

Green spaces, environment and Public rights of way team

DRAFT –subject to amendments/approval by A Ablewhite, Bob Lockey and Barry Priestley.

From public feedback in the various documents supplied by Richard Simon and discussions amongst the Group the following are the key points categorised as to rejected items, current ongoing village ‘maintenance issues’ and strategic issues relating to the future development of the parish.

Rejected items

Build a reservoir for flood relief and wildlife. Comments – expensive, no outline business plan and if to be considered then should be considered by the group considering flood issues.

Another cricket pitch- Expensive, no business plan or no indication supported by the cricket club. Possibly needs a proper case making and considering by any group considering sports facilities.

Remove hedge to make a green- Likely currently under utilised, there are entrance gates, hedges provide a wind break and screen the sight of traffic. Hedges provide homes for wildlife. Considered no requirement to remove the hedge. Also, hedges prevent children and dogs from running onto the road.

‘Maintenance’ issues (not listed to indicate priority)

Dog fouling (though does need to be considered when considering new build and access to open spaces and desired behaviour of residents) , including guidance such as keeping dogs on a lead in places.

Less litter

More flowers and trees - (note a section of the community voiced concern at the precept increase so we need to be aware the more the Parish council or sub-group does for the community the more it will cost?) *Don Pritchett adds –likely we are not maximising our contribution to nature in our own gardens and existing public land.*

Better footpath signs and maintenance of footpaths and improved access, e.g gates replacing stiles. Recover any footpaths illegally blocked.

Young people to have more involvement in wildlife/nature, allotments for youths and schools.

(Don Pritchett to speak to Theresa Patchett and others to find out more). Also mention of adults and adventure play equipment? Don to similarly enquire.

Strategic (the list is not intended to indicate the order of importance)

Open spaces – Principle that existing open spaces should be protected and there should be space between the village and new developments, ideally new developments should include open spaces.

The most significant feature to protect would be access to the banks of the river devon. Large new developments should ideally include allotment space as existing allotment space is over subscribed.

Significant open spaces – Muston meadows NNR and buffer grass and tree planting the industrial estate Normanton, canal bank, disused railway lines, Muston and Bottesford to Stathern

New schemes and the environment- new build should be environmentally friendly and developments should enhance the contribution to wildlife in the area. Environmentally friendly schemes should include judgement by a trip around the village on foot. E.g, Cars hidden from view, some nature friendly planting and screening, buffer planting between schemes and countryside, new footpaths to link with existing.

Generally design the village for the foot and cycle user and how pleasant buildings, planting and open spaces will look to the foot traveller.

Space to remain between the settlements of Bottesford and Easthorpe and Bottesford and Easthorpe.

What options are there to give residents more access and appreciation of these natural environments without losing their special significance?

What elements and opportunities are there for further enhancement and interpretation to allow residents/visitors to be more able to enjoy the natural environment of the parish?

- Protect where possible access to the river devon,
- Nature friendly planting around any new footpaths/buffer areas,
- Enhance the environment, e.g nature friendly planting near existing footpaths,
- Publicise footpaths with a map,
- New footpath from existing footpath(s) Belvoir road near A52 to the canal bank (currently no short access to canal bank other than by road with no footpath. Traffic lights being discussed? Need to include foot/cycle crossing. Also to disused railway line, Bottesford, need to discuss with sustrans and butterfly project ?
- Railway triangle West end is valued(though not sure of its ecological benefits)
- Grantham canal renovation provides an added interest if made navigable and improved fishing and improved biodiversity?
- Review of footpaths north of Bottesford, diverted when airfield built, is there now a need to review footpaths in this area.

What areas are under threat with the SHLAA or Melton issues and options document?

The buffer planting on the Normanton airfield.

Parish tree safety audit- Need to consider the results. Note. Trees of modest height can have a positive impact on nature, don't all have to be large. However, a lack of long term planting of say oaks around the parish. Possibly tree planting could be done with cooperation of landowners with grants and volunteers?

Advance tree etc planting – could be good idea but how practical? Some thought required to entrances to new developments. E.g. straight road in or ‘S’ entrance with planting so screened from the road and road screened from residents.