



Bottesford Parish Council

2024-27

Strategic Plan



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INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the strategic plans of the council for the next three years. The document notes the ongoing commitments and legal responsibilities of the council and also identifies key strategic goals based on projects supported by the community as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

The aim of the Plan is to give the community an understanding of what the Parish Council is working on and what it aims to achieve. It is intended to be a working document which the Council will update regularly.

PARISH PROFILE

Bottesford Parish is located in the northern tip of the Borough of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. In addition to the village of Bottesford, the Parish includes the village of Muston, located 2 miles to the east and the hamlets of Normanton to the north and Easthorpe to the south-east.

The population at the 2021 census was 3,691, the age distribution is shown in the table to the right. This is double the population in the 1971 census of 1,868, making Bottesford's population growth rate by far the greatest of any community in the Borough over the last 50 years.

The parish is served by Bottesford railway station with limited services on the Nottingham, Grantham and Skegness Line. Buses are available to Melton, Grantham and Bingham, again services are limited.

There are two industrial estates adjacent to Bottesford village. The village also has a Co-operative, Nisa and Village Store, a post office, 3 cafés, 2 restaurants, 2 takeaways and 2 public houses. The Gap Inn, serving food and alcohol, is located in Muston. Bottesford has a doctors surgery, dental surgery and a pharmacy. The recycling and household waste site is open Thursday – Saturday.

Bottesford has a playgroup, nursery, primary school and a secondary school. Two church of England churches, St Mary's church (Bottesford) and St John the Baptist (Muston), and a Methodist church in Bottesford serve the parish.

A number of groups within the parish provide sport and recreation facilities including, football, cricket and bowls clubs, beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies and guides, U3A, the Women's Institute, the history society and a number of other locally based groups.

80+ years	8%
70-79 years	14%
60-69 years	15%
50-59 years	16%
40-49 years	12%
30-39 years	8%
20-29 years	7%
10-19 years	12%
0-9 years	8%

BOTTESFORD PARISH COUNCIL MISSION

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. The mission of the council is:

“To support the community of the parish of Bottesford by providing services and supporting others who provide valuable services for parishioners, and by representing the area to other agencies that have influence across the Parish.”

ONGOING SERVICES

The parish has seen a considerable amount of housing development in the past 10 years with further large-scale applications in the pipeline. The increase in parish population alongside external factors, such as inflationary **cost** pressures and the financial challenges faced by larger authorities, will put further pressure on services in our parish.

In the context of increasing pressure on services the Parish Council will continue to meet its statutory duties and maintain good governance and financial practices.

The Parish Council, throughout the term of this plan, will continue to seek to deliver our services with effectiveness and efficiency. These services include:

- **Allotments** – the Parish Council manages 92 allotment plots over 4 sites.
- **Play Areas** – The Council is responsible for the provision and upkeep of five play areas: Grantham Road, Hoopers Close, Walford Close and the Village Hall Field in Bottesford, and the play area in Muston. The equipment in these essential areas is checked weekly and regularly inspected to ensure each item (over 40 in total) is fit for purpose and well maintained.
- **Skate Park, Grantham Road**
The Council is responsible for the provision and upkeep of the facility. The ramps are checked weekly and regularly inspected
- **Green Spaces/Verges** – Contractors maintain several verges and green spaces for the Parish Council which believes the green environment is important not only for play purposes but for the environmental and health benefits of all residents.
- **Street Lighting** – The Parish Council maintain 94 streetlamps throughout Bottesford.
- **Bins and Benches** - The Parish Council has provided over 70 litter bins and almost 40 dog waste bins for use around the parish. The bins are emptied by Melton Borough Council contractors on a weekly basis.
- **Defibrillators** - There are 9 defibrillators in the parish monitored and maintained by the Parish Council.



The Parish Council will continue to use its powers to represent the local community including in the areas set out below.

Planning

To provide a consistent and objective appraisal of on-going planning requests from parishioners carefully considering the needs of applicants, neighbours and the wider community.

Larger scale development proposals

To make representation to other agencies (Melton Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, developers, MP, etc) to ensure that all multi-home and large-scale development is within acceptable bounds, is aligned with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan is proportionate and in keeping with the rural quality of Bottesford and does not expose the Parish to materially increased flood risk. To identify unacceptable building proposals and registering our concerns with the planning authority prior to their formal consideration. To ensure that developers contributions are well spent on local projects that local people benefit from. To ensure our Neighbourhood Plan remains at the centre of Melton Borough Council planning policy for our parish.

To work with Developers and Local Authorities to ensure reasonable provisions are included to offset or compensate for any adverse impacts including road safety enhancements such as junction improvements, personal mobility (walking, cycle paths, pedestrian access), play facilities, social benefits (for example contributions to the skate park, library , BYC, Football club).

Road Safety

To make representation to other agencies (Melton Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, National Highways, MP, etc) to ensure the roads and pavements of the villages are safe, and that parishioners can get around with comfort. To strive to gain significant improvements to A52 junctions with Bottesford, including improved lighting and junction re design. This should be achieved by maintaining public engagement, applying pressure to MP, National Highways and MBC/LCC.

Seek to reduce speed limits within the villages in areas identified by the Road Safety Advisory Committee.

Car Parking

Although the Parish council seeks to reduce the use of cars in the village where possible, car use is still required for many. However, due to a lack of parking enforcement this is not always done safely.

Seek enforced parking regulations especially around queen street and high street junction.

Encourage usage of the car park at the doctors surgery. This is a public car park at weekends and after 630PM and yet is hardly used due to a local perception it is for use by staff and patients only.

Community Support

To provide support for clubs and societies and the providers of services, such as the Bottesford Youth Club, the Library, the Wombles, the sports clubs and other providers that make the parish

such a pleasant and dynamic place to live, and to provide support for businesses to ensure a thriving Parish.

The Environment

To protect and nurture the Open Spaces, parks, play areas, allotments, water courses, trees and natural settings for the continued good of the natural environment and the residents. Sustaining and supporting bio-diversity where possible and playing our role towards the more macro issues around climate change and bio-diversity. To make representations to other agencies to protect and nurture these places on behalf of our nature and our residents. To continue to work on delivering the goals on our Tree Charter ensuring effective conservation of existing trees and hedgerows and also planning the planting of new trees of the right species in the right places.

STRATEGIC GOALS

In addition to its ongoing services the Parish Council identified, during the Neighbourhood Plan process, a number of Community Projects. These projects were supported by the community and are available in the Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan (<https://www.meltonplan.co.uk/bottesford>). The Neighbourhood Plan identifies 19 community goals.

The **six** aspirations outlined below encompass many of these goals and provide strategic focus for the remainder of this council's term in office:

1. Transport/Parking Infrastructure (Appendix A)

To set out a framework for the management of vehicles in the area that is safe, sustainable and able to withstand inevitable changes in the coming years.

2. Active Travel (Appendix B)

To explore and support options for safe and effective walking and cycling routes in and around the parish and aim to promote and improve public transport available to the Parish in response to local needs. These goals will encompass working towards;

- A pedestrian/cyclist bridge across the A52 to link Muston with the remainder of the parish.
- Improvement to the footpath/pavement network within Bottesford to enable residents to reach the village centre safely without the need to use a car.
- Secure cycle parking at important locations around the parish.
- A pedestrian crossing point on High Street by the entrance to Albert Street and Barkestone Lane.
- Enhancing connectivity and well-being by enabling parishioners without their own transport to access services, leisure activities, education and employment independently whilst also making public transport a viable alternative to a car by liaising with local bus and rail operators as well as Local Authorities to explore options/funding available.
- Promoting bus and rail travel by ensuring clear, accurate and up-to-date timetable information is provided at bus stops/rail station and also on the Parish Council website with paper copies available at the local Community Library and Parish Office.

3. Recreation (Appendix C)

To improve recreation facilities and opportunities within the parish to cater for an increasing population. This will include;

- Supporting existing groups such as the Cricket Club, Football Club, Bowls Club etc and their aspirations to improve facilities.
- Work with partners to enhancement facilities such as the provision of a 3G Multi use playing pitch in the parish.

- To continue to maintain Play Areas to a high standard identifying and acting on appropriate developments to these areas.
- To explore funding opportunities to improve and enhance the skatepark.

4. Community Wellbeing (Appendix D)

To continue to work towards further expanding community use of The Old School building, to work with partners to explore options for increasing youth services in the parish and to encourage and support social activities for people of all ages.

5. Flood Risk Mitigation (Appendix E).

The Parish is particularly vulnerable to flood risk due to the propensity of key watercourses to flood large parts of the village, this problem is exacerbated both by some unusual geology in our area which makes some fields 'Flood Plains' and by the rapid development of the village of Bottesford (and hence increased run-off rates) in the last 50 years. This rate of development has been greater per capita than any other community within the Borough over this period, despite the village facing the highest risk of flooding in the Borough. We shall not support any development that does not meet the principles set out in Appendix E and in particular we will require any large development to meet, as a minimum 1:200 resilience levels for flood risk both on site and elsewhere in the community through run-off into key watercourses, and we will resist development in Flood Plain areas*

We are concerned that these issues need to be addressed in collaboration with key planning authorities. We will seek greater engagement with these bodies so that this issue receives sufficient attention going forward.

6 Environmental Goals.

We will promote a more sustainable and environmentally friendly community. We will do this by:

- Championing improvements to public transport
- Through our tree charter initiative
- Encouraging pedestrian and cycle access across the Parish (as outlined above),
- Protection of green spaces (within village boundaries and in open countryside, particularly where rights of way are affected)
- Encouraging new developments to minimise land use and to maximise affordable housing.
- Promoting the provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargepoints in the village. Space at the Village hall and new Train Station Car Park have been identified as possible locations. This will encourage take up of EVs in the village and reduce tailpipe emissions locally. Other locations should be researched and considered for new developments.'
- Promoting additional cycle parking points to give confidence to cyclists that their bikes can be parked safely and securely without inconveniencing pedestrians. This may encourage more local residents to cycle to shops and reduce car use.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – TRANSPORT/PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE

Context

Bottesford is defined in the Melton Local Plan as a Service Centre. This designation brings with it the recognition that it provides services that are required and accessed by not only the residents of the Bottesford Parish but also surrounding villages. Accessing these services by the population of smaller villages brings with it a disproportionate amount of traffic flow and parking requirements.

The Aspiration of the project

To establish how the village of Bottesford currently functions as place with regard to traffic and pedestrian movement. Then to forecast (given what is known) how Bottesford should function over time as new developments come on stream. The plan should have as a maximum a 10 year horizon. (it should be refreshed on a 5 yearly cycle). Then to go on to make specific recommendations that will allow the village to function as community and make it a safe and pleasant place to live.

The outcomes of the project will enable the Parish Council to produce an overall dynamic plan that informs the various Local Plans. It will also provide an evidenced based development control statement and provide a basis for the Parish Council to engage with and work with partners, so as to seek funding to put in place the strategy.

Project Principles

- **Improving access and mobility** across the village centre to improve resident and visitor experience and safety.
- **Manage traffic flow and rationalise parking** to improve safety and public domain amenity
- The outcomes must enhance **economic viability and resilience**
- **The natural environment** of Bottesford should remain the primary experience of the place- it is the cultural, economic and aesthetic life blood of the community.
- **The culture and history** of the place should be legible into the future.
- **Ensure** proposals are in keeping with **village scale and village atmosphere**.
- **Ensure the place is fit for the future**- both social and environmental- whilst retaining the essence of what makes it special

Methodology

Phase one: Discovery. Will set a baseline for the project, undertake desk-based research, review existing data and information and set out the wider vehicle, pedestrian and parking context within local development plans and consider the wider context within which the strategy must work within. A decision as to whether a wider public consultation on the outcome is necessary.

Phase two: Challenge. This phase will focus on challenging the existing policies, operations, current traffic and pedestrian movements throughout the day(s). It will have an emphasis on partnership working and finding opportunities for improvement. The wider policy context will be

considered including how traffic and pedestrian movements supports sustainable economic growth and environmental management. Understand how services are accessed by the community taking into account parishioner safety and experience. The Strategy will acknowledge national evidence and best practices including operations and technology.

Phase three: Design. Beginning with the conclusions of previous stages and using existing relevant work undertaken by the Council which will include growth and regeneration plans and all important local knowledge. The Parish Council will develop a hierarchy of discrete projects, based on priority that will contribute to the overall plan for Bottesford. This will ensure that, although the individual projects are discrete, they fit into the overall strategic recommendations for village.

Phase four: Consult

We will consult with the local community via the Newsletter, Website and local meeting if required.

Benefits

- **The Community will have a sense of direction and understands the issues**
- **Provides a joined up approach that contributes to the overall current infrastructure requirements**
- **Informs the future infrastructure requirements of the Parish**
- **Provides a vehicle for MBC and County Councillors to support funding requests**
- **A plan available that readily supports any application for appropriate funding either Grant or Direct**
- **Supports Section 106 applications**
- **Enables MBC councillors to speak coherently at Planning Committees**

Resources

- **The Parish Council should positively seek to engage with MBC and or the County Council to obtain funding to seek independent advice.**
- **The Parish Council should positively seek lay membership of the working group from appropriately qualified or experienced parishioners so that the community can contribute to the future.**

APPENDIX B – ACTIVE TRAVEL. MATT TO REDO

Context

Although construction of the Bottesford by-pass, completed in 1988, reduced the number of vehicles going through the village of Bottesford at the time development in the years since its construction, the increase in the number of cars/workers per household and a reduction in public transport services mean the pressure on our roads remains high.

The quality of the pedestrian/cycle environment prevents many residents from moving towards more active travel. Parked vehicles in busy areas make road crossing hazardous and drivers travelling at inappropriate speeds pose a risk to those walking or wheeling. The number of cars parking around schools, perhaps as a result of a reticence to walk/cycle for safety reasons, contributes to congestion, risk and nuisance for local residents.

The Aspiration of the project

To work with partners, including; other local authorities, government agencies, Sustrans, developers, public transport providers, schools and local groups/societies to plan and support infrastructure improvements and development focusing on safe cycling and walking and improved public transport.

To support measures that will see a significant number of local car journeys replaced by cycling/walking journeys.

To develop and enhance Bottesford's place within the national cycle infrastructure providing benefits for local cyclists/walkers and businesses.

Project Principles

To apply the objectives outlined in Leicestershire's Cycling and Walking strategy to the parish of Bottesford:

1. To enhance the infrastructure that supports cycling and walking in the parish.
2. To enable people to cycle and walk safely in the parish.
3. To inspire a step change in cycling and walking in the parish.

Methodology

- To consult with residents to identify the barriers that prevent them walking/cycling in the parish.
- Where necessary and feasible to instruct consultants/experts to provide data to support identified projects.
- To push for funding from developers and local authorities to improve infrastructure and safety for cyclists/pedestrians with improved crossing facilities in the village and cycleways from new estates.

Benefits

Increasing the number of journeys in the parish undertaken by walking, wheeling or cycling will bring many benefits to the parish including; a reduction in carbon emissions and air pollution, a positive impact on physical and mental health and a possible revenue increase for businesses offering hospitality/services in the parish.

Resources

- The Parish Council will work with its Road Safety Advisory Committee to build evidence and also seek to engage with Leicestershire County Council Highways Department on projects.

APPENDIX C – RECREATION

Context

The Council's five play areas are important spaces that facilitate healthy outdoor activity and contribute to the physical and mental health of parishioners. Additional clubs/groups in the parish provide excellent facilities for a variety of recreational activities. This includes, but is not limited to, the Football Club, Cricket Club, Bowls Club, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, the Youth 3A, Youth Club, the Library, the Women's Institute and the Local History Group.

The amount of development in and around the parish has increased pressure on these recreation spaces, other open spaces and groups which seek to provide recreation benefits to residents. The cost of living crisis has also impacted the ability of groups and local authorities ability to maintain/enhance facilities whilst also impacting residents ability to travel to and access recreation spaces outside of the parish.

Project Aspirations

- To ensure good quality recreational facilities that make participation in play, sport, and social interaction accessible to all sectors of our community, including the skate park.
- Plan growth of existing facilities to ensure provision to meet future needs.
- To seek to ensure current and future spaces are of high quality, well managed and value for money.
- To continue to support groups in the parish that contribute to the provision of quality leisure facilities and activities.

Project Principle

To ensure all residents of the parish can access good quality leisure facilities.

Methodology

- Undertake a full assessment of existing sites
- Ascertain local needs
- To identify opportunities for new provision and improvements to existing projects/spaces
- Identify available funding/grant awards to progress or support projects

Benefits

- Physical and mental health
- Improved quality of life and wellbeing.
- Social benefits such as reduction of anti-social behaviour, loneliness and isolation.

Resources

- Parish Council play areas
- Green spaces
- The Old School building
- Relationships with other groups/societies in the parish.

APPENDIX D – COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Context

The Old School building on Grantham Road is owned by The Bottesford Institute.

Part of the building is under lease to Leicestershire County Council until 2027 for use as a community library. This lease is currently funded by LCC, the Parish Council and the Bottesford Institute. The Library is a registered charity run by a group of local trustees.

The Parish Council rents the other half of the building for use as a Parish Office and meeting room. The Parish Room and Fuller Room are also available to hire by community groups, local residents and businesses. Some community groups/charities are awarded free use of the rooms. The parish rooms are managed by the Parish Clerk, a Premises Management & Room Bookings Clerk and a Caretaker.

Following the pandemic use of the parish rooms was very limited with only 4 regular weekly bookings in place at the end of 2021. In addition to parish council meetings the building now accommodates 10 regular bookings. Groups using the space include;

- 8 regular paying groups providing health and wellbeing, youth and support.
- 6 regular grant aided community groups.
- A number of one off, children's parties, meetings and community activities.

Aspiration

To further develop The Old School building as a local asset providing or hosting a range of activities and services used by lots of different people. The range of services should reflect local need and will be delivered by local residents, groups and public agencies.

Financial support by the Parish Council in the form of funding for staff, utilities and repairs will continue to be supported by other income sources including hiring out space, grant awards and the partnership with The Bottesford Institute.

Methodology

- Work to understand local need and demand.
- Develop partnership and relationships with local groups, charities and other authorities.
- Work with the Community Library trustees and related authorities to support the vital work of this facility.
- Work with the Bottesford Institute to ensure the Old School building is well maintained.

Benefits

- Making use of a local asset to supply a multi-purpose building providing and hosting a range of activities and services that can be accessed by lots of different people.
- Seek to improve the wellbeing and quality of life for individuals and groups.

Resources

- The Parish Council will seek to engage with Melton Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and other possible partners to help to expand services available.
- The Parish Council will monitor and access grant funding to support projects when possible.

APPENDIX E – FLOODING

Context

As the most low-lying parish in the Borough of Melton, Bottesford Parish (including Easthope, Normanton and Muston) has been impacted by flooding and flood alerts several times in recent history. The Parish is crossed by two water sources, the River Devon and the Winterbeck and is close to (and downhill from) the Grantham Canal. The occurrence of prolonged heavy rainfall upon these three sources has been a causal effect of three of the four significant flooding events which have taken place during the last twenty-five years in 2001, 2012, 2021 (Storm Dennis) and 2023 (Storm Babet). It is important to note that due to the effects of Climate change, named storms with their consequent heavy rainfall are becoming more and more common in our region with no less than twelve taking place in our immediate area and our neighbouring counties during the winter of 2023/4.

A good example of this phenomena occurred on the Winterbeck during the 2021 Storm Dennis event. Along the Grantham Canal between Muston Gorse and Muston Bridge (Bridges 57-58) there is a section of towpath on the northern bank of the canal is at a shallower depth. Heavy rainfall during the storm caused the canal to overtop its bank at this point, running down a drainage ditch and the steep incline into the Winterbeck. Gathering momentum water ran along the course of the beck and down the several miles into Bottesford' blocking the arch at Belvoir Road bridge then flooding houses along the roadway.

Very typically, flooding of properties occurs when a watercourse is overwhelmed by the amount of rainfall flow, often at a road bridge when the arch gap underneath is blocked by



debris as well as the actual water flow itself. The bridge then effectively becomes a dam forcing the excess body of water generated by the flooding event to backup and eventually overflow, water which then often runs along the road over the bridge, flooding property after property

along the road away from the bridge. A good example of this phenomena occurred on the Winterbeck during the 2021 Storm Dennis event.

Flooding in Belvoir Road during Storm Dennis

The most significant recent flooding in the parish that of 2001 did not have a single simple direct cause as with the Winterbeck Storm Dennis event, rather it was caused by days of intense rainfall creating a run off from land upstream of the Devon, Winterbeck and other streams, which together with the rainfall in the Parish which overwhelmed the ability of the drainage systems to collect and convey rainwater effectively. There was significant flooding of houses in Bottesford, Easthope, Muston, and Normanton resulting in damage to properties. Areas near the bridges in the Parish were often the focus of flooding problems.

Flooding, Rectory Lane corner of Devon Lane During the July 2001 event causing flooding in many areas including parts of Bottesford, Easthorpe and Muston.

This damage to properties was often quite significant in some cases requiring people move out of their homes whilst repairs were completed.



to



Flooding, Castle View Road, Easthorpe July 2001

The other three incidents mentioned were not as severe as 2001. In 2012 in Normanton some intense rainfall overwhelmed the drainage systems and properties in Main Street were flooded.

In the Storm Dennis 2021 incident, (apart from the special events due to the Grantham Canal /Winterbeck conjunction) again intense rainfall overwhelmed the drainage systems causing, flooding as indeed some Bottesford roads also were flooded during 2023 Storm Babet. A 2015 paper by The Local Government Association called **Managing flood risk** defines the causes thus: -

“In extreme weather conditions, rivers, streams and drainage systems reach their capacity and the ground becomes saturated. Water gathers and the natural boundaries, for example embankments, can no longer retain the water, resulting in the banks overflowing. This overflowing water follows the path of least resistance, settling in low-lying areas p1.

Aspirations

To plan as far we can to avoid flooding incidents of the scale of the 2001 event (or even worse events). If remedial measures are taken with regard to the Winterbeck to ensure that repairs are affected to the Grantham Canal towpath between Muston Gorse and Muston Bridge it should be possible to ameliorate this cause of flooding (perhaps funded by section 106 money gained for developments within the parish).

However, the River Devon the situation is more complex. The Parish has a majority of Level 1 or 1:100 years probability flood rating, but there are two factors which make the return of

such an incident likely to be more frequent; the first of these is climate change and the second are the effects of large-scale development.

With regard to Climate change the LGA **Managing flood risk** paper defines it thus: -

Climate change

Climate change poses a major challenge in our management of flood risk. Increases in global temperatures and changing weather patterns indicate that climate change will cause more extreme weather events.

The impacts of Climate change are likely to:

- *increase the severity and frequency of storm events*
- *increase the frequency of intensive rainfall events that may cause significant run-off from urban and agricultural areas, exceeding the capacity of artificial drainage systems and natural watercourses reaching their capacity*
- *increase the saturation of groundwater from large rainfall events that may cause large overland flows and watercourses to overflow p2*

Beyond appointing flood wardens and establishing sandbag stores available to the public there is not a great deal that the Parish Council can do to counter the effects of climate change. Nonetheless it is an important factor in deciding large-scale development, an area which the council does have some say in and which it is actively working to establish the ground rules with the Lead Local Flooding Authority.

Large-Scale Development

Any large-scale development will significantly alter the natural drainage processes and can exacerbate the flood risk in an area by reducing the ability of the land to absorb rainfall. Bottesford has already seen a number of large developments in recent years

The LGA **Managing flood risk** paper defines best practice with regard to the management of large-scale developments thus: -

“Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change, by:

- *applying the Sequential Test*
- *if necessary, applying the Exception Test*
- *safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management*

- *using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding*
- *where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, seeking opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, including housing, to more sustainable locations.”*

Both the **Bottesford Local and the MBC Neighbourhood Plans** are informed by these criteria, which are set out in more detail in the document **Melton Borough Council, Local Plan, Level 1 and 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, v2.0 October 2015**.

Principles

We will use our local knowledge of flood risk within the Parish to review and challenge flood risk assessments associated with planning applications to ensure that proper consideration is taken for the following risks:-

1 Surface water/Groundwater flooding (informed by local knowledge, rather than the potentially inaccurate or desk based assessments generated by flood consultants or the Environment Agency)

2 Fluvial flood risk, including the risk that a development leads to increased flood risk elsewhere (for example due to surface water run off into the main watercourses). We will seek to ensure that this risk is measured to appropriate resilience levels, with reference to community and best practice risk tolerance thresholds. We will request that our risk thresholds are met for all types of flood risk, including the risk of flooding elsewhere due to run off. We will promote attenuation schemes proposed in mitigation of such risks that are constructed to meet our stipulated resilience levels.

3 Cumulative impact of developments. We will seek to ensure that appropriate consideration is taken of the cumulative impact of multiple developments of the community's exposure to flood risk is properly considered.

4 In line with planning policy, we will request of planning authorities that sequential testing is applied to sites at risk of surface water flooding or significant fluvial flooding or at risk of causing flooding elsewhere along watercourses.

5 We will promote attenuation schemes proposed in mitigation of such risks that are constructed to meet our stipulated resilience levels and that an assessment of the reliability of such schemes is provided to the community.

Methodology

In line with National Infrastructure Commission recommendations and international best practice, our community resilience level for flood risk shall be at least a 0.5% probability or 1:200 years. The Parish Council believe that 1% or 1:100 is too low as over 20 years this would correspond to a 1:5 risk which is too high. We will seek stress tests are carried out to cover more severe scenarios, including actual historic rainfall events for larger developments, where appropriate.

We will seek much greater engagement with Melton Borough Planning Department, the Leicestershire Local Flood Authority and the Environment Agency to ensure that our community principles and methodologies outlined above are met for proposed developments and to ensure that local knowledge is properly reflected in flood risk assessments.

Benefits

The principles outlined above will afford the community more robust protection against the adverse impact of development related flood risks. The costs in terms of financial damage and distress caused by flooding can only be properly considered if the above principles and methodologies are adhered to.

Resources MT EXPAND

Flood warning EA, flood warnings etc PC engagement with local authorities