

BOTTESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 1, 2025



01949 222478



Bottesford-pc.gov.uk



clerk@bottesford-pc.gov.uk



Monday 6th January Flood Event

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who came together to help those impacted by the flood incident on Monday 6th January.

The Parish Council implemented its Emergency Plan following receipt of the flood warning at 5.40am and throughout the day residents, community representatives and local agencies pulled together to help in any way they could. Although the

water had largely receded by the end of the day we are aware that a number of houses and businesses were impacted and many residents are still dealing with practical issues caused by the floods in addition to the stress and anxiety caused by such an event. Melton Borough Council has a designated Flood Recovery Link Officer who can provide advice, information and support, this officer can be accessed through its customer services line on 01664 502502. Please contact the Parish Clerk using the contact details if you are struggling to access assistance or information.

In addition to supporting those impacted by the floods the Parish Council would like to learn as much as possible from this event. Detailed information will enable the council to work with relevant bodies to ensure steps are taken to better manage and, where possible, alleviate future risk. Please send any photographs and information to clerk@bottesford-pc.gov.uk.

Following the flood incident a number of residents raised the issue of blocked drains in the parish. Leicestershire County Council is responsible for maintenance of roadside drains and you can find more information about how to report issues at <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/roadside-drains>

Parish Councillors have already met with, or spoken to, a number of relevant agencies such as the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Environment Agency, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and the Canal and Rivers Trust. **A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at Bottesford Village Hall on Tuesday 25th February between 7 and 9pm. This meeting will provide the relevant agencies an opportunity to explain their plans/processes to mitigate flood risk in the parish and also provide a space for residents to share their experiences and concerns.**

Vacancy in the role of Parish Councillor



A resignation has resulted in a vacancy in the role of Councillor at the Parish Council. The vacancy was reported to Melton Borough Council and advertised on local noticeboards and the Parish Council website. As no requests were made for an election the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

Why join the Parish Council?

The role of the Parish Council includes;

- Service delivery – The council provides and maintains allotments, parks and open spaces, benches, litter bins and streetlights.
- Quality of life – The council looks for ways to positively impact community life through its own policies and procedures, and by supporting community groups and local services.
- Representation – The council seeks to represent the interest of the parish with principal authorities, developers, local police and health services, environmental groups and government bodies such as National Highways.

What do Parish Councillors do?

The main role of a parish councillor is to seek to make changes in the community to help improve residents' lives. The role can include many activities, but the main areas include:

- Decision-making – Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered, and what policies should be implemented.
- Monitoring – To ensure decisions lead to efficient and effective services.
- Getting involved locally – As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. In addition to monthly meetings councillors may take on responsibilities relating to issues that hold a particular interest, or for which they have a particular skill set which would help the council.

How much time does it take up?

The Parish Council meets once a month, on the second Monday of the month, these meetings last approximately two hours. Councillors stay on top of issues via emails and calls and may have additional meetings to deal with specific areas of interest.

Who can be Parish Councillor and how do I apply?

Details on the qualifications for standing for election are available on The Electoral Commission website. If you would like to be considered for the role of councillor please contact the Clerk via email on clerk@bottesford-pc.gov.uk or by telephone on 01949 222478 by **28th February**.



Road safety is a key priority for the Parish Council (PC) and we know this concern is shared by many parishioners. The Parish Council Road Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) works tirelessly to lobby elected officials, Leicestershire Highways Department and Highways England for improvements to safety measures on the A52 and smaller roads within our parish, and to obtain up to date information and data on road usage.

Considerable growth in the parish over recent years, with more development planned, has increased traffic volume and the demand for parking. This has resulted in increased concerns for pedestrian safety particularly in areas such as the High Street which sees high foot traffic at particular times of the day and vehicular congestion due to limited road width and parking.

Whilst the PC can, and will, seek to raise awareness and lobby on all issues related to road safety it does not have the power to change speed limits, install traffic calming measures or set parking restrictions. As we continue to work with all relevant parties to push for traffic management in our parish that is safe, sustainable and able to withstand inevitable changes in the coming years, the PC asks that all residents, workers and visitors to the parish take account of the following;

- Make a concerted effort to **drive carefully within the speed limit** and be prepared to adjust and adapt to conditions. If there are a number of parked cars and/or pedestrians it is often appropriate to drive below the speed limit.
- Please **park considerately**. In certain areas of the village the demand for parking is very high, this is a particular issue in the village centre and near the schools. Parking close to junctions reduces visibility for drivers turning and pedestrians crossing the road, the highway code prohibits parking opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. Parking on footpaths can mean pedestrians, especially those with pushchairs or wheelchairs/mobility scooters, have to go onto the road at considerable risk to their safety.
- **Respect and protect vulnerable road users**. As the population of the parish grows the number of journeys on our streets will also increase. To limit congestion, reduce pollution and improve physical health the Parish Council encourages non-vehicular journeys in our parish. Pedestrians and cyclists are vulnerable users of our roads so please be aware of their presence, particularly when crossing the road, leave plenty of space and slow down to an appropriate speed.



FOX connect

An on-demand, bookable bus service for journeys to and from **Melton Mowbray**

New service starts 6 January 2025

Book a journey via the app or call 0116 216 7756

Travel to and from Melton Mowbray from these zones



Download on the **App Store**

GET IT ON **Google Play**

App available to download from **3 January 2025**



Find out more about FoxConnect services at choosehowyoumove.com/public-transport



Service supported by **Leicestershire County Council**

Buses operated by **Centrebus**

App powered by **VIA**

Funded by **UK Government**

Men's Sheds – What, why and where

Men's Sheds (or Sheds) are similar to garden sheds – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter.

Activities depend based on the interests of the Shed's members, or 'Shedders'. Many Sheds run woodworking activities like making bird houses, bug boxes and planters, wood-turning and upcycling, and there are plenty with more unusual pursuits like welding, pottery or motorcycle maintenance. Of course, cups of tea and biscuits are also integral to Sheds!

On the surface they provide opportunities to learn and try new things, enjoy camaraderie and have fun, but underpinning it all is connection, purpose, and support, provided in a safe, welcoming environment where trust and belonging empower those within it to talk openly, give and receive support, and obtain advice and information.

The UK Men's Sheds Association has a handy 'Find a Shed' feature. Just enter your postcode and it will show your closest Shed. Your closest Sheds to Bottesford are at Screveton and Grantham.

<https://menssheds.org.uk/find-a-shed/>

New Trees

During December the Vale of Belvoir Natural Burial Ground completed tree planting to create two small woods, one in the shape of a Lancaster bomber wing and the other the shape of a Dakota wing in memory of all those based at Normanton airfield in WW2.

Thank you to all involved with this project which will support a wealth of wildlife and provides a wonderful tribute to the servicemen and women.



In December 10 Oak saplings were also planted at Acrelands, Orston Lane by kind permission of Mr Andy Norris.

Bottesford Skate Park

The Parish Council is continuing the process of looking into the future of the skate park. If you would like to be involved and believe you can help us as we consider the design and build of this facility please contact us at clerk@bottesford-pc.gov.uk