

# Barkestone, Plungar & Redmile

## Minutes from the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting

### Tuesday 06 January 2015 at 7:00 pm at Plungar Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Parry (in the Chair), Barlow, Evans & Hague  
 County Councillor Rhodes & Borough Councillor Baguley  
 Residents: 35

Ref:	Subject:	Action
154/14	<b>Apologies accepted from:</b> Councillor Smith.	
155/14	<p>Cllr. Parry <b>Set the Scene:</b> Melton Borough Council is currently working to develop a Local Plan that will provide a framework for planning &amp; development for the next 25 years. The first consultation document: Issues &amp; Options has been released with a 14 week consultation that ends on Monday 12 January.</p> <p>The Parish Council resolved at November's Parish Council meeting to comment on questions that the Parish Council were most interested in from the Issues &amp; Options Consultation document. Prior to the Issues &amp; Options document a number of Parish Councillors had volunteered to attend the Reference Groups set up by Melton Borough Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council encouraged residents to respond individually.</p>	
156/14	<p><b>Opinions &amp; Views from the public:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a concern that the Parish Council would not reflect the opinions of the residents.</li> <li>• Recognition that there is no Neighbourhood Plan across the parish.</li> <li>• That the timescales are too tight from calling the extraordinary meeting to submitting the Parish Council's response by the deadline of Monday 12 January.</li> <li>• It was emphasised that the SHLAA (strategic housing land availability assessment) sites put forward by developers at Barkestone &amp; Redmile does not mean they will be developed.</li> <li>• In Barkestone &amp; Redmile who are the houses being designed for?</li> </ul> <p>County Councillor Rhodes encouraged residents to have a go &amp; provide the necessary feedback. Melton Borough Council is tasked with building 5,000 to 5,800 new houses over the next 20 years. In previous years 176 houses on average have been built. The goal of 5,000 new houses means somewhere in the range of 195 to 245 per year will need to be built. The total number of houses which could be built on SHLAA sites put forward by developers is 26,000. Less than 20% will be built. So there is no target to build 53 new houses in Barkestone.</p> <p>Current planning policy will need to change so in the villages should thought be given to doing away with village envelopes &amp; no longer shielding protected open areas from development.</p> <p>Cllr. Parry then asked the residents if they would write down on post it notes &amp; stick on the wall their answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you like about where you live</li> <li>• What do you want to keep</li> <li>• What do you want to change</li> <li>• What do you want to improve</li> </ul> <p>Cllr. Barlow has been active in Melton's reference group from the start &amp; she said housing development seemed to be tiered into 3 groupings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Melton – large, sustainable town</li> <li>2. Larger villages such as Waltham, Bottesford &amp; Long Clawson who are likely to be developing Neighbourhood Plans</li> <li>3. Small villages which are rural have a lack of facilities &amp; are unlikely to be developing a Neighbourhood Plan but may have Conservation Status. Redmile is a category 2 village as it has a school &amp; pub &amp; Barkestone &amp; Plungar are category 3 as they have less facilities. Broadband is extremely slow, there is a lack of public transport &amp; the road systems are not sufficiently robust.</li> </ol> <p>Two old airfields feature on the SHLAA, one at Normanton &amp; the other south of Melton. Do objections to the use of the airfields reflect 'nimby' tendencies or are they obvious spaces to accommodate new houses? What is the ideal split of urban &amp; rural new houses? There is talk of a 70% urban/30% rural split; or should there be less urban &amp; more rural or should there be dispersed development?</p> <p>Unless you have a reason to go to Melton most residents seem to favour Nottingham, Newark or Grantham. Should investment be made to improve the borough's capital &amp; return it to a vibrant country town?</p>	

157/14	<p><b>Discussion of draft response from the Parish Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council wants to see the character of each of the villages respected &amp; retained.</li> <li>• The initial responses from the post-it exercise &amp; the floor suggested a strong view that the residents present valued the small peaceful &amp; rural communities of the villages &amp; that the infrastructure of them would not support significant development without significant change.</li> <li>• SHLAA sites identify capacity for 4+ houses only so in-fill &amp; conversions will still go on</li> <li>• There is a desire to retain the village envelopes but if there was to be any change to the existing envelopes this should only be after a full consultation with residents.</li> <li>• Want to maintain protected open spaces.</li> </ul> <p>County Councillor Rhodes pointed out that feedback from the Issues &amp; Options consultation process will help further refine &amp; shape the future Local Plan. There are some significant challenges for Melton Borough Council for instance there is the potential to develop 2,000 new houses south of Melton but traffic congestion would be a big issue. Would the Government &amp; developers help to fund improvements to the road infrastructure? Sites in the countryside offer a different mix of options &amp; issues such as Normanton airfield &amp; a site not on the SHLAA at Six Hills which is just within the borough.</p> <p>Once the Parish Council's response has been submitted it will be posted to the website &amp; emailed to those that provided their email address. Residents were encouraged to get involved &amp; submit their individual views as well.</p>	
158/14	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> 20 January 2015 @ 7:00pm at Plungar Village Hall.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at: 9:10pm</p>	