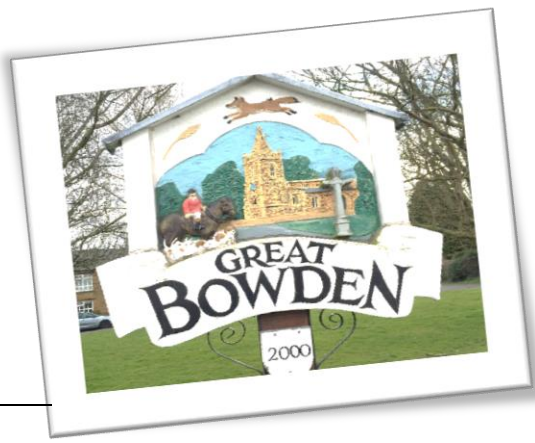




Great Bowden's Neighbourhood Plan

Our Neighbourhood Our Future

Meeting 8 – Open Meeting, Saturday 12th November,
10.30pm, Community Pavilion

In Attendance

Peter Mitchell (Chair), Natalie Holmes (Vice-chair & Secretary), Jim Culkin, Paul Claxton, Tony Hipgrave, and 24 members of the public.

Apologies & Absentees from committee members

Bill Somerton (apology), Anne French (absent)

Opening Comments – Chair, Peter Mitchell

We wanted to invite all to an open meeting regarding the questionnaire results, giving the community a further opportunity to have input and be part of the process. The open event was posted to all residents and sent to stakeholders either by post or email.

Our questionnaire results are now available to view and we have received a huge response from the community. Great Bowden has responded far louder and clearer with more responses than any other community undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan so far. Thank you to all.

Anyone wishing to be informed of future developments can leave their contact details with Peter Mitchell.

Questionnaire results are available on the village website and a hardcopy can be viewed in Welton's

Large posters are displayed around the walls for you to look at today. There will be an opportunity during the morning for everyone present to study these. They are comprised of 29 pages, A3 size, from the Questionnaire Analysis and cover the most important aspects in the sections: Housing type, Housing Location, Environment and Village characteristic, Community facilities, Traffic & transport and Business & employment and then to ask any questions related to the Questionnaire Analysis.

The next steps after this meeting are:

Each Theme Group will continue the work of developing policies for the draft NP.

The draft NP will be submitted to HDC for an initial confirmation that it concords with the Council's strategic policies.

There will then be a 6 weeks' pre-submission consultation with residents and stakeholders.

At the end of this period, any required amendments will be made prior to submission to HDC which will publicise the plan for a further 6 weeks and invite further comments.

It will then be submitted to an independent examiner by HDC

If passed, there will be a referendum. Only those on the GB electoral register will be allowed to vote and the NP will be 'made' if 51% of those voting say yes.

Theme Group Introductions

Housing – Chair, Paul Claxton

HDC have extended their timetable of the draft local plan to Dec 2017.

Great Bowden's allocated number of dwellings in accordance with HDC consultation and preference of allocation within the district should be released within 6 weeks. Presently the figures have been mentioned anywhere between 29-89. Since 2011 we have so far had 79 approved and built which includes Welham Lane but not yet the 70 from Berry Close which although passed is still officially with the Secretary of State.

Total number passed/ built to date stands at 149. Significantly higher than suggested allocation.

We are aware that officially, HDC have a small shortfall in their 5-year supply but is not solely down to housing approvals. It is also being held back in figures by developers delivering a drip feed of housing rather than building the approved application quantities.

The questionnaire provided not only the residents feedback on several issues but gave a clear message of what they want and where they want it. Thus, and considering applications already approved, we are in a situation where we have not only fulfilled our number of housing allocation but exceeded it and have 3 reserve sites for the future in the preferred area. These sites are already known by HDC as well.

Environment – Chair, Jim Culkin

The theme group has taken some considerably time examining maps, lidar maps, google earth, ridge and furrow mapping and mediaeval maps to establish uses, paths and historic importance.

The theme group have also been walking the footpaths, bridleways and entrances to better map and understand the community environment and surroundings. It is felt that the entrance roads should be considered and recorded as Community Assets along with well? certain bridges, buildings, greens and open spaces. This echoes reports from character assessment reports on the approach roads to the village, particularly, Dingley Road, Welham Lane, Langton Road, Leicester Lane and Burnmill Hill. All have clear rural approaches with native hedging and fielding either side.

We have been looking at better footpaths and crossings for wheelchair users and safer crossing points and this will also come under the umbrella of the traffic and transport group.

The group are looking to record and protect these areas as well as map common land for future protection as some have already been lost and in some cases taken illegally.

At the time of the meeting it was being muted that with the Network Rail straightening of the line and possible straightening of the track we could approach NR and ask for the land to be donated for wildflower and nature reserve planting. However, upon JC attending the NR event the same day at the Market Hall in Market Harborough it was stated that the movement of the line in Great Bowden was now cancelled and line straightening would now take place nearer the proposed new Market Harborough station. This means that the designation of the rail embankment and existing track as a wildlife sanctuary will not be possible.

Traffic & Transport, Community Facilities and Business & Employment – Chair, Tony Hipgrave

With complex and controversial issues on traffic it is only right that we address expectation on what the Neighbourhood Plan can deliver. We can provide policies for future development proposals and request S106 monies to help improve community facilities and infrastructure but cannot solve all existing traffic issues.

A lot of traffic issues will need to be an ongoing project for the Parish Council working with LCC and Highways, including potential fundraising to implement desired changes. Any volunteers to help the Parish Council committee who are all volunteers themselves will greatly increase the chances of any improvements and suggestions being implemented.

There are several things we could ask new developers to contribute to from Section 106 monies. These could include improvements to existing community buildings, school facilities, toilet facilities, etc.

We would also ask new developments to ensure there is only parallel off street parking and NOT tandem parking as well as providing 3+ spaces for larger homes. Wide footpaths and travel packs for each home to promote the bus service, the Sustrans cycle route down Welham Lane, footpaths and bridleways.

S106 could contribute to improving the village hall facilities and a central working hub at the Community Pavilion. Providing access to small business working space with broadband access.

We would look to protect businesses that enhance the community facilities in Great Bowden, such as the Post Office/Weltons which 95% of questionnaire respondents said they used and was important to them.

JD – A member of the public urges more residents to attend the Parish Council meetings and to volunteer to help. Reiterating that the Parish Council are volunteers themselves and cannot undertake all aspects alone. Branches or other groups could be off shoots working to gather information to take the pressure off the Parish Council members.

Finally, PM thanked everyone for coming and hoped that the meeting was useful to them. He also thanked Natalie and Jenny for making the very welcome cups of coffee!

Next GBNP Committee Meeting – Thursday 8th December, 7.30pm, Community pavilion

