

# BOTTESFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1, APRIL 2024

## BOTTESFORD PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Anne Ablewhite

Cllr Bob Bayman  
(Chair)

Cllr Tony Bennett

Cllr Leigh Donger

Cllr James Mason

Cllr Matthew Reid

Cllr Bob Sparham

Cllr Kathy Sparham

Cllr Michael Thomas

Email addresses available  
at [https://www.bottesford-  
pc.gov.uk/councillors](https://www.bottesford-pc.gov.uk/councillors)

## THE ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is made up of 9 elected or co-opted Councillors who meet monthly to make decisions on service delivery and local representation. In all areas the Parish Council seeks to use its powers and duties to directly impact the local community in a positive way.

The Council is responsible for:

- 84 Allotment plots over 4 sites
- 5 Play Areas, 1 of which contains a skate park and outdoor gym
- A number of green spaces
- 94 streetlamps
- Street furniture including over 100 bins, 40 benches, notice boards and planters.
- 9 Defibrillators
- 2 Vehicle Activated Speed Signs
- The Parish Tree Charter

The Council supports the work of several groups in the community, providing financial support to the Youth Club and Community Library and equipment to the Bottesford Wombles. Many community groups enjoy free use of The Old School for a variety of regular events and, The Bottesford Institute, of which the Parish Council is sole trustee, has awarded grants to a number of groups and societies.

The Council also seeks to represent the views and interests of the parish on wider issues such as, the planning process, highways and infrastructure, crime and antisocial behaviour, flooding and the environment.

We are aware that as the authority closest to the community, parish councils are often the first-place people will go with concerns or ideas and take very seriously our role to reflect the concerns of the parish and seek to influence those with power.



## **FINANCING THE PARISH COUNCIL**

We are aware that the cost-of-living crisis has made life difficult for so many and we can confirm that there will only be a small increase in the precept requested by the Parish Council for the next financial year. Changes in the tax base rate mean that there will be a 1.74% increase which will equate to an increase of £1.50 per year for a band D household taking the annual cost to £87.90 per year. This will be reflected in your Council Tax bill.

The Parish Council is required by law to agree a budget before setting its precept. The Council budget and other financial information such as audit reports and financial regulations are available on the Council website.

## **ACTIONS AND PROGRESS**

Already, in the current financial year, Council has scrutinised and submitted observations regarding over 40 applications for planning within the parish. Councillors have met with developers to seek to influence applications before submission pushing for compliance with The Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan was approved by a referendum of parishioners in 2021, it now forms part of the Local Plan which is the main consideration in deciding planning applications.

Since its inception the Parish Council Road Safety Advisory Committee has lobbied for, improvements to junctions on the A52, traffic calming measures on High Street and amendments to speed limits throughout the parish.

The Bottesford Tree Charter was adopted in March 2021 and since this date the parish has benefitted from a number of tree planting schemes. Planting on Council land has included; 20 apple trees and 3 oak trees on The Village Hall Playing Area and 10 specimen trees on Jubilee Green.

The Parish Council has approved a scheme to improve and expand play facilities at The Village Hall Field and secured some funding towards this project. Further applications for funding have been made and Council will continue to seek to improve play facilities in the parish.

## **CHALLENGES**

### **Flood Risk**

As the most low-lying area in the Borough the parish continually faces the threat of flooding with residents again receiving Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency a number of times in the past year. The Parish Council continues to put flood risk at the forefront of its responses to planning applications and will work with all relevant agencies to emphasise the importance of avoiding any increase in flood risk in the area. There is currently no Flood Warden in the parish, this vital role would provide a link between the community and those responsible for responding to a flood and help prepare for flood events. If you are interested in this role please contact the Parish Clerk.



## Anti -Social Behaviour



Residents will be aware that there has been several incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in and around our villages in recent months. The Parish Council has had to fund a number of repairs to council facilities damaged in acts of vandalism. Much more serious than the financial implications are the possible negative impacts on residents' quality of life. We are aware that anti-social behaviour can have a significant effect on people's lives, an individual's experience, or fear of becoming a victim of such behaviour can impact their mental health and cause them to make lifestyle changes.

The Council is seeking to work with relevant agencies to address this issue and would encourage all residents to report any anti-social behaviour, no matter how minor, to the police and the council. A clear picture of the problem will help relevant authorities to work towards the best possible outcomes.

Anti-social behaviour can be reported at <https://www.leics.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/> . In the event of injury, immediate danger or risk to public safety call 999. If an incident constitutes a crime this can be reported at <https://www.leics.police.uk/reportcrime> .

## Development

The Parish Council has met with several developers seeking approval for large scale projects within the parish. These have included the proposal to build up to 215 dwellings in the Rectory Farm area and an application for a Solar Farm with all associated work and infrastructure in Muston.

The Council is aware that development will continue to be a factor in our parish and will continue to work to ensure local issues are raised in the planning process and to act as a liaison between the community and developers and planning officers.



There is already considerable pressure on the infrastructure of the parish and the Parish Council wants to be positively prepared for any change by having a strategy to try and meet the needs of the area in a sustainable manner.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

You are welcome to come along to any of Bottesford Parish Council's meetings. You can read the agendas, minutes and meeting paperwork on our website at <https://www.bottesford-pc.gov.uk/council-meetings> . Each meeting of Full Council begins with a 15 minute public participation session during which members of the public are free to speak on any issues of concern to them.

# Rural Food Hub Network

Many people in rural areas face significant challenges when it comes to accessing essential services, including food banks.

We are collaborating with the Leicester South Foodbank to introduce food bank services to our more rural areas.



Contact the Community Support Hub to request a voucher and to check when your local hub is open.

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[melton.gov.uk/RuralFood](https://melton.gov.uk/RuralFood)



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## Bottesford Rural Food Distribution Centre

Working in partnership with Melton Borough Council the Parish Council has set up a local distribution centre for the Rural Food Network.

Residents who have obtained a voucher will be able to collect food from The Old School Parish Rooms, Grantham Road on Wednesdays between 10am and 11am.

An advisor from Melton Borough Council will be at these sessions and will be happy to offer support and advice.



On 6<sup>th</sup> June the UK will commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy Landings. Commemorations will include the lighting of Beacons, and bells will ring out for Peace.

The Parish Council invites residents to meet at The Old School, Grantham Road, at 8.30pm for a procession to the beacon. The procession will be accompanied by the ringing of the church bells. The tribute will be read at 9.15pm followed by the lighting of the beacon.

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To find out more about the work of The Parish Council please come along to one of our monthly meetings or visit our website. Details of meetings and how to contact the council are available at <https://www.bottesford-pc.gov.uk>

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