committee feels that the increasing safety risks now outweigh

the benefits. Further details of next year's likely event are expected to be announced early next year.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to express their very deep thanks to all those who have helped to make the event the wonderful evening that it has become. They are far too numerous to mention by name here, but rest assured that your help and support over the years has been deeply appreciated. It is with a very heavy heart that the committee reluctantly has made this decision to take a year's break from the event.

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### **Outcome of Goring's Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday evening in Goring Village Hall**



Approximately 160 people filled Goring Village Hall on Wednesday to debate the controversial issue of whether the offer of a new primary school for Goring, paid for by a developer of one of the proposed sites, should be included in the current Neighbourhood Plan.

- Parish Councillors presented about Neighbourhood Plans generally and what they can and can't do.
- They presented about the Goring Neighbourhood Plan specifically, attempting to address questions about it.
- Two School Governors presented about the current proposal for a new school, highlighting why it is needed and the other options that they had considered.
- Parish Councillors then presented about the challenges that would need to be overcome with regard to the school's proposal.
- The implications of delaying the Neighbourhood Plan to fully vet the options were also presented by Parish Councillors.
- Finally, they presented the implications of addressing the overarching issues as a Strategic Project within the Neighbourhood Plan but to deal with the specific school proposal outside the Neighbourhood Plan.

After an extended Public Forum, the presentations and Q&A sessions, the Council voted on two motions.

**Two motions were put forward by Councillors:**

1. That the council agree to support the school to work through the process to get the best school facilities for Goring, and to provide a link Councillor and a standing agenda item to monitor progress.

2. That the Council deal with the school's proposals as a strategic project in the Neighbourhood Plan but to not delay the current Neighbourhood Plan process.

Both motions were carried unanimously.

A recording of the meeting was made and as soon as it is available can be found on the Genie website:

[www.genienews.org](http://www.genienews.org)

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