

Foston Neighbourhood Development Plan



2016 - 2026

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The following documents should be considered in conjunction with this Neighbourhood Plan:

- Consultation Statement



Long Street Foston

0. FOREWORD

- 0.1 Foston is a great place to live and has a boundless community spirit as well as a fine landscape with exceptional and multiple heritage assets. However, much as we might like nothing to change, nothing ever stays the same.
- 0.2 We have seen a lot of development within the last 20 years, and further progress and development will be inevitable in the future. With a Neighbourhood Development Plan, the community has the power to direct new development, using our own planning policies which work in conjunction with the South Kesteven District Council's Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 0.3 Foston's Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for the Parish that reflects the opinions and views of Foston residents. The Plan sets objectives on key themes: quality of life, local environment, built environment and agricultural & industrial policies. It builds on current and planned activity which, at present, we have very little or no control over. This document is a Neighbourhood Development Plan as defined in the Localism Act.
- 0.4 Our vision for Foston is to build upon Foston's strengths as a rural thriving village. We plan to meet housing, social, environmental and community needs whilst protecting the environment, improving green space and conserving the historic fabric of the village for future generations.

1. INTRODUCTION

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

1.1 Neighbourhood Plans were introduced through the amended Localism Act in 2011 as a community-led framework, setting planning policies and guidance for future development and growth. Neighbourhood Plans can deal with a variety of social, economic and environmental issues within a neighbourhood, such as housing, community facilities, conservation and transport. The government identified £9.5m funding and created support programmes to help local communities produce Neighbourhood Plans.



1.2 Grants were available for the development of Neighbourhood Plans, as well as separate expert advice, to support groups through the process of creating their Plan.

1.3 The grant can be used for any aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan process, as long as a Plan is produced, showing how the money will be spent.

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Fallow Lane, Foston

1.4 On average a Neighbourhood Plan takes two years to prepare. It should contain thorough research obtained by consultation to determine local needs and issues for policy development, which is backed by extensive evidence-based material from the locality. Once adopted, these Plans become part of the Strategic Development Plan produced by local district councils and therefore carry full legal weight in the determination of future planning applications.

1.5 Neighbourhood Plans will not be approved unless they receive more than 50% of the votes cast in a community referendum. Plans must also meet a number of criteria before they can be put to a community referendum and legally come into force. These conditions are to ensure Plans are compliant and take account of wider policy considerations that are already in force on a regional and national basis.

1.6 The following points must be taken into consideration when developing Neighbourhood Plans:

- They must have regard for national planning policy emanating from Central Government.
- They must be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area (i.e. such as in a core strategy) prepared by the Local District Council.
- They must be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

An independent qualified person, the Examiner, must verify that a Neighbourhood Plan appropriately meets all these conditions before it can be voted on in a local community referendum. This is to ensure that referenda only take place when proposals are workable and fully compliant



Main Street, Foston

Why is a Neighbourhood Plan needed?

- 1.7 Foston's Neighbourhood Plan is part of the Government's new approach to planning, which aims to give local people more say about what goes on in their area. The Plan provides a vision for the future of the village and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision.
- 1.8 In recent years there has been an increased number of planning applications in the Parish, despite the 'less sustainable' village status Foston has been awarded by South Kesteven. Foston Parish Council agreed that the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans would be an appropriate means of managing inevitable change, whilst reflecting the wishes of the Foston's residents and retaining its rural and historic character. Thus it was important to give all Parishioners the chance to express their views on issues and needs within their community to assist with the formulation of policies, spelling out what is acceptable and appropriate in their environment. It will present a vision of how we see our village change and develop over the next 10 years.
- 1.9 The Neighbourhood Plan is an important and powerful planning tool for Foston's community to influence the future of our Parish. It aims to improve the services for existing and future residents, to continue to build a strong community ensuring the right blend of open space and social and community facilities so allowing Foston to thrive and continue to be a great place to live.

How was this Plan prepared?

- 1.10 A Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was created in October 2013, made up from volunteers from Foston's Parish Council, Foston's Parish Clerk and residents. The Working Group led all activity to gather evidence to develop Foston's Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan has been developed through extensive resident consultation plus with others with an interest in the Parish, as well as ensuring the policies accord with higher level planning policy, as required by the Localism Act.



Goosegate Lane Foston

1.11 The preparation of Foston's Neighbourhood Plan followed a simplified version of the process used by the District Council to develop a Local Plan, with the following key stages:

Stage 1: Getting started

Stage 2: Identifying the issues to address in your Neighbourhood Plan

Stage 3: Develop a vision and objectives

Stage 4: Generating options for your draft Neighbourhood Plan

Stage 5: Preparing your draft Neighbourhood Plan

Stage 6: Consultation and submission

Stage 7: Independent examination

Stage 8: Referendum and adoption

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1.12 This process and the resulting Plan carry significant legal weight to the planning process, and therefore the Working Group sought professional support for certain stages of the process. This need has been recognised by the Government in the development of the Localism Act and they have provided funding on application through the Community Development Foundation in order to support communities in their neighbourhood planning programmes. Foston Parish Council was successful in two funding applications, securing total grant funds of nearly £15,000. The majority of this money funded professional support for the compilation of the landscape character assessment and policy development.

1.13 Essentially, the Plan provides a vision for the future of the Parish, agreed by residents, businesses and interested parties following extensive consultation. It sets out the Parish's objectives, together with the policies required for their realisation. The vision agreed collaboratively is:

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that Foston remains a successful and vibrant rural village that values its past but looks to the future.

The vision, together with the following Plan Objectives have guided the development of the Plan and its Policies:

- To recognise the distinctive quality of the landscape of the Parish of Foston, and seek to protect and enhance the local landscape character, its biodiversity, footpaths and bridleways.
- To promote the safeguarding and enhancement of locally important buildings and features that contribute to the character of the Parish.
- To allow for a limited amount of new development to meet local needs, having regard to national and local planning policies for development in the countryside.
- To encourage measures to improve highway safety for all road users.

2. ABOUT FOSTON: ITS AREA AND ITS PEOPLE

Neighbourhood Plan Area

2.1 The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Foston covers the whole of the civil Parish. Boundaries are clear and well established - see red outline in map below.

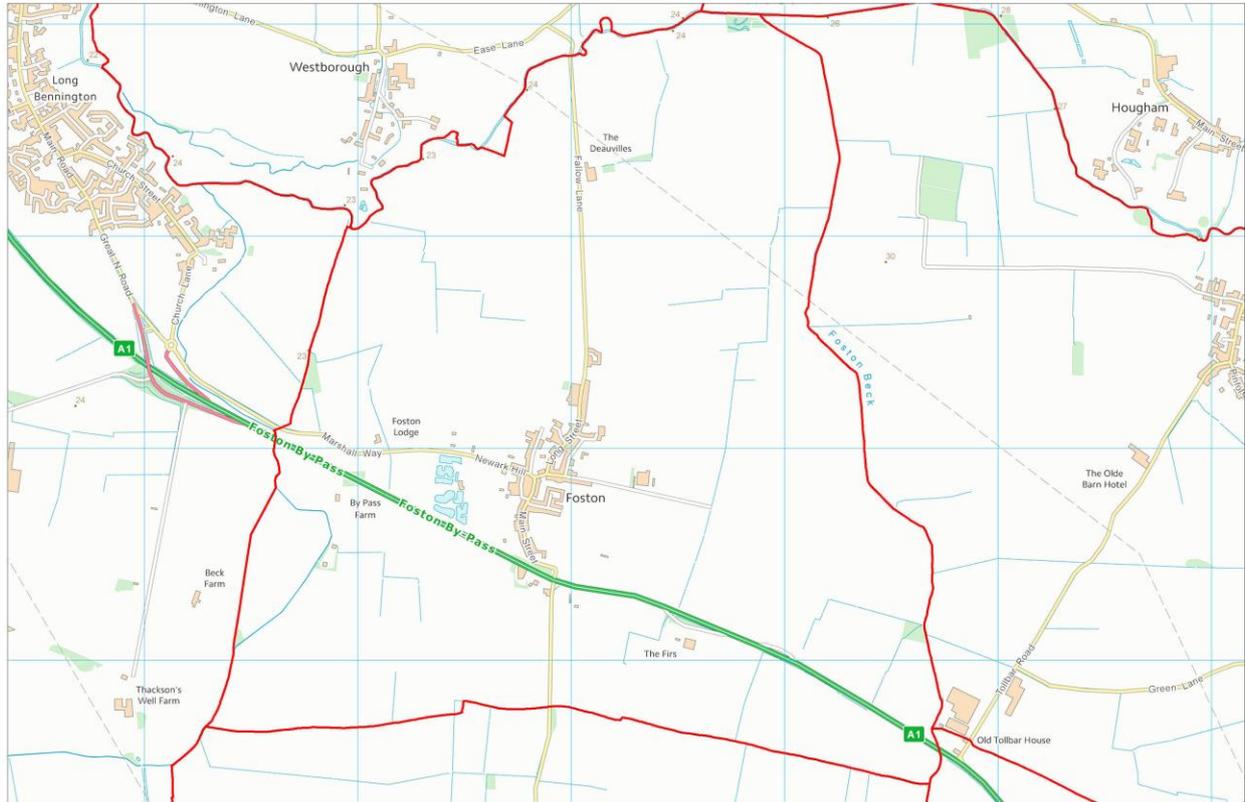


Fig 1: Foston Parish indicated within the red line

Foston Parish Council confirms that:

The Neighbourhood Development Plan relates only to the Parish of Foston in Lincolnshire and to no other Neighbourhood Area. It is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area nor is any other in development for part or all of the designated area.

- 2.2 Foston lies within the district of South Kesteven in the county of Lincolnshire about half way between Grantham, Lincolnshire and Newark, Nottinghamshire. The area comes under the region known as the *Trent and Belvoir Vale*, and in essence therefore, Foston lies within the north eastern edge of the Vale of Belvoir. This is evidenced in the 1836 proposal for a train line to run from Boston to Bingham; the train was due to enter the Vale of Belvoir via Foston.
- 2.3 Natural England places Foston within a much larger area known as *Area 48 Trent and Belvoir Vale* that runs up to Gainsborough.

History and Heritage

- 2.4 Cultural heritage is evident in the *Trent and Belvoir Vale National Character Area*, with the overall settlement pattern little changed since medieval times. The gravel terraces along the Trent have been the focus of human activity for many thousands of years. The enclosure and reorganisation of the landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries can be seen in the regularly shaped hawthorn-hedged fields and the distinctive red brick and pantile building style of the villages and farmsteads. Traditionally a mixed farming area, its intrinsic landscape character has been diluted by modern agricultural practices and development.
- 2.5 A Romano-British settlement was discovered on either side of Fallow Lane in 1964. The site is not far from the ford and predominantly on the east side of Fallow Lane. Excerpt from *Foston* by EM Briant and GAP Parker (1988): “The Fallow Lane settlement appears to have enjoyed prosperity during the late 3rd and 4th century, but went into decline as did many other sites throughout Roman Britain. Its eventual desertion may have been at some time during sub-Roman or early Anglo-Saxon period, though this is still to be proved.”



Fig 2: 1824 map of Foston showing the ancient cross roads setting.

- 2.6 Foston's layout has hardly changed in two hundred years and the village lies on an ancient cross roads. The village was bisected by the A1 in 1926 leaving eight village dwellings and a few businesses cut off from the main village on the south side of the A1. At that stage, the road had not been dualled as it is now.
- 2.7 There are five listed buildings and many more unlisted heritage assets within the Parish including Guy House, The Malting House, The Bake House, Highfield Farm, Wayside, The Old Forge, Black Horse Cottages (formerly the Black Horse Public House) and many more cottages up and down the village. More detail on these can be found in the Built Character Assessment (Appendix 2). Alongside the heritage assets are 11 recorded archaeological monuments or 'find' spots within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. All are listed in Appendix 1.

Local Character, Landscape and Environment

- 2.8 The Parish is bordered on two sides with water courses, to the east Foston Beck and to the north River Witham. Hedgerows, bridleways and gardens are an important characteristic in the village with some very wide verges along Fallow Lane and Chapel Lane. The biodiversity within the Parish forms an extensive network of habitats and wildlife corridors throughout the entire Parish. The hedgerows and bridleways provide good sources of food for insects, and for birds, and their importance to the diversity and richness of landscapes is often overlooked and taken for granted. Moderate to large gardens offer nesting sites for birds and habitats for frogs, toads, snakes, hedgehogs etc., as well as ponds attracting dragonflies and other aquatic and semi-aquatic flora and fauna.
- 2.9 The topography of the Parish is a predominantly flat landscape with levels ranging between 25m and 30m above sea level, though the village itself is located on higher ground rising to approximately 40m. There are extensive views from all directions looking out over the Trent and Belvoir Vales and across to Belton Park and the Bellmount Tower.

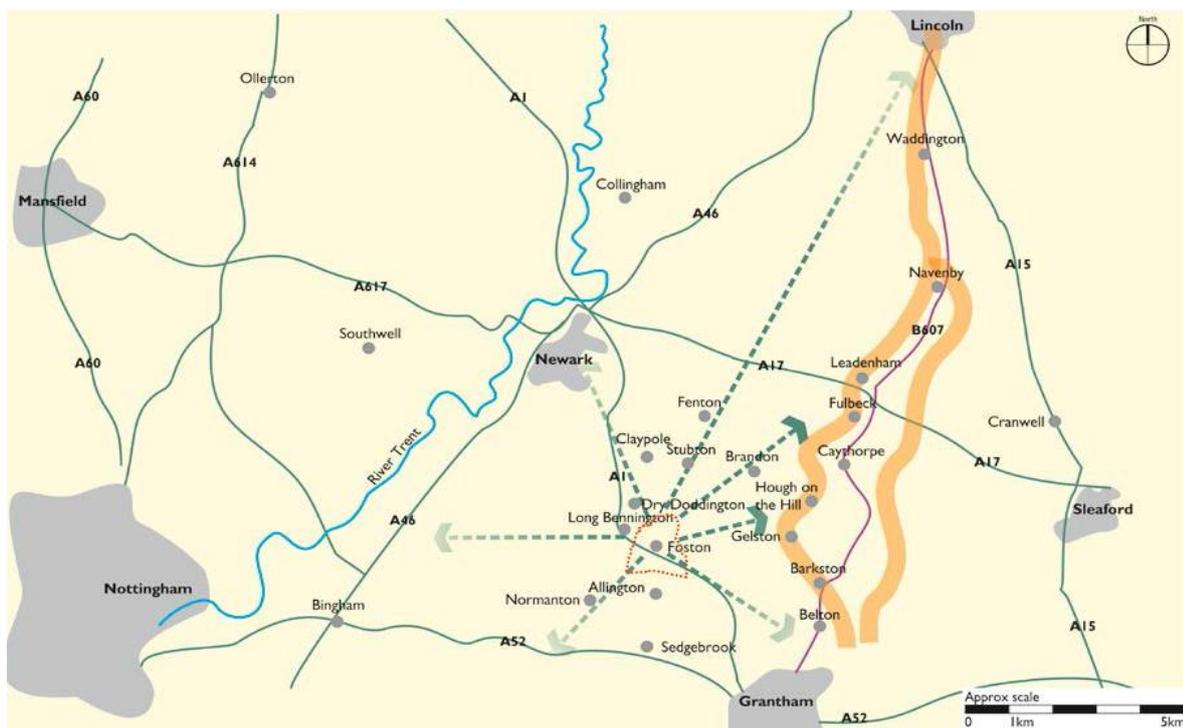


Fig 3: Illustrative map of key views towards the surrounding area and the escarpment slopes (shown in orange)

- 2.10 The topography of the area, including the key views, are outlined more fully in sections 4.13-4.15 of the Landscape Character Assessment (December 2014).

2.11 The village affords many open views in all directions as can be seen in the following illustrations.



*Fallow Lane
Foston, towards
Loveden Hill,
Lincoln escarp-
ment and*



*Fallow Lane by
the river looking
across Vale of
Belvoir, Belvoir
Castle far right
of photograph*

11



*Viking Way
looking
towards the
escarpment
with ridge and
furrow earth-
works in the
foreground*

2.12 Rural tranquillity is still a feature over much of the area; however, significant residential and infrastructure development pressures exist and major roads traverse the area. Foston is partially bisected by the A1 leaving a few dwellings and the main commercial services for the village on the south side of the A1, whilst the majority of residents plus village amenities (e.g. Church, Village Hall and Playing Fields) lie on the north side of this major road artery. A full landscape character assessment can be seen in Appendix 3.

2.13 Walking is a key activity in the area and there is a published walking leaflet, promoting walking within and around Foston. There are walks of varying lengths to suit all abilities. The leaflet is a Lincolnshire County Council Publication, produced in conjunction with Foston's Conservation Group.

2.14 The map is available on Foston's website and Lincolnshire County Council's website.

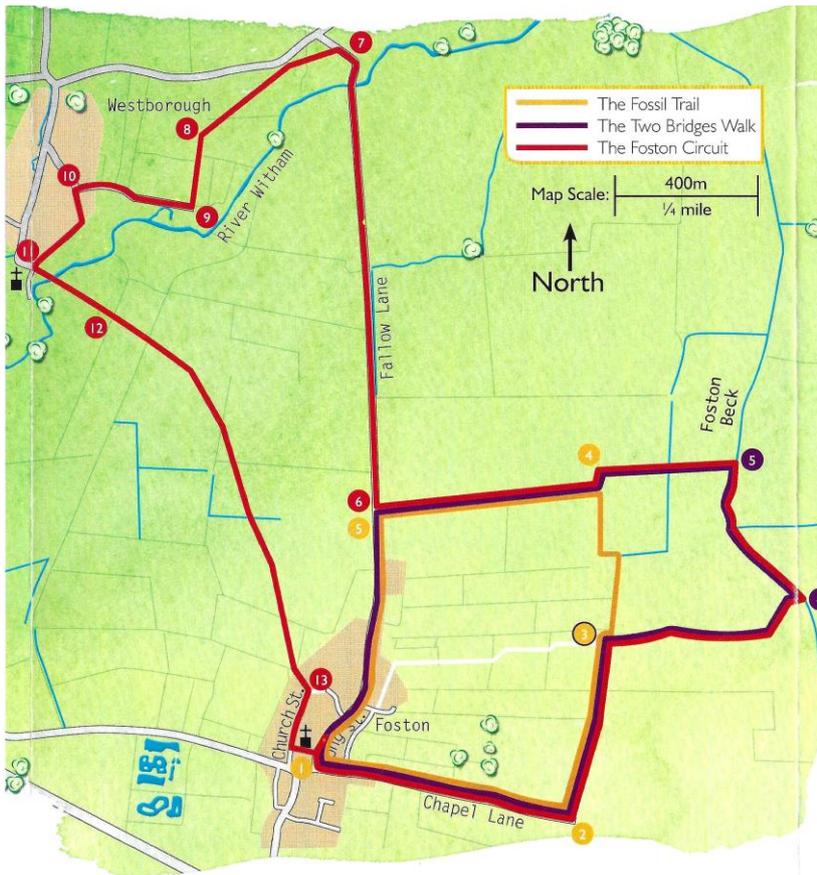


Fig 4: Map showing some of Foston's footpaths

2.15 Other key views from Foston are shown below.



*Highfield Close
looking towards
the Trent Valley*



*Chapel Lane
towards Lincoln
escarpment*



*Bellmount Tower
and Park from top
of Wilkinson Road*

Population of Foston

- 2.16 The population of Foston has fluctuated over the last 200 hundred years. The population numbered 243 in 1801 and nearly doubled in the following 60 years to 519 in 1851. At that point it declined until 1911 to 248, the lowest recorded population figure. From 1911 the population slowly rose with a small dip during the First and Second World War. Currently Foston has a population 525 (2011), just 6 more people compared to Foston in 1851.
- 2.17 The following table provides figures from key census points over the last 200 years:

Year	1811	1851	1911	1951	2011
Population	384	519	248	285	525

Housing

- 2.18 Foston's character is typical of the area within the Belvoir and Trent Vale. The traditional buildings are constructed predominantly of red brick. The principal roof covering is red clay pantiles or natural slate and red brick chimneys are a prominent feature throughout the village, as are stone and red brick walls together with some hedges. Some properties have been rendered and painted most likely because of the deteriorating condition of the bricks but these are the exception rather than the rule.
- 2.19 A 1960's development added additional red brick houses and bungalows to the village (Wilkinson Road and Burgin Close). More recent developments, including a number of pseudo barn-type conversions have been built within the village and these have blended in reasonably successfully with their reclaimed red bricks and barn-style appearance.
- 2.20 The core area of the village revolves around the Church of St Peter and the Old Hall, including Tow Lane behind the Hall. The area encompasses the entry points to Church Street, Long Street, Main Street, Newark Hill and Tow Lane. This area has a harmonious old world character resulting from the common material and vernacular architectural style.
- 2.21 In total there are approximately 230 properties within the village curtilage, which are predominantly detached properties and privately owned.
- 2.22 In November 2014, South Kesteven District Council carried out a Housing Needs Survey for Foston NP Working Group which covered affordable, social and private housing needs. The questionnaire was used to quantify anecdotal comments collected through the consultation process with the following 3 objectives:
1. Identify the number of residents wishing to move property within Foston in the next 5 to 10 years
 2. Identify the type of housing required to meet their needs
 3. Gather views on the different tenures of housing required in the future.
- 2.23 All households received a questionnaire and 89 (42%) were returned. A copy of the questionnaire and full analysed results from South Kesteven District council can be found in Appendix 4.
- 2.24 The data returned indicates that there is very low demand for additional housing in the village. There was some indication for more one or two bed units (either privately owned or as affordable housing). Equally there appears to be no appetite to extend the types of property available by existing residents of Foston. Therefore, it is the view of the Working Group that this issue should be regularly monitored and should be re-visited in 5 years' time.

Economy

- 2.25 Although Foston was traditionally a farming village, very few residents are employed within this industry today. Farming practices have changed dramatically over recent times and most original farmyards have been developed and are now small housing developments. Where farms continue, the larger farms are now generally run by contractors, whilst the smaller farms remain owner-run.
- 2.26 Much pasture has been converted to arable use, although within the village there is still pasture land and some excellent examples of ridge and furrow earthworks. Many of the traditional hedgerows have been removed to create larger fields.
- 2.27 There are many residents working or running businesses from their homes, which vary from architect practices, accounting, photography, tutoring to various consulting businesses. Additionally there are more prominent businesses, such as Willow Lakes Fishery, catering for the tourist trade with over 20 static caravans for holiday makers and seven lakes for fishing, plus a stock pond. There is a small riding school, a sports surfaces company and a cleaning and blasting business. On the other side of the A1 there is an industrial unit housing M&B Sacks who provide any sort of sack you could possibly want. Additionally on the Allington-side of the A1, there is a catering business providing school dinners, situated on the A1 services site.
- 2.28 Crime in the village is relatively low compared to national figures. In the years 2012 – 2014, reported crime incidents ranged in number between 12 and 19, with a significant proportion of these taking place at the A1 petrol station (23%-40%). Burglary and theft (including vehicle theft) is the major type of crime, although anti-social behaviour has been on the increase over the past couple of years.

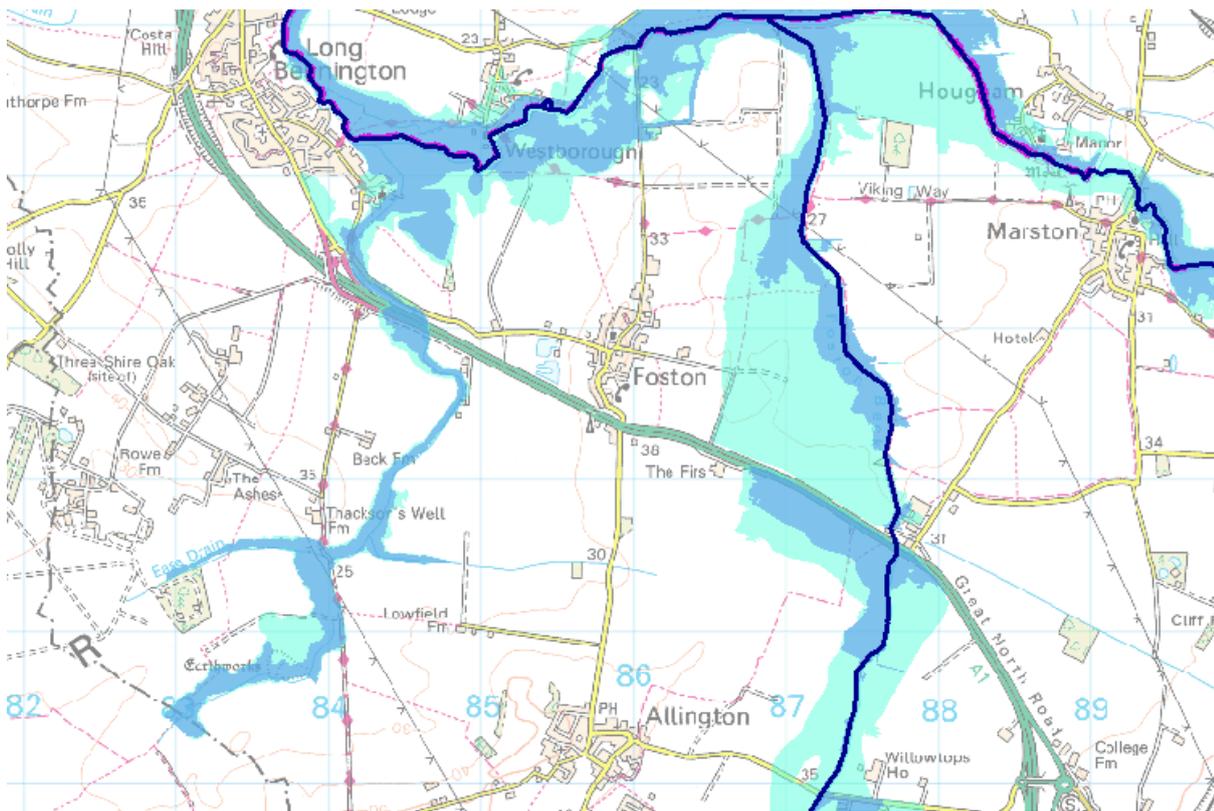
Transport and Movement

- 2.29 Foston has good connections for road and rail, with direct access to the A1. Foston is partially bisected by the A1 resulting in a few dwellings and the main commercial services for the village being situated on the south side of the A1, whilst the majority of residents plus village amenities (eg Church, Village Hall and Playing Fields) lie on the north side of this major road artery.
- 2.30 There are four railway stations within convenient commuting distances. The nearest is some 4 miles away at Bottesford which gives access to Nottingham. There is access to the mainline London to Edinburgh route from Grantham (8 miles) and Newark Northgate (9 miles). From Newark Castlegate (9 miles), the Nottingham to Lincoln line can be accessed.
- 2.31 Bus services to Foston are limited. Grantham is linked by a bus that runs twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon which is mainly run for school children and commuters to Grantham. Additionally there is a 'CallConnect' service, an on-demand service which works well for some residents.

Flood Risk and Geology

- 2.32 The main threat to flooding in the area is from the River Witham which circles Foston and also from Foston Beck. The Environmental Agency Map following shows that the chances of flooding in Foston are very small due to its situation on rising ground (colour legend shows the areas of highest risk and the probability of flooding). The topography of the Parish is predominantly a flat landscape with levels ranging between 25m and 30m above sea level, although the village itself is located on higher ground rising to approximately 40m above sea level.

Fig 5: Environmental Flood Risk Map Foston Area



Legend

Dark blue (highest risk) shows the area that could be affected by flooding from rivers if there were no flood defences. This area has a 1% (1 in 100) or greater chance of this happening each year. (For planning and development purposes, this is the same as Flood Zone 3, in England only.)

Light blue (lower risk) shows the additional extent of an extreme flood from rivers. These outlying areas are likely to be affected by a major flood, with up to a 0.1% (1 in 1000) chance of occurring each year.

- 2.33 The geology of the area is dominated by extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones, clays and widespread superficial deposits.
- 2.34 The underlying geology of the Parish is limestone and mudstone, with alluvium associated with the River Witham and Foston Beck and is divided by a seam of limestone running north–south. Areas of old river sand and gravels are also located to the north and north east of the Parish. The *Geology of the Parish and surrounding areas in LCA* can be found in the Foston Landscape Character Assessment, produced by Pyke & Associates, 2014 (Appendix 3).
- 2.35 The subsurface geology of the Parish has been interpreted from the topography, surface rock fragments, fossils, temporary exposures, and in particular core samples from many boreholes drilled on nearby Fulbeck Airfield in 1986/7. Geological analyses of these results were largely instrumental in proving the area unsuitable for radioactive waste disposal.
- 2.36 Parish bedrock consists of a sedimentary sequence of thick grey shaly mudstones, interbedded with limestone, sometimes ferruginous (i.e. iron rich and rust coloured), and occasional nodule and sandstone beds, all belonging to the Lower Lias Group of Jurassic

age. These sediments were deposited in warm shallow Jurassic seas with marine life, about 200 million years ago, then consolidated, moved northwards, uplifted by earth movements, and tilted slightly to the east. These Jurassic rocks occur in a continuous strip across England from the North Yorkshire coast, through Lincolnshire and southwards to the Jurassic coastline to Dorset.

- 2.37 The lias sediments have been differentially eroded, with shallow easterly dipping resistant limestone capping west facing escarpments, such as on the "Lincoln Edge". A Parish example of this structure is the Dry Doddington limestone ridge, which has a west facing scarp 30 meters above the River Witham valley. Grey lias rocks were dug in centuries past from local shallow pits for building purposes and can still be seen in parts of Parish church walls as well as on some walls of older buildings.

Services, Facilities and Community Organisations

Services

- 2.38 Foston has mains drainage, gas, electricity and water and most houses are fitted with a water meter. Broadband speeds have been slow in Foston which has resulted in a fair amount of disruption to residents running their businesses from home as well as general internet connections. Foston is fed from the Long Bennington Exchange and via Cabinet No. 1, and in June 2015 was upgraded within Phase 6 of the Lincolnshire Broadband project. Data is not yet available to verify the success of this.
- 2.39 Some limited solar powered energy is used in the village. As at July 2015, six properties have installed solar panels and a seventh has requested planning permission due to the angle requirements, representing about 3% of residential properties. As the majority of rooves are not oriented to the south, it is likely that this will remain a limited source of energy.

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Facilities

- 2.40 The village has many wonderful facilities for its size.



View across playing field towards Lincoln escarpment and Belton Park.

- 2.41 The Parish Council own the Playing Field which includes a football pitch, children's play area and multi-use games area which has built-in goal posts, basket hoops and a mobile tennis net. The Scout Hut is located on the playing field but does not belong to the Parish Council. Its upkeep is the responsibility of the Scouting movement. Changing facilities (for sporting events) used to be attached to the building but had to be taken down due to its dilapidation and unsafe, rotting structure. They have not been replaced to-date.
- 2.42 St Peters Church is located at the beginning of Long Street and is fairly central within the village. The Church offers regular services, including Family Services, and is part of the Saxonwell Group Ministry Team.
- 2.43 A modern Village Hall, complete with well-equipped kitchen and outdoor space, is situated near the Church. A variety of regular activities take place in this venue (e.g. Pub Night, exercise classes, Brownies, WI, Quiz Night, annual Village Fair, etc.) as well as ad hoc community activities (eg Royal Wedding Celebrations, Village Picnic, etc.). Additionally the facilities can be rented by the public for private functions.
- 2.44 The village no longer has a Post Office and shop; the most convenient shops and services are in Long Bennington which is a round trip of 4 miles. This includes a variety of shops, Post Office, Doctors surgery and pharmacy, pubs, and nursery facilities. Furthermore there is a small shop in Allington which closer on foot than by car, but it has limited opening times. Online shopping is an option for those residents with internet access. Deliveries from all major retailers is available, including supermarkets for grocery shopping.
- 2.45 Likewise, the village school closed down in 1987. Most primary-aged school children attend Long Bennington Church of England Academy although resident children also have the option of attending Allington or Marston Primary schools. Free school travel options are available for children attending Long Bennington and Allington schools (bus and taxi respectively). Secondary schools tend to be situated in Grantham, including two selective grammar schools, with an additional secondary feeder school in nearby Bottesford.
- 2.46 A1 services fall into the Parish boundary on the south side of the A1. These facilities include a petrol station (with a shop and cash machine) and a building previously used as a café. Due to the positioning of these services, they are only used by intrepid villagers who dare to risk life and limb to cross the A1 on foot. Others will drive the 9 mile round trip by car to reach them.

Community Organisations

- 2.47 A number of formal committees/groups exist within the village in addition to the Parish Council, who focus on the ongoing development of the Parish:
- Parochial Church Council
 - Village Hall Committee
 - Conservation Group

The Parish pulled together a Parish Plan in 2007 which created a real drive for improvement, and one of its legacies is the ongoing active groups and committees in the Parish. The village also has a full and active social calendar for adults and children – Appendix 5 details the current active groups and clubs.

3. LOCAL CONSULTATION TO FORMULATE THE PLAN

How were local people involved?

- 3.1 A Neighbourhood Development Plan is a community plan and must derive its objectives, actions and authority from the community. From the outset the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group were determined that the residents should be kept informed and given every opportunity to express their views to the Working Group. Communication and consultation, in various forms, played a major role in formulating the Plan.
- 3.2 A programme of communication was established to:
- a) promote a high degree of awareness of the project;
 - b) invite residents to join the team;
 - c) encourage everyone, adults and children, to contribute to the development of the Plan;
 - d) promote consultation events;
 - e) provide regular updates on the status of the Plan and its development.
- 3.3 During the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, a number of questionnaires have been distributed to each residence and business in the Parish, supported by open consultation events. A timeline of these initiatives is:
- January 2014 – Initial Questionnaire
 - January 2014 – Open Consultation Event
 - April 2014 – Young People’s Questionnaire
 - June 2014 – Open Consultation Event
 - October 2014 – Issues Questionnaire
 - November 2014 – Housing Needs Survey
 - May 2015 – Summary of outline policies distributed
 - June 2015 – Information provided at annual Village Fair
 - September-October 2015 – Statutory consultation period of draft Plan
- 3.4 Key to this programme was publicity, public events and the use of print and electronic media, including the local press, to provide regular updates. All events were promoted via a leaflet-drop invitation to each property (residential and commercial) and each was followed up in the dedicated Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter, again distributed to every property.
- 3.5 Foston Parish Council supported the regular communication plan, including any Neighbourhood Plan updates in their quarterly Newsletter. Additionally a new section was developed on the Parish Council’s website, devoted to Neighbourhood Planning to ensure access to up-to-date information.
- 3.6 Extensive information has been available to the whole village to encourage participation at every stage. More information on each of these events, with full details of questionnaires, response analysis and publicity, is outlined within the associated Statement of Consultation, whilst key milestones are outlined overleaf.

Initial Consultation (January – April 2014)

3.7 The initial step was used to establish the key issues which in turn were used to develop the end Policies. Residents and businesses were invited to an open Launch Event, as well as received the Initial Questionnaire.

Launch Consultation Event (January 2014)

3.8 The Neighbourhood Plan was launched on 26 January 2014 at Foston Village Hall with an open consultation event. It was attended by 37 Foston households, representing about 15% of Parish households, plus had representation from South Kesteven District Council, Long Bennington, Westborough and Dry Doddington Parish Councils. The session generated 382 comments for consideration, with the following topics most commented on:

Requirement to reduce traffic speed in the village	Road safety was the number one priority with the reduction of speed getting the most mention in the session. Which traffic calming measures are used is important to villagers – speed bumps are not a desired option, but flashing speed signs and / or other measures which do not have a huge impact on engine noise, would be very much appreciated.
Retain our rural outlook with unspoilt views	Attendees value the rural heritage of the village and want to retain the peace and tranquillity of village life, rather than develop into a more industrialised area. Retaining the agricultural heritage appears to be important to attendees.
Faster broadband	Fast and dependable communication links were important to attendees.
Any further housing development should be affordable and appropriate to requirements	Housing development should not be large estates nor should green space be developed; new properties should be affordable housing for starter/retirement homes.
No wind turbines / farms	Sustainable energy was of course topical. The majority of comments were against any wind turbine developments, although some suggestions indicated the requirement for sustainable energy measures which both benefited the village and were appropriate to the landscape and village heritage. One point was made against solar panel farms.
Restrict HGV traffic in the village and surrounding roads	Comments related particularly to the safety aspect and the destruction of road surfaces/grass verges. Regular maintenance/improvement of roads and footpaths generated much comment, particularly bearing in mind heavier HGV traffic in the area.

3.9 Furthermore it was clear, that that the community spirit is strong and villagers enjoy the amenities currently available and that the current clubs and village events are valued by many. The general upkeep of footpaths raised a number of comments, ranging from good signage and delineation to the extension of a footpath between Newark Hill and Marshall

Way (although not at the expense of the school bus). Current rights of way should be protected.

Initial Questionnaire (January 2014)

3.10 Concurrent with the launch, a Consultation Questionnaire was delivered to each household in Foston. 37 questionnaires were returned, outlining a total of 736 comments.

3.11 It is clear from the responses that residents value the rural setting Foston offers, including the typical rural activities. This is combined with the access it offers to a good road and train network. Residents indicate that development, particularly industrial, should be heavily restricted, ensuring that the village can retain its rural beauty and remain a safe and small village.

3.12 The top 10 priorities and features of the parish ascertained from the responses were:

1	Maintain the rural setting, peaceful, typical village character
2	Restrict industrial development (including renewable energy)
3	Restrict traffic (weight and speed) on the lanes / in village to support road maintenance and safety
4	Maintain the scenic landscapes / open views
5	Maintain excellent walking paths / rights of way plus other rural activities (shooting, riding, etc.)
6	Increase public rights of way, including path to Marshall Way
7	Maintain the strong sense of community
8	Maintain the active facilities (village hall, church, playing fields, MUGA)
9	Address the lack of facilities (shops, food outlets, pub, bus shelter for school children, informal meeting place for meeting)
10	Easy access (to towns and other counties) - road and rail

3.13 The issues and topics raised provided a helpful steer on the key areas to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The following diagram provides an overview of the categories ascertained:

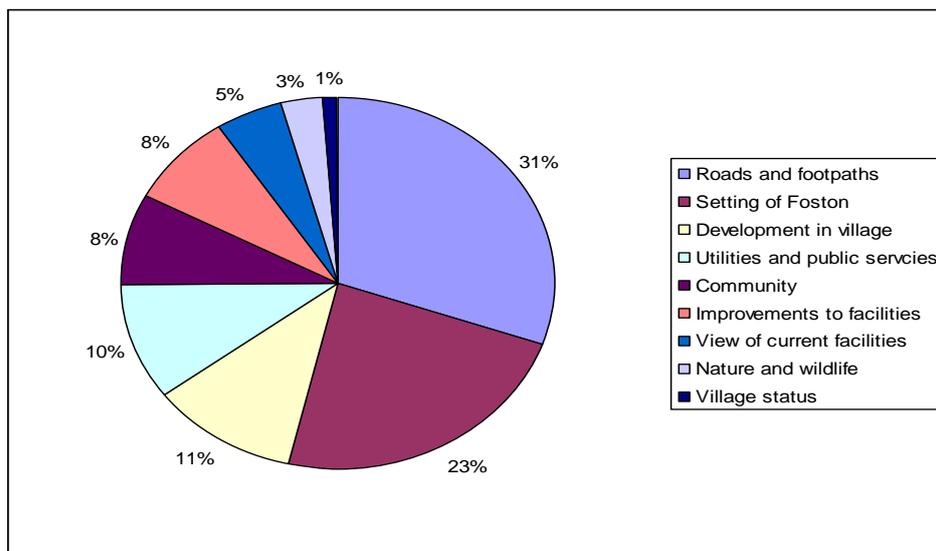


Fig 6: Issue Categories ascertained from Initial Consultation

Issues Consultation (October 2014)

3.14 The final questionnaire was delivered to all households in October 2014. It had been compiled on the basis of findings from all previous feedback received from residents. Response rates increased with this questionnaire, reaching in excess of 40% which is higher than the national average.

3.15 Respondents were asked to rate (very important / important / not important) various aspects of living and working in the parish, linked to categories established from the identification of key issues throughout the process. A summary of the results is as follows:

Quality of life	95% of the responses felt that the quality of life was very important / important. Key aspects included: friendly and safe environment; rural atmosphere; sense of community; open / green spaces in the village
Historic fabric of Foston	93% of the responses felt that the historic fabric of Foston was very important / important. Respondents indicated that conserving the setting of St Peters Church and the playing field were paramount.
The local environment	85% of the responses felt that the current rural environment was very important / important, whilst 60% do not feel that green energy development, either on a small or large scale, is important in our village.
Conserving the village facilities	95% of the responses felt that that conserving the village facilities was very important / important. These included the Parish Church, village hall, playing fields, scout hut, and public footpaths / bridleways.
Transport management	82% of responses felt that transport issues were very important / important. The majority of comments focussed on the safety and

	maintenance of the roads and pedestrian ways (including a footbridge across the A1). Additionally noise pollution from the A1 was cited as an issue.
Residential, agricultural and industrial development	93% of the responses felt that the sensible and pragmatic control of all development was very important / important. This included preserving key aspects of our current rural heritage.
Housing build	Responses indicated that certain development criteria are seen as important, with the majority particularly keen to encourage development to be in keeping with the village character and retain buffer zones between Foston and Long Bennington, as well as between residential areas and industrial units.
Current composition of housing	The majority of respondents felt the current mix of housing was about right, with the exception of low cost / starter homes, which is felt to be a deficiency within the village.
Requirement for new housing development	Respondents are generally in favour for development on individually-released plots or as garden infill
Businesses operating in Foston	24 businesses responded and indicated faster communication links would most enable their ongoing business progress, ie faster broadband.

Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives

3.16 The Vision for Foston’s Neighbourhood Plan was derived directly from the views of the villagers gathered throughout the consultation process and can be summarised in the following simple statement:

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that Foston remains a successful and vibrant rural village that values its past but looks to the future.

- 3.17 All feedback has clearly indicated that any planning should ensure Foston’s past is respected and the historic fabric of the village preserved in its setting. This means that any development does not overshadow or compromise the historic and natural environment which is so much a part of Foston.
- 3.18 The natural environment and the local countryside was recognised by residents as special for quality of life and recreational purposes, including open views and green spaces. Key then to the Plan is to protect rights of way and the rural landscape from inappropriately sited and uncontrolled development. However it is recognised that some development will be required over time and the Plan should allow some sensitively sited development, including residential, agricultural and industrial development as well as renewable energy projects that are appropriate in scale and design to the topography of the Parish and the historic fabric of the village.
- 3.19 The community spirit within Foston is highly valued, and feedback has shown that Foston should remain a caring and safe community in which all residents are proud to live and work. Foston should continue to be supported by sustainable infrastructure suitable for a rural community, including recreational amenities. The vision includes the retention of the

playing fields and improved sports facilities, as well as re-connection with residents on both sides of the A1 via a footbridge.

- 3.20 Our Neighbourhood Plan embraces the concept of local distinctiveness that contributes to a sense of well-being for the present community and future generations. It aims to progress the spirit of Localism through influencing planning matters in conjunction with South Kesteven District Council's Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 3.21 The above is distilled into the following Plan Objectives which have guided the development of the Plan and its Policies:
- To recognise the distinctive quality of the landscape of the Parish of Foston, and seek to protect and enhance the local landscape character, its biodiversity, footpaths and bridleways.
 - To promote the safeguarding and enhancement of locally important buildings and features that contribute to the character of the Parish.
 - To allow for a limited amount of new development to meet local needs, having regard to national and local planning policies for development in the countryside.
 - To encourage measures to improve highway safety for all road users.
- 3.22 **The period of the Plan runs from 2016 to 2026, and the community will continue to be engaged with its evolution during that time.**

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

Introduction

- 4.1 The policies of the Foston Parish Neighbourhood Plan are set within the context of the National Planning Framework. The scope and content of the Foston Neighbourhood Plan has been shaped by the priorities and aspirations of the Foston community, led by the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Planning Context

- 4.2 The following statements provide the context in which the Plan Policies were compiled:
- The procedure for the making of a Neighbourhood Plan is prescribed within the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
 - The Regulations have informed the preparation of policies for the Foston Neighbourhood Plan, in particular the definition of Foston being a 'smaller village' and therefore a 'less sustainable' development (defined below).
 - Ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of SKDC.

Sustainability

- 4.3 SKDC's Core Strategy includes the promotion of a more sustainable pattern of development in the region. To achieve this, Local Service Centres have been identified to support the network of smaller settlements outside of the four main market towns. Local Service Centres have been identified based on the ability to provide a range of community services similar to those found in a small town and act as a focal point for the rural communities and the surrounding hinterlands. Those villages not labelled Local Service Centres, ie those with fewer or no services, are deemed 'smaller villages' and are considered less sustainable locations.
- 4.4 Foston has been defined as a 'smaller village' and its nearest Local Service Centre is Long Bennington.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 4.5 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the broad parameters within which a Neighbourhood Plan should be prepared. It notes that there are a number of key elements that should be at the heart of Neighbourhood Plan making:
- Neighbourhood Plans give communities direct power to develop a shared vision of the neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need.
 - Neighbourhood Plans can shape and direct sustainable development within their area.
 - The ambition of the Neighbourhood Plan should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider area.
 - Neighbourhood Plans should be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and plan positively to support them. They should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan and should not undermine its strategic policies.

Policy Objectives

- 4.6 The policies of the Foston Neighbourhood Plan seek to deliver the Vision and Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan, as derived from the extensive community engagement and participation. These have been defined earlier in the Plan and are summarised below:

To be a successful and vibrant rural village that values its past but looks to the future.

1. To recognise the distinctive quality of the landscape of the Parish of Foston, and seek to protect and enhance the local landscape character, its biodiversity, footpaths and bridleways
 2. To promote the safeguarding and enhancement of locally important buildings and features that contribute to the character of the Parish
 3. To allow for a limited amount of new development to meet local needs, having regard to national and local planning policies for development in the countryside
 4. To encourage measures to improve highway safety for all road users.
- 4.7 The Policies are to be read in conjunction with the Building Design Guidance (Appendix 6), the Foston Landscape Character Assessment (December 2014) provided in Appendix 3, and the Built Character Assessment (August 2015) shown in Appendix 2.
- 4.8 The Plan will cover the time period **2016 to 2026**.

Foston Neighbourhood Plan Policies

- 4.9 The intention of the Neighbourhood Plan Policies is to sustain and enhance the rural setting and landscape character of the Parish. The Policies have been designed to protect views and key features, promote economic and recreational value and protect heritage and conservation. The Policies detailed below are generic to all sites and developments taking place within the Parish. The Policies are grouped into nine categories:

1. Quality of Life
2. Environment and Countryside
3. Heritage and the Built Environment
4. Housing and New Development
5. Business
6. Renewable Energy
7. Leisure, Recreation and Community Facilities
8. Transport
9. Implementation

- 4.10 All 21 Policies are to be read in conjunction with the Design Guidance, the Foston Landscape Character Assessment (December 2014) and the Built Character Assessment (August 2015).

1. QUALITY OF LIFE

4.11 The four policies in this section support all four of the Plan's objectives listed above.

Policy FNP01 – Supporting development that respects the character, scale and historic features of the Parish

Development proposals will be supported where they are appropriate to the character, existing scale, natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the Parish's landscape. Developments must respect the landscape character of the Parish and its settlements, as defined within the Landscape Character Assessment and Built Character Assessment, and incorporate features which contribute to the conservation, enhancement or restoration of these features.

4.12 The Foston Neighbourhood Plan supports development which recognises the distinctive quality of the landscape of the Parish of Foston, and seeks to protect and enhance the local rural landscape character, its biodiversity, footpaths and bridleways.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Inclusion of 'visual intrusion' as a criteria for the assessment of new developments in policy EN1, including the 'protection of existing open space (including the setting and separation of built-up areas)' and 'local distinctiveness and sense of place'.

Policy FNP02 – Maintaining the rural character of the Parish

Development proposals will be supported where they maintain the important features which define the character and setting of the Parish and which are set out within the Foston Landscape Character Assessment and Built Character Assessment. In particular, development which would impact on key views into and out of the Neighbourhood Plan area, should demonstrate that these features have been sensitively and appropriately considered and incorporated and/or mitigated as necessary.

4.13 Key to the quality of life in the Parish, is retaining the rural and tranquil outlook and open views as outlined in the Landscape Character Assessment and evidenced throughout the consultation process.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Inclusion of 'visual intrusion' as a criteria for the assessment of new developments in policy EN1, including the 'protection of existing open space (including the setting and separation of built-up areas)' and 'local distinctiveness and sense of place'. See Objectives 11 & 12.

Policy FNP03 – Protection of existing community facilities

The Neighbourhood Plan supports the protection of existing community facilities and services that meet the needs of local residents, businesses and visitors and will not support any developments which remove community facilities. Only where it can be shown that the facilities are no longer needed or viable or where acceptable alternative provision exists or is proposed concurrently, will development for non-community uses be considered.

4.14 Foston enjoys a strong community spirit which requires safeguarding as evidenced throughout the consultation process, including a range of community facilities.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy EN1 states that all new development will be assessed in relation to 'local distinctiveness and sense of place, public access to and community value of the landscape, protection of existing space (including allotments, public open space, open spaces important to the character, setting and separation of built-up areas)'.
NPPF Policy	Para 69 explains the important role in facilitating social interaction and inclusive, healthy communities. Key objective to achieve places which promote opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages that do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.

Policy FNP04 – Safety and Security

Support will be given to development proposals that are in accordance with the other policies in this Plan and which adequately take into account the safety and security of the users of the facilities and of the wider community.

4.15 It is imperative that the environment within the Parish remains safe with low crime levels.

Conforms with:	
NPPF Policy	Para 58 and 69 states that Neighbourhood Plans should ensure development creates safe and accessible environments where crime, disorder and the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life of community cohesion.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTRYSIDE

4.16 Objective 1 is particularly pertinent for the two policies within this section.

Policy FNP05 – Nature conservation and protection of landscape

Development proposals will be supported where they include specific measures to retain features of high nature conservation or landscape value, including mature trees, species-rich hedgerows, ponds and existing areas of woodland. Improvement of the connectivity between wildlife areas and green spaces will be encouraged to enhance the green infrastructure of the Parish.

In particular, new development should, wherever possible maintain existing hedgerows, trees and woodland and encourage the planting of new trees and hedgerows. Where new trees are proposed, these should wherever possible, be appropriate disease resistant species.

4.17 A priority is to protect and enhance wildlife (flora and fauna) in and around the Parish.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	EN1 assesses all new development on ‘the condition of the landscape, biodiversity and ecology networks in the landscape’
NPPF Policy	<p>Para 109 states that planning should protect and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity. Furthermore planning should prevent both new and existing development putting biodiversity at an unacceptable risk.</p> <p>Para 117 explains that policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity by planning for biodiversity at a landscape-scale, promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species population.</p> <p>Para 118 states opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged with permission being refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland.</p>

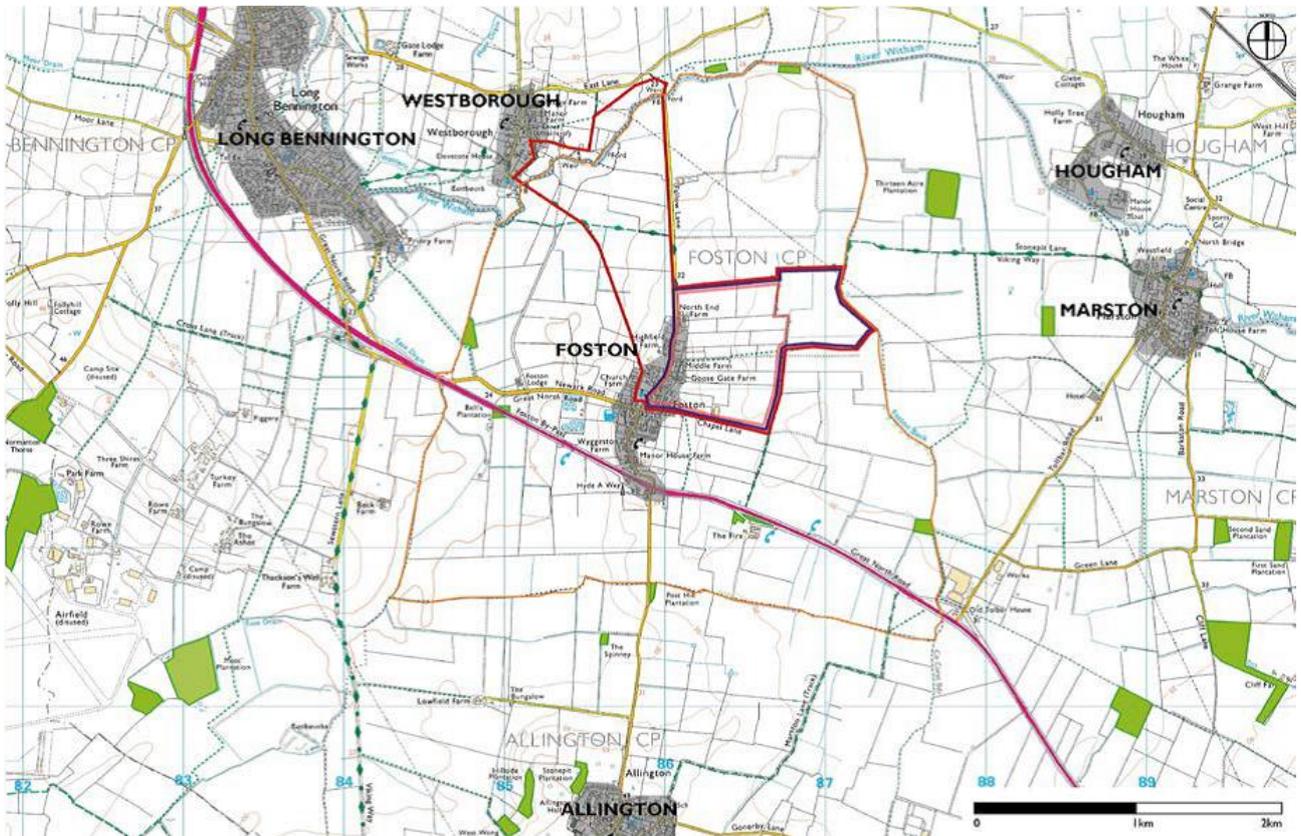
Policy FNP06 – Improving access to the countryside

New development for appropriate uses, which seeks to maintain or improve access to the countryside, will be supported, where it is in accordance with the other policies of the Plan. In particular, the following improvements will be sought:

- **New development should ensure that access to existing permissive rights of way are maintained.**
- **Wherever practical new development should provide linkages to existing footpaths and rights of way or create new routes if feasible.**

The following infrastructure improvements may be provided for through the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), where feasible, if/when this is adopted by South Kesteven District Council:

- **Improvements to existing footpath signage to ensure they are easily identified and accessible all year round.**



Legend

-  Parish Boundary
-  Villages
-  Woodland
-  Public Rights of Way
-  Viking Way
-  Fossil Trail (Foston Circular Walks)
-  The Two Bridges Walk (Foston Circular Walks)
-  The Foston Circuit (Foston Circular Walks)
-  Church with spire
-  Church with tower
-  Chapel

Fig 7: Public rights of way, church and areas of woodland

4.18 Safeguarding and improving access to the countryside via public footpath and bridleway connections is required. Foston Parish includes a network of footpaths, tracks and bridleways which are well used by the local community and visitors. These routes are identified within the Landscape Character Assessment and their popularity was confirmed through the Neighbourhood Plan consultation process. The Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of opportunities to maintain and improve access to the countryside.

Conforms with:	
NPPF Policy	<p>Para 69 wants policies and decisions to promote safe and accessible developments with clear pedestrian routes which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.</p> <p>Para 75 states that policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. LA's should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, e.g. adding links to existing rights of way networks.</p>

3. HERITAGE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

4.19 All four of the Plan’s objectives are reflected in the two policies in this section, although Objective 2 is the primary objective covered.

Policy FNP07 – Design of new development for listed and unlisted buildings

New development (including replacement and extended development) will be supported where it would improve, restore or maintain the fabric of a listed or positive unlisted building. Development which would have a negative or harmful impact on a listed building or its setting will not be supported unless a clear justification is presented that there would be substantial public benefits which would outweigh the loss or harm to the building.

4.20 An aspiration of the Neighbourhood Plan is to respect Foston’s past and preserve the historic fabric of the Parish. Therefore there will be a presumption in favour of the retention of heritage assets, and loss is a last resort option in most cases. The definition of a heritage asset is outlined in the Built Character Assessment and a full list of heritage assets is outlined in Appendices 1 and 2. Both listed buildings and ‘positive unlisted buildings’ or buildings on the ‘local list’ are included in the policy.

Policy FNP08 – Design of locally listed buildings and structures of significance

New development (including replacement and extended development) will be supported where it would improve, restore or maintain a locally listed building or any other structure of local significance as identified within any other appropriately evidenced list. Development which would have a harmful impact on a building or structure of this type or its setting will not be supported unless a clear justification is presented which explains how the benefits would outweigh the loss or harm.

4.21 The Built Character Assessment contains references to a number of ‘positive unlisted buildings’. These buildings are defined as those which make *“a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area.”*

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy EN1 does assess all new development against ‘historic character, local distinctiveness and sense of place, quality of their settings and statutory, national and local designations of landscape features including natural and historic assets’.
NPPF Policy	<p>Para 126 states that LA’s should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation on enjoyment of the historic environment. It also states that LA’s should take into account the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of historic environments can bring; the desirability of new developments making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness and; opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.</p> <p>Para 133 explains that proposals which will lead to substantial harm or total loss of designated heritage assets, LA’s should refuse consent, unless there is other material consideration.</p> <p>Para 135 states that the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application.</p>

4. HOUSING AND NEW DEVELOPMENT

4.22 All four objectives are key foundations of the three Policies in this section.

Policy FNP09 – New housing development

New housing will be supported within the village where:

- It meets an identified local need;
- It is within or adjacent to the existing village envelope;
- It is on a previously-developed site or it can be clearly demonstrated that there are no other more sustainable sites available;
- It has been designed in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Design Principles/Guidance; and
- It is in accordance with the other design relevant policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.23 Some limited new housing development is required to meet local needs, although this is minimal, as evidenced in the Housing Needs Survey undertaken by SKDC in November 2014. Any development, residential or commercial, should be sensitively sited and not compromise the historic fabric nor the natural environment of the Parish. Furthermore, it should not negatively impact the recreational amenities of the Parish.

4.24 Housing for the purposes of downsizing and starter homes (ie lower cost and smaller properties) is identified as an appropriate use within the Parish, where this conforms to the planning policies of SKDC. Foston has not been identified by SKDC as an ‘area of search’ for potential affordable housing site.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	<p>Policy SP1 states that in smaller rural villages there should be no development. The only exception being (among others) affordable housing.</p> <p>Policy H1 explains that in all other villages there will be a restriction on new housing development to affordable local need housing.</p> <p>Policy H3 explains that the council seeks to identify sustainable opportunities to deliver about 10 rural affordable housing units each year through the allocation of rural exception sites within or adjacent to the smaller villages which aren’t identified as local service centres (LSCs).</p>
SKDC Site Allocation and Policies DPD	<p>Policy SAP2 outlines that outside towns and LSCs there is a need for local affordable housing to be met through the development of rural exception schemes. Funding prioritises villages identified as ‘areas of search’ for sites suitable to meet the identified need for affordable housing.</p>
NPPF Policy	<p>Para 50 sets out the delivery of a wide choice of high quality housing by creating sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. LA’s should promote this by planning for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and needs of the community (eg young families, older people, people with disabilities). Furthermore it states the need to reflect local demand and, where affordable housing is identified as needed, to create policies to meet this need.</p> <p>Para 54 states that in rural areas LA’s should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development which reflects local need, particularly affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate.</p>

Policy FNP10 – New housing design

Design of new and replacement development should be sympathetic to the existing form, scale and character of its location and be appropriate to its immediate context. Development should respond to the character of both the built and natural environment. This includes effective management of water on-site to minimise the amount of run-off and need to be discharged into existing drains.

Materials and boundary treatments should be sympathetic to the character of the part of the Neighbourhood Plan area in which they are proposed.

Development which has been designed in accordance with the Foston Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance/Principles will be supported.

4.25 The design of new and replacement development should be in keeping with the village. It should conform to the Built Character Assessment and the Design Guidelines.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy EN1 states that new development should be assessed in relation to 'local distinctiveness and sense of place, historic character, patterns and attributes of the landscape and quality of character and their setting'.
NPPF Policy	Para 57 states the importance to achieve high quality design and inclusive design for all developments. Para 58 states that local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected in the area. It states that development should function well and add to the overall quality of the area, establish a strong sense of place, respond to the local character and history and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials. Para 64 states that permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take opportunities for improving the character and quality of an area.
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy EN2 outlines that all planning applications should be accompanied by a statement of how surface water is to be managed, and in particular where it is to be discharged. On-site attenuation and infiltrations will be required as part of new development wherever possible.

Policy FNP11 – Encouraging high quality infill

Proposals for individual dwellings on infill and redevelopment sites will be supported subject to proposals being of high quality and meeting all relevant requirements set out in other policies in this plan and the SKDC Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies DPD, and where such development:

- Fills a small restricted gap in the continuity of existing frontage buildings or other sites within the built up area of the village where the site is closely surrounded by buildings.
- Will not involve the outward extension of the village into areas of open countryside.
- Is not considered to be unneighbourly development that requires unsuitable access, reduces privacy of adjacent properties or is inconsistent with the character and existing pattern of development
- Retains important views out of the village

4.26 No large-scale sites have been identified for potential development, therefore it is anticipated that any new development will be on an individual scale and on plots considered to be infill.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy EN1 sets criteria concerning the built environment and aims to ensure development is appropriate to its character and context, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local distinctiveness and sense of place 2. Historic character, patterns and attributes of the landscape 3. The layout and scale of buildings and designed spaces 4. The quality and character of the built fabric and their settings

5. BUSINESS

4.27 Objective 3 plays a primary role in the development of these Policies.

Policy FNP12 – Encouraging employment

New employment development will be encouraged through the appropriate extension of existing employment sites and through the conversion of buildings to other uses, especially vacant and under-used agricultural buildings. In every case, this is subject to traffic, environmental, amenity and landscape considerations and the scale must be appropriate to the surroundings.

4.28 The Plan supports increased employment in the Parish. The conversion of former agricultural buildings has enabled farm diversification, led to the sustainable re-use of vacant buildings and has provided opportunities for the establishment and development of small businesses which generate wealth and employment opportunities for local people. This is a trend which the Parish Council would like to continue in the Plan area as part of the maintenance of Foston as a vibrant and balanced community. Any development is subject to the proper consideration of residential amenity for nearby houses, visual impact on the countryside and highway safety issues.

Conforms with:	
NPPF Policy	Para 28 which states that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development..
SKDC	SKDC's priority of 'growing the economy'.

Policy FNP13 – Telecommunications infrastructure

New telecommunication infrastructure proposals will be supported, subject to design and location considerations, aimed at:

- **Ensuring an acceptable impact on the character and landscape of the locality**
- **Safeguarding against any unacceptable adverse impact on amenity of neighbours.**

4.29 A key requirement for businesses to operate within Foston is a robust, reliable and fast telecommunication infrastructure.

Conforms with:	
NPPF Policy	Para 42 states that high quality communication infrastructure is essential and that the development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also play a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services. Para 43 says that Local Authorities should support the expansion of electronic communication networks.

6. RENEWABLE ENERGY

4.30 These three Policies are developed with all four Plan Objectives in mind.

4.31 Renewable energy and the transition to a low carbon economy are supported through the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and policy EN3 of the SKDC Core Strategy. The latter defines renewable energy as energy that comes from:

- Solar thermal (solar hot water systems);
- Active photovoltaic energy (PV);
- Geo-thermal water heating;
- Wind turbines;
- Energy crops and biomass;
- Energy from human sewage and agricultural plant and animal waste but not energy from domestic or industrial waste, except methane from existing landfill sites;
- Ground source heat pumps; or
- Combined heat and power plants.

4.32 The Neighbourhood Plan encourages energy efficiency, and where appropriate, energy production from renewable and low carbon sources which serve the local area. It supports renewable energy projects that are appropriate in scale to the topography of the Parish and the historic fabric of the village, and that are sensitively sited when considering the existing form and character of its proposed location. Consideration to the wider environmental and business policies of the Plan should also be made.

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Policy FNP14 – Domestic renewable energy

New development for domestic-scale energy production from renewable and low carbon sources will be supported where:

- They relate to an existing or proposed residential property in the village;
- They are residential/domestic in scale;
- They would serve only a local/domestic need for energy generation; and
- They are in accordance with the Design, Environment and Transport policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, including the Neighbourhood Plan Design Principles/Guidance.

Policy FNP15 – Community-led renewable energy

Community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy will be supported where they are in accordance with all Foston Neighbourhood Plan policies, specifically those linked to Environment and Countryside, Heritage and the Built Environment and Transport, including the Neighbourhood Plan Design Principles/Guidance.

Policy FNP16 – Business-led renewable energy

Initiatives which would support local businesses and industry to develop renewable and low carbon energy where the primary function is to support their operations will be supported providing that they also accord with other Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy EN3 states that proposals to generate energy from renewable sources will be granted subject to other core strategy policies and being able to mitigate the emissions/impacts arising from the installation and the removal of the facilities and reinstatement of the site.
SKDC Site Allocation and Policies DPD	<i>SKDC Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (June 2013)</i> Site selection shall have regard to the local landscape character. The LVIA or landscape and visual assessment/appraisal shall show how the location takes into account local landscape character.
NPPF Policy	Para 95 states that LAs should support the move to low carbon energy. Para 97 states that LAs should promote renewable energy sources, design policies to maximise renewable energy development.

7. LEISURE, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.33 The two Policies in this section support all four of the Plan's objectives listed previously.

Policy FNP17 – New sport and outdoor recreation facilities

Planning permission for new or enhanced sport and outdoor recreation facilities will be supported, subject to the development:

- **not adversely impacting on residential amenity by means of noise, disturbance or additional traffic generation.**
- **not having any adverse impact on the character or setting of the immediate locality, and**
- **not being in conflict with other Policies in the Plan**

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4.34 The Parish has a number of recreational facilities which are key to the community spirit and positively contribute to the health and well-being of the community. Furthermore, the consultation process highlighted how highly valued these and other community facilities are by residents. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the maintenance and development of such recreational facilities.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy EN1 reinforces the protection of existing sports fields. Policy SP4 supports the opportunity to gain open space within a new development.
SKDC Site Allocation and Policies DPD	Policy SAP10 states the requirements for informal greenspace and sport space per 1000 population. These requirements should also be applied to new developments provision of open space. Furthermore it states that all existing open space will be protected unless there is sufficient material considerations.
NPPF Policy	Para 28 reinforces the need to retain and develop sport venues in rural areas. Para 70 supports the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs by planning positively for the provision of shared space such as sport venues etc., and guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities. Para 73 states that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Para 74 maintains that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless there is significant material consideration.

Policy FNP18 – Retail and community facilities

Support will be given for new retail, community facilities, services and employment generating uses subject to:

- Compliance with requirements of other policies in the Plan
- The development proposed being of a scale and type appropriate to serving the local community and safeguarding the status of Foston as a smaller village (as identified by reference to the SKDC Core Strategy Spatial Portrait of the District)
- The development being acceptable in terms of impact on traffic, the environment and safeguarding amenity of neighbouring residents
- It being located on previously developed land or sites containing existing agricultural or commercial building
- A clear justification being produced outlining why the proposed site is more appropriate.

4.35 Retail facilities are limited within Foston, and the Neighbourhood Plan supports the development of additional facilities within the village which are appropriate and relevant to the community. The consultation process evidences this support.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	<p>Policy SP2 talks about the protection, retention and enhancement of ‘Local Service Centres’ (LSCs). Community service proposals will be supported and the loss of these services will not be supported. Foston is not deemed an LSC.</p> <p>Policy SP1 states that in all villages not deemed an LSC, development will be restricted, unless for (and it includes) ‘local services and facilities’.</p> <p>Policy E1 states that outside LSCs, rural diversification will be supported where it meets the need of farming, tourism, recreation and has an essential requirement for a rural location and economy.</p>
SKDC Site Allocation and Policies DPD	<p>Policy SAP1 states that applications for the change of use of community facilities which would result in the loss of community use will be resisted unless it is clearly demonstrated that there are alternative facilities in the same village, the existing use is no longer viable or there is no realistic prospect of the premises being re-used for alternative business or community facility use. The proposal should also demonstrate that consideration has been given to the re-use of the premises for alternative community facilities, and the potential impact closure may have on the village and its community.</p>
NPPF Policy	<p>Para 28 supports sustainable economic growth in rural areas to create jobs and prosperity. Furthermore it promotes the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as shops, meeting places, sport venues, etc.</p> <p>Para 70 explains that planning policies and decisions should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space community facilities e.g. local shops, public houses, meeting venues, etc, and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities. They should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet day-to-day needs. It wants to ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community.</p>

8. TRANSPORT

Objective 4 has been a key influence in the development of the two Policies in this section.

Policy FNP19 – Sustainable transport

All new development should provide or incorporate appropriate and proportionate new sustainable and safe transport initiatives on-site or contribute to off-site facilities as required by the Delivery Strategy. In particular, this is associated with commercial development, including diversification and larger scale production.

If a CIL approach is not adopted by South Kesteven District Council, necessary improvements will be sought in negotiation with developers on a case by case basis based upon the need set out within the Delivery Strategy and in line with the aspirations of the Plan (for example s106 Agreements).

4.36 It is a requirement for any new development to provide or contribute to sustainable and safe transport provision and improvement within the Parish (e.g. traffic calming, parking, cycling, walking, equestrian). This relates particularly to increased levels of traffic, especially HGVs, and the speed of traffic through the village. The Parish Council intends to continue working with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and Highways England to find solutions for traffic problems linked to existing and new development.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policy SP3 outlines the need for ‘securing transport statements/travel plans’ where appropriate, requiring the preparation of transport assessments for all developments that are likely to have significant transport implications and so determine the measures required on the surrounding highway network.
NPPF Policy	Para 32 states that all developments which generate a significant amount of movements will need to provide a Transport Statement/Assessment.

Policy FNP20 – Service facilities on the A1

Improvement and / or redevelopment of the existing strategic highway focussed services on the A1 will be supported for similar purposes, particularly where such improvements will also provide a wider range of services of benefit to the local community. Such development should also ensure safe highway and pedestrian connections and ensure that amenity of local residents is not further harmed by virtue of noise, visual intrusion or general disturbance. In addition, widening, resurfacing, lighting or other improvement proposals should be carefully designed to avoid intrusion into the landscape, noise and light pollution.

4.37 The existing service facilities on the A1 in the Parish are acknowledged as being beneficial for the residents, providing services and an employment opportunity. The services might benefit in the future from further investment and upgrade to better serve the requirements of A1 road users and the nearby villages which utilise that strategic route. The improvement of those facilities for the consequential betterment of the Parish is therefore considered to be a legitimate objective of the Neighbourhood Plan. Consideration for pedestrian/cycle access is desired as they lie on the south-side of A1, away from the hub of the Parish.

9. IMPLEMENTATION

Policy FNP21 - Implementation

All new commercial and business development must provide necessary and appropriate new facilities on-site or contribute to off-site infrastructure and facilities, as required either by means of planning condition, s.106 or use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and / or the Delivery Strategy.

If a CIL approach is not adopted by South Kesteven District Council, necessary improvements will be sought in negotiation with developers on a case-by-case basis based upon the need set out within the Delivery Strategy and in line with the aspirations of the Plan (for example s106 Agreements).

4.38 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a Delivery Strategy which establishes the evidenced need for infrastructure within the Parish, prepared on behalf of the Parish Council in response to local consultation. If a CIL is adopted by SKDC, the Parish Council may draw on the 'neighbourhood element' of CIL to provide funds towards those items identified in the Delivery Strategy, and it is hoped SKDC will also consider the items in the Delivery Strategy when identifying any planning conditions or s.106 agreements where appropriate and feasible.

Conforms with:	
SKDC Core Strategy	Policies SP3 (Sustainable Integrated Transport) and SP4 (Developer Contributions)
NPPF Policy	paragraphs 203-206

5. DELIVERY STRATEGY

Development Management

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan will be implemented through a combination of SKDC's consideration and determination of planning applications and through steering any additional funds into a series of infrastructure projects contained in the Plan. Whilst SKDC will be responsible for development management, the Parish Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to frame their representations on submitted planning applications.
- 5.2 The majority of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will be delivered by land and property owners and developers responding to its planning policies. Care has been taken to ensure, as far as possible, that these policies are achievable.

Infrastructure Requirements

- 5.3 Policy FNP21 of the Neighbourhood Plan refers to the requirement for all new development to provide necessary and appropriate new facilities on site or contribute to off-site facilities to be secured by means of planning condition, s.106 where appropriate and feasible, or through the 'neighbourhood element' of any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) adopted by SKDC or by the Delivery Strategy.
- 5.4 If a CIL approach is not adopted by South Kesteven District Council, necessary improvements will be sought in negotiation with developers on a case-by-case basis based upon the need set out within the Delivery Strategy and in line with the aspirations of the Plan (for example s106 Agreements).
- 5.5 Although the Parish Council will consider any new plan or project put before them which would enhance the infrastructure or facilities of the Parish, the consultation process for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan identified a number of requirements. The Parish Council has responded to the views and wishes of residents in compiling the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan, but a number of the concerns and ideas raised lie outside the scope of planning and require other actions to take them forward. The table below sets out suggestions for taking forward these wider issues, for further consideration (noting that improvements to footpaths and bridleways are separately covered in Policy FNP06):

ISSUE	PRIORITY	PROPOSED ACTION
Paved footpath/cycleway between Marshall Way and Foston Lodge at bottom of Newark Hill	HIGH	Continue consultation with Highways on major danger to pedestrians/cyclists through two dangerous bends. NOTE: consideration should be taken to avoid any detrimental impact on the school bus provision to Long Bennington Primary Academy.

Footbridge over A1 to Service Station	MEDIUM	Continue consultation with Highways England to prevent likely fatalities at A1 crossing point
Improvements to playground and sports facilities at the MUGA	MEDIUM	Seek funding from SKDC and LCC for upkeep and maintenance
Cycle Path from Foston to Grantham	LOW	Future review
Installing CCTV at entrance and exits of village	LOW	Future review
Provide allotments in Foston	LOW	Future review

Regular Review

5.6 The Parish Council is committed to retaining an ongoing process of consultation with its parishioners and therefore will undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Plan every 5 years to ensure it is up to date and relevant to changing circumstances. Additionally, they will ascertain that it remains compliant with both national and local planning policy. The review process will also ensure that the required infrastructure improvements (as listed above) remain relevant and appropriate and therefore will be considered and appear on the agenda of each Parish Council meeting.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 Foston Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the production of this Neighbourhood Plan – it has been a true community project!

6.2 Special thanks must go to everyone who attended consultation events and filled in questionnaires that provided the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan. Particular thanks must also go to the following professional advisors for their invaluable contribution and advice on planning and policy issues:

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6.3 Prepared by: Foston Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
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