

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

7.30 p.m. Tuesday 23rd January 2018 – Old School

Present:

Steering Group Members

Bob Bayman (BB) – Chair

Richard Simon (RS) - Clerk

Colin Love (CL)

Susan Love (SL)

Cob George (CG)

Bob Lockey (RL)

Peter Darlow

Helpers

Anne Ablewhite (AA)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the members and helpers to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Pru Chandler, Alan Gough, David Wright, Dermot Daly

3. To confirm and agree minutes of the Steering Group meeting 12th December 2017

Agreed, CL thanked the clerk for producing the minutes

4. Matters arising and actions from those minutes

Regarding the application for the new Co-op store on Grantham Road CL enquired as to whether there would be a Retail Impact Assessment carried out. Pru Chandler had indicated that there would be one and RS was asked to seek clarification. This is a different Co-op organization from the store in Queen Street.

5. Declarations of Interest

None

6. Melton Local Plan

Lance Wiggins has been asked to represent the Parish Council and there is to be a special PC meeting to agree the approach and the matters to be discussed. The important session is Matter 5 where they are to deal in detail with the proposed sites. It was felt pointless to try to cover the issues at this one session and spaces have been reserved for attendance on 5 days that are particularly relevant to Bottesford Parish. Lance Wiggins has kept his diary free for Matter 5.

Unfortunately we missed the deadline for written submissions having understood that our previous responses to the various issues of the draft MLP would be taken into account. However in reviewing the written statements and drafting responses the writing Group discovered that Bottesford Forum had not only objected to Rectory Farm but proposed Belvoir Road as an alternative. SL had written a statement concerning this which is included below.

*"Response to MLP from Bottesford Forum. At the last PC meeting Cllr. Sparham stated that BF were supporting development on Belvoir Rd. The crass stupidity of BF in doing this is difficult to believe. Whilst BF have an interest in challenging the RF development and are quite entitled to do so to support development on the Barratt's site is both unnecessary and potentially very damaging to the PC and SG commitment that Bottesford should '**Remain a village**'. **BF should have referred to the Borough's reserve site at Six Hills** to take the numbers that Bottesford would not be able to accommodate if the RF site were to be removed from the MLP.*

***BF** have potentially opened the door to a development of 400 houses off Belvoir Rd, a Barratsford. Barratts' intentions are confirmed by their representations to the Inspector.*

Those of us who have been involved with the Melton Reference Groups know that Barratts consider that the numbers allocated by MBC for Bottesford are too low and that the Barratts's representative

has been arguing for an increase in the Bottesford allocation to 600 houses. **Even if RF were not developed Barratts' development would bring an additional 237 houses** to the Parish (a total of nearly 700 houses over the Plan period). If the Inspector were to consider both sites to be included in the MLP then the Parish would have a total of approximately **850** houses over the Plan period!

BF have gathered support and raised money from local residents to reduce the numbers of houses to be built in the Parish whilst acting to potentially double the numbers.

The NPSG has been working hard to achieve good design in the Parish through feedback to developers and making an input into Stefan Kruckowki's course on RF, during which period we discovered how sympathetic good development can be, as opposed to what is often dumped on communities by mass builders.

We have been very successful so far in raising the standard of design on sites. The Normanton Lane site has been significantly changed to reflect concerns about its impact on the topography and approach to the village following discussions with the NPSG, and even the proposed site at Grantham Rd has been adjusted to align better with the criteria approved by residents following the questionnaire sent out by the SG.

Barratts lost their REM application at the Planning Committee because of the poor design and layout, but went on to deliver a badly designed site following a successful Appeal. In relation to this Councillor Ablewhite must be congratulated on speaking out well against the application when it came before the Planning Committee. We know that Mrs Ablewhite is opposed to large scale developments in the village. She would gain the respect of many if she now stood down from any connection with Bottesford Forum."

On the same matter CG wanted to pose the following question to Bob and Kathy Sparham

I understand that Bottesford Forum was formed to reduce houses allocated to Bottesford by Melton Borough Council. Now I find you are suggesting the Barratts Belvoir Road site should be supported in preference to the Rectory Farm site which would probably increase housing numbers by 400 or more dwellings on Belvoir Road and with other sites coming forward will increase our numbers tremendously.

The Forum has been crowd funding, is this just to fight the Rectory Farm site and do your 600 or so 'members' realise this or is Bottesford Forum for the good of Bottesford as a whole?

It was agreed that while Bottesford Forum had a right to argue against Rectory Farm, to put forward another site in the village with the risk of much greater development in the Parish was not in the interest of the Parish and appeared to be completely against their arguments concerning protecting the Parish. The Chair said that he would speak to BS and DD to try to get them to retract that part of the statement. It was agreed that Lance Wiggins must be made aware of this apparent convergence of Barratts and Bottesford Forums proposals.

RL asked if we should be publishing what Barratts want and that Bottesford Forum are supporting them.

7. Bottesford Parish Neighbourhood Plan –

SL said that the writers have been working hard on the Policies section meeting for several days a week. There has been a delay in obtaining information about some aspects of the section – e.g. on Green Spaces, but we hope to complete it soon."

SL "The policies doc. combines criteria approved by over 80% of the respondents to RQ, informed by the valuable insights from our Consultants from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), and the MLP policies which we have strengthened to make them more forceful – e.g. the Custom build houses not to return to the developer for 12 months instead of only 6 if not sold."

There were some areas where 'expert' help was required and it was agreed that DW would be approached regarding CIL and James Goodson and Leigh Donger to look at the section on Improving access to the Internet.

It was agreed that the Policies would go to the PC in February.

BB confirmed that RCC could help us with the review of the document before submission.

8. Parish Council update.

None

9. Additional Steering Group Members

An email dated 12th December 2017 had been received from DD proposing that Kathy Sparham be made a full member of the Steering Group. As neither DD nor KS was in attendance the matter was deferred to the February SG meeting.

10. Agenda items and agree date of next Steering Group meeting. – Thursday 22nd February 2018

Invite Dr J Thomson

11. Any other business

SL requested the Parish Council:

- 1) to be asked to consider the role of Councillor Sparham, sponsored by Bottesford Forum, in **opening the door to a huge increase in the housing numbers for Bottesford.**

This action follows misinformation distributed by BS for which no apology has been made – e.g. the reduction in numbers on RF because an industrial site was to be built on it! And more recently he has commented, at a PC meeting without any evidence, because he wasn't there, on the course run by Stefan Kruckowski aimed at the sympathetic development of RF. In fact 2 members of the group lived very close to the site, and they constituted about 25% of the group.

Mrs Ablewhite has shown from her frequent comments that she is against large developments in the Parish. I hope that now the potentially damaging actions of BF have been revealed in supporting a development of nearly twice the size of RF she will publicly distance herself from BF."

- 2) to query the membership numbers claimed by BF. How have they reached these?
 - a. from anyone who signed to a meeting (fire precautions)
 - b. from anyone who 'Follows' the website
 - c. from anyone who signed their petition to reduce housing numbers
 - d. how many of them live in the parish?
- 3) Ask if they consulted all their members before sending in their representation to the Examiner supporting the Barratt development on Belvoir Rd
- 4) Suggest no confidential information to be given to Cllr Sparham re our response to the Examiner, or to Cllr Ablewhite unless she stands down and distances herself from BF. Will our information be emailed to Barratts?"

Dates of future Steering Group Meetings, all at 7.30pm in the Old School

Thursday 22nd February

Tuesday 20th March

Thursday 26th April

Tuesday 22nd May

Thursday 28th June

Tuesday 17th July

Thursday 23rd August

Tuesday 25th September

All are requested to note these dates

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, Bob Lockey, Chris Greasley, Mark Taylor, Mark Longden, Alan Summers, Jean Reavley, Annie Newman, Dermot Daly, John Preston, Roger Pacey, Bud Hart, Connor Bufton, David and Joyce Slater, Heather Shephard, Ray Flanders, Sallyann Watson, Peter Sheardown, James Goodson, Mike Roberts, Andy Norris, Neville Spick, Barry Priestley, Neil Fortey, Don Pritchett, Leigh Donger, Alistair Raper, Dilys Shepherd, Miriam Forsey, Heather Stokes, Mr and Mrs K Palmer, Alison Reynolds, Susan Meech, Val Lever, Tom Parry, Allan Mulcahy, Bob Sparham, James Beverley, Simon Bladon, Kathy Sparham, Brian Attwood, Kathryn Price, Ruth Manchester, R Solomon, John Stapleton, Steve Ryan, Craig Eaton, Derek Stone, Mr. & Mrs. D O'Connell, Michael Thomas.