

**Draft Minutes of
BOTTFESFORD PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP MEETING**

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 25th March 2015 – Old School

Present:

Steering Group Members

Bob Bayman (BB) - Chair
Richard Simon (RS) - Clerk
Colin Love (CL)
Susan Love (SL)
Emma Murphy (EM)
Richard Coombs (RC)
Cob George (CG)
Peter Darlow (PD)

Helpers

Anne Ablewhite (AA)
Will Tobin (WT) – Will's father John Tobin was in the room but not participating.
Alan Gough (AG)
Bob Lockey (RL)
Leigh Donger (LD)
Val Lever (VL)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies for absence

David Wright, Pru Chandler, James Goodson, Chris Greasley, Annie Newman, John Preston
Carl Afonso, Val Lever, Dermot Daly, Neville Spick, Jean Reavley

3. To confirm and agree minutes of the meeting 24th February 2014

Agreed apart from the following

In 9. To read 'RS to ask the Parish *clerk* and Alistair Raper.'

AA asked if it was true that MBC decided on the builders for schemes, DW had said that this was the case.

4. Matters arising and actions from those minutes

None

5. Parish Council update and Budget Report including

Full payments for CAFE and BHB to be from this year's i.e. 2014/5 budget.

6. CAFE

Following a walkabout in the Village with CAFE on the 13th March the Chair set down the following criteria

Criteria for Site Selection

From listening to the views of the residents in the Workshops we have drafted these as being important to us:

Preserving the character of the village.

1. **Preserving the approaches of the village.** The village has soft edges. All each approach first there are few houses, spread out and later as one approaches the centre the density is greater. The density is at its maximum in the middle. The church is often in view creating an intuitive anchor point for us all.

Consequence: Planning decisions should always attempt to keep a clear view of key vistas: such as being able to see the church steeple from all places where it can be seen now.

2. **Fingers reaching out into the Countryside.** Each of the road approaches are like the fingers of the village reaching out into the countryside. Countryside sits between each of the fingers and because of this we are only ever 5-10 minutes from the countryside and a nice walk.

Consequence: We don't want to fill-in the space between the village and the A52. This would change the first impression of our arrival into the village. "We do not want to become another Bingham".

3. **Above us always sky.** There is a low intensity of housing in the village. Properties tend to have space around and decent-sized gardens. This means that we often have wide views and see 'big skies". We do not need, nor want, to increase the intensity of the village.
4. **Remain a Village.** We do not want to become urban or suburban. In planning we should use the style and types of materials, signage, road surfaces, etc of a village and not those more associated with suburban and urban settings.
5. **Waking and Cycling.** Planning decisions should fall in favour of development that allow people to access our wonderful retail, cafes, pubs and healthcare facilities without the need to resort to the car.
6. **Organic growth.** The village has grown over the years slowly and organically with a few house here, and a few more there, following the shapes and guidance of nature. This approach should continue.

Consequence:

Planning will not support large blocks of development. Small groups of houses would be better than big estates.

No significant ground-works should be planned to overcome flooding issues. We should build where the village does not flood. Go with nature.

7. **Slow growth.** For much of the past 2000 years the village has grown slowly. Slow growth means that facilities and services can react to the increasing numbers in a natural and comfortable way.

Consequence: planning will encourage long-term slow growth, not short-term quick developments of large estates.

8. **Mix of housing types.** Through the history of the village of Bottesford and Muston and Normanton (and to a lesser degree Easthorpe) large and small houses have grown up side by side. This creates a sense of harmony and would be encouraged in the future too.
9. **Housing types.** Through the history of the village housing has been built to reflect the needs of the current residents and their off-spring. This has created a natural-growth feel to the parish which should be maintained.

Consequence: We want to develop on our terms rather than the demands of outsiders. The analysis completed in 2015 shows the needs of the villagers are starter homes and empty-nesters two bedroom properties. Planning will support the development of these sorts of homes above and beyond other type of housing.

10. **Village Envelopes.** The village envelope is the line drawn around the village outside which building does not happen. The line has done a fine job in making sure our village does not sprawl out in all directions, and for example subsume the hamlet of Easthorpe. Now that the pressure to build more houses has led to Melton taking away the Village Envelope concept we need to consider our own. It is our view that we should keep the line around the village with these exceptions:
 - a. The old tip on the south side of Grantham road which would allow for the build of between 40-60 homes.
 - b. xxxx

11. **A network of valuable paths.** We have a rare network of paths within the village providing excellent ways to move between one area of the village and another.

12. **The type of housing in each area.** Any development would need to reflect the "Grain" of the part of the village it relates to.

13. **Connection with the Castle.** The village has had a long relationship with Belvoir Castle. St Mary's carries many of the Duchesses and Dukes. Much of the land of Bottesford was part of the castle estate until the past two hundred years.

Planning should favour developments that maintain current views of the castle from where there is currently a view.

Enhancing the Health of the Village

1. **Access to the countryside.** Take opportunities to increase access to the countryside through better footpaths.

2. **Increasing our link with wonders of the Vale of Belvoir.** The Vale offers us much recreation for walkers, cyclists, equestrians.

Consequences: to support ideas for a bridge or tunnel across the A52 to help walkers, cyclists, equestrians.

Working to help Sustrans (the national cycling charity to help make Bottesford a significant hub for cyclists on the Newark to XXX Route 15)

Support the efforts to make the Grantham Canal a more usable and accessible asset.

3. **Increasing the ease walking and of using bikes.** Planning decisions will support the opportunities to travel in and out and through the village under ones own steam.

4. **Re-creating a village centre.**

As the Old A52 developed the centre of the village (the market place in front of the Bull, the butchers, the Old School and the Red Lion has been lost). We now have te opportunity to bring a sense of a village centre back.

5. **The Old A52 returns to being a village road.**

the main road through the village is the old A52. When the by-pass was put in little was done to revert the road back to being a village road.

In the future we should see this road as much as a place of crossing as a place of passing through. (crossing it on foot is as valid moving along it in a car). The children have said that the greatest improvement to village life would be to make it easier for them to cross this road.)

6. **Increase access to the countryside.** Giving us more connection to the countryside around us. Better paths, way-finding and maps.

Muston

1. **Preserving the Village Character.**

Muston has a specific nature which needs to be preserved.

2. **Connectivity**

Many of the villagers spontaneously mention the isolation they feel, especially since the changes to the bus provision.

Normanton

1. **Building a sense of Community.**

The villagers have recently put efforts into developing a series of events in the hamlet and a sense of community cohesion across the 45 homes. This will be supported where possible.

2. **Reduction of Traffic Speeds & Sizes**

Many of the villagers spontaneously mention the speed and size of vehicles and would look to the plan to help, where possible to reduce both.

Easthorpe

1. Own Character & Identity

Planning will need to ensure that Easthorpe keeps its own identity and does not merge into the village of Bottesford.

Please feedback to the Chair any comments on the above before the 12th May so they can be included in discussion with MBC.

7. Bringing together the work of the Theme Groups

This was not covered due to lack of time, deferred to the next meeting.

Transport group plan to meet on the 8th April to discuss the initial BHB findings and the Youth Report

8. Next month's requests of PC

RS to ask DD if he had signed and returned the CABA documents.

Post meeting note -DD confirmed documents signed and returned.

9. Any other business

CL had asked the Parish Clerk for a list of the 174 people that had previously expressed an interest in the Neighbourhood Plan. RS to ask the Parish and Alistair Raper.

Post meeting note - AR sent a list of names

Chair showed some examples of the BPNP logos produced by students at Belvoir High School.

Alistair Raper presented a Communications update

250 word report for the VV

The Communications Group are exploring a number of ways to spread the word about the Neighbourhood Plan progress.

The first initiative is to have a regular feature in the Village Voice. The first article has been created and published. It re-iterates the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and why everyone needs to be involved.

There are a series of further articles planned, which will reflect the key stages of the plan.

Facebook

A new Facebook page has been opened. It has already attracted 61 'likes'. Many people use social-media to keep informed, and our new page aims to reach out to people who cannot attend meetings and workshops.

The Facebook page will complement similar pages managed by The Village Voice, The World War 1 Committee, The Parish Council and several others.

New Website

Bottesford Parish Neighbourhood Plan now has an independent website.

The purpose of the new website is to ensure that our residents can access all of the information regarding progress of the plan. It includes all of the agendas, minutes and project reports.

There is a 'News' page which can be used to upload any topical issue regarding the plan, a 'Meet the Team' page, an 'Overview of the Plan' and a 'Gallery' for interesting photos.

In May or June this year, we will be interviewing and recording various residents, and uploading short audio-clips onto our website. Similar to the 'Listening Project' on Radio 4, the aim is to engage with a wide variety of residents and encourage them to visit our sites. We can also create a digital map for our website and mark it with where we have either held events, interviewed residents or canvassed opinions. This will be invaluable in demonstrating to independent scrutineers that we have undertaken sufficient research and consultancy.

10. Agenda items for next meeting

Invite MBC to discuss SHLAA site criteria
Invite Colin Wilkinson and Bloor Homes to further discuss development sites.
CL to give an update on the Flood Map investigations.

Invite Mark Longden to a future meeting to discuss Policing in the Parish.
Steering Group to invite Sustrans back to a future meeting.

11. Date of next Steering Group meeting. – Tuesday 12th May 2015

NB There is the Third CABE Workshop on the 13th May starting at 6pm in the Old School

Confirmed dates for 2015

All at 7.30 in the Old School

Tuesday 12th May
Thursday 25th June
Wednesday 22nd July
Wednesday 19th August
Wednesday 23rd September
Tuesday 27th October
Wednesday 25th November
Thursday 17th December

Circulation list:-

Bob Bayman, David Wright, Richard Simon, Colin Love, Susan Love, Pru Chandler, Peter Darlow, Collette McCormack, Cob George, Anne Ablewhite, John Tobin (for Will Tobin), Alan and Karen Gough, Richard Coombs, Bob Lockey, Chris Greasley, Mark Taylor, Mark Longden, Alan Summers, Sharon Roscoe, Jean Reavley, Annie Newman, Dermot Daly, John Preston, Luke Fleming, Carl and Karen Afonso, Bud Hart, Connor Bufton, David and Joyce Slater, Emma Murphy, Heather Shephard, Lynn Busby, Maria Pride, Ray Flanders, Sallyann Watson, Peter Sheardown, James Goodson, Mike Roberts, Nicola Young, Andy Norris, Neville Spick, Barry Priestley, Neil Fortey, Don Pritchett, Leigh Donger, Alistair Raper, Anne Daly, Gareth Broome, Heather Stokes, Mr and Mrs K Palmer, Alison Reynolds, Sharon Pyke, Susan Meech, Val Lever, Tom Parry, Allan Mulcahy