

Foston Neighbourhood Development Plan



2015 - 2026

**Consultation Statement
June 2016**

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Effective community involvement has allowed Foston residents and key stakeholders to identify issues of concern and areas of importance. The Neighbourhood Plan has been compiled using the views which have been expressed throughout the process.

1. Introduction

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal requirements of Part 5, Section 15(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 by detailing the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan:

- Outlining how these persons and bodies were consulted;
- Providing a summary of the main issues and concerns raised;
- Reviewing how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

A Neighbourhood 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.

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.

The Statement of Consultation sets out the how the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have worked together and consulted the residents of Foston, statutory consultees, neighbouring Parishes and other interested parties during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Our aim was to encourage effective and meaningful community involvement throughout and at all of the stages of the plan making process. Key to this programme was publicity, public events and the use of print and electronic media, including the local press, to provide regular updates. A new section was developed on the Parish Council's Website devoted to Neighbourhood Planning to ensure access to up-to-date information. Extensive information has been available to the whole village to encourage participation at every stage.

2. Early Development Phase

Foston Parish Council started to introduce the concept of Neighbourhood Development Plans to the residents of Foston following a CPRE-sponsored information evening in 2012 which the Chair and Clerk of Foston Parish Council attended. The idea of a Neighbourhood Plan was subsequently outlined to the village in the Parish Council's Annual Report 2011-2012 (May 2012) within the "Looking Ahead" section. On 6th November 2012, Foston Parish Council resolved unanimously to register an interest with South Kesteven District Council for the parish to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Karen Sinclair, then South Kesteven District Council's Planning Policy and Partnership Services Manager was invited to speak to Councillors.

The application to designate Foston Parish as a Neighbourhood Development Area was approved on 26th February 2013. Following the approval, Karen Sinclair discussed Neighbourhood Planning and the process involved in compiling the plan with the Parish Council at Foston's Parish Council Meeting on 5th March 2013. At this meeting, Foston Parish Council resolved unanimously to recruit volunteers and to send out confirmation to all the residents of Foston, informing them of the decision to commence the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

From April 2013, the Parish Council focused on raising awareness of the value of a Neighbourhood Plan, with the aim of involving as many interested residents with appropriate time and skills as possible. In Foston's Annual Report 2012-2013, Parish Council commenced the process of ascertaining interest from residents in supporting the production of Foston's Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposal to develop a Neighbourhood Plan was publicised in the April 2013 and July 2013 Parish newsletters which were distributed to all households. The invitation to the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting (held in May 2013) encouraged parishioners to come along and hear more about the proposed development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting was attended by 22 residents and at that stage, 4 residents volunteered their time to support its development. Concurrently, a grant totalling £6,981 was applied for and awarded, plus specialist Planning support was gained from Planning Aid England.

A subsequent flier, distributed to all households in September 2013, resulted in 17 interested residents attending an open meeting on 14th October 2013 to find out more. In late October and November, two training sessions, led by Mike Dando from Planning Aid England, were held, providing an overview of the required process and outlining the steps for a Community Engagement Strategy, a prerequisite of the process. These sessions were attended by 20 and 10 residents respectively, and at the following meeting in December 2013, the Foston Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was formally established.

3. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group comprised of seven residents of Foston: three Parish Councillors, three residents and the Parish Clerk. The members of the working group have remained the same throughout the process and are:

Christina Lees - Chairman Neighbourhood Plan Group and Foston Parish Council

Lucy Bliss - Project Manager and resident member

Ian Hesford - Liaison Officer and Parish Councillor

Tracey Gardner - Parish Councillor

Tracie Hesford - resident member

John Lucey - resident member

Wendy McCallin - Parish Clerk.



Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:

(from left to right) Lucy Bliss, Ian Hesford, Tracie Hesford, Tracey Gardener, Wendy McCallin, John Lucey, Christina Lees

From inception, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held a monthly meeting on the second Monday of every month. Additional training and consulting sessions were convened throughout the process by our Planning Aid England support and external consultants.

4. Aim of consultation process

The aim of the consultation and engagement process was to provide an opportunity for residents of Foston to have their say on planning issues. This included everyone, from young people and the elderly, to commuters, businesses, individuals and families. Foston residents are central to Foston's Neighbourhood Plan and key to the changes being brought in by the Government in planning.

A communication programme was established to ensure ongoing engagement and participation from residents. The programme included:

- Informative **newsletters** to keep parishioners updated on progress
- **Consultation events** to encourage open discussion between residents
- **Questionnaires** providing residents the opportunity to have their say and give their opinion on the key issues.

Output and feedback from all stages was collated and analysed to develop the content of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Consulting Foston

During the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, a number of questionnaires have been distributed to each property 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	Youth Questionnaire
June 2014	Open Consultation Event
October 2014	Comprehensive Questionnaire
November 2014	Housing Needs Survey
May 2015	Summary of outline policies distributed
June 2015	Information provided at annual Village Fair
June 2015	Statutory Consultation of Draft Neighbourhood Plan

All events were published via a leaflet-drop invitation and were followed up in the dedicated Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter which were distributed to every household. A total of six newsletters were distributed between November 2013 and June 2015, culminating in the outline of the formal consultation period of the draft Plan. Examples of newsletters can be found in Appendix 1. All events resulted in a culmination of constructive comments and ideas, supporting the development of the Plan.

5. Initial Consultation

The first stage of the consultation process was to establish the key issues.

Open Consultation Event

The Neighbourhood Plan was launched on 26 January 2014 at Foston Village Hall with a consultation event, accompanied by refreshments. All residents were invited by flier, whilst neighbouring Parish Councils, Long Bennington, Westborough and Dry Doddington as well as South Kesteven District Council were invited by letter. Additionally the event was featured in advance with a half page article in the Grantham Journal.

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. It was an interactive event, with 'Post It' notes being used to generate comments against a broad range of questions.



This open consultation session gave attendees the opportunity to understand more about Neighbourhood Plans and to comment on Foston against the following questions:

- What do you value most in Foston?
- What would you not like to see in Foston?
- What needs to change in Foston?
- What need support and protection in Foston?
- What housing would you like to see in Foston?
- What next at the playing fields?
- Roads and footpaths – what does Foston need and why?
- Public rights of way, footpaths, bridleways
- How can we protect wildlife in Foston?
- What would help you running a business in Foston?
- What is good for children and what is needed?
- What makes life difficult for children?

The open session generated 382 comments for consideration, with the following topics as most commented on (full results in Appendix 2):

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.

Furthermore it was clear, that the community spirit is strong and villagers enjoy the amenities currently available (Church, village hall, scouting association, playing fields) although there is always room for improvement! There were many advocates for combining Gorrie Hall and the village hall on the playing field site and improving the facilities to include toilets/changing areas for new outdoor facilities. It is evident the clubs and events are enjoyed by many; new suggestions included a youth club, sports clubs and a horticultural club. Allotments and beekeeping were also mentioned, not least to encourage the wildlife in the area.

The general upkeep of footpaths raised a number of comments, ranging from good signage and delineation (particularly in relation to dog walkers) 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 Consultation Questionnaire

Concurrent with the launch, a Consultation Questionnaire was delivered to each household in Foston during the w/c 20th January 2014, with responses requested by 2nd February. Households also had the option of requesting the questionnaire by email and/or having their response collected. The questionnaire consisted of the same questions used at the Consultation Event (copy of questionnaire in Appendix 3)

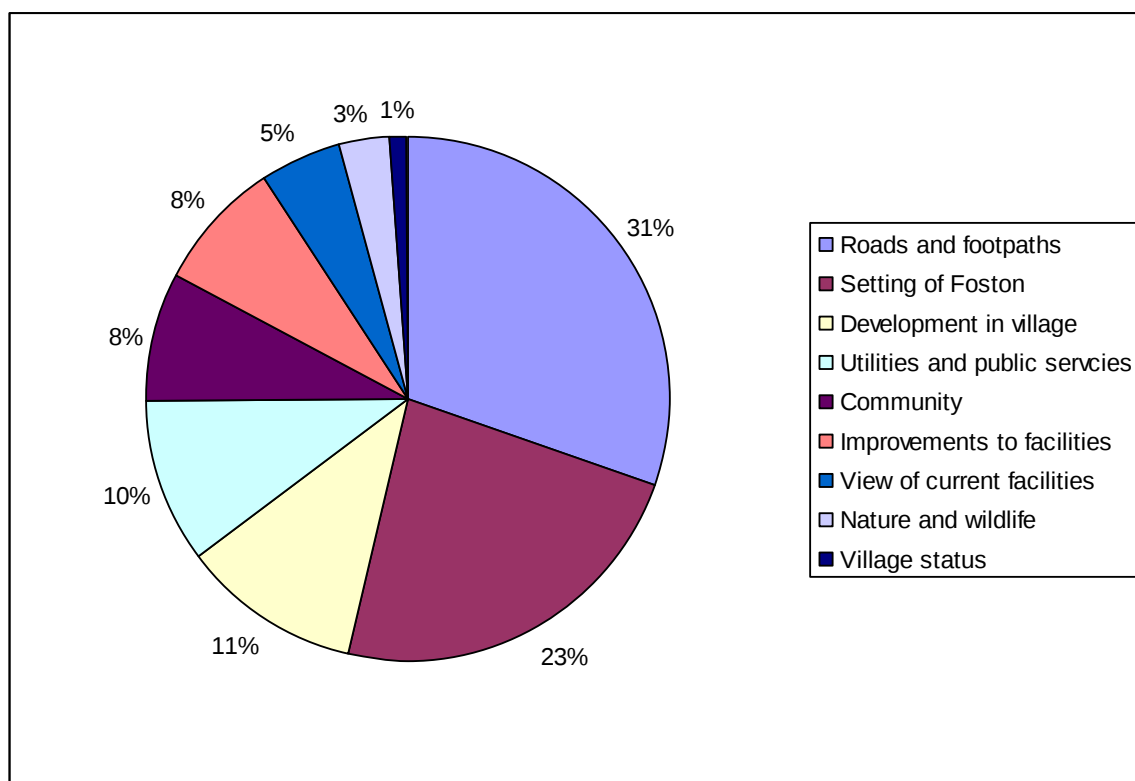
37 questionnaires were returned, outlining a total of 736 comments. Whilst not all questionnaires completed the demographic information, a total of 75 individuals over the age of 18 and 14 of 0-18 years were noted.

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.

The top 10 priorities ascertained from the responses were:

1	Rural setting, peaceful, typical village character
2	Restrict industrial development (include renewable energy)
3	Restrict traffic (weight and speed) on the lanes/ in village to support road maintenance and safety
4	Scenic landscapes / Open views
5	Excellent walking paths / rights of way plus other rural activities (shooting, riding, etc)
6	Increase public rights of way, include path to Marshall Way
7	Strong sense of community
8	Active facilities (village hall, church, playing fields, MUGA)
9	Lack of facilities (shops, food outlets, pub, bus shelter for school children, informal meeting place for meeting)

The analysis of questionnaire responses resulted in the development of the following 9 categories with corresponding weighting:



Full results for each category are outlined in Appendix 4; a summary of each follows:

Roads and footpaths

This category, accounting for nearly one third of responses, included 4 of the top 10 priorities for respondents. Residents value the access to excellent footpaths from the village as well as good geographic access to the wider county and beyond (both road and rail).

The two key improvements requested in this category are the restriction of traffic (weight and speed) on the lanes and through the village to support road safety and maintenance, and secondly to extend the footpath from Newark Hill to Marshall Way. Suggestions for this latter improvement included a cycle path, but not at the expense of a school bus for children. A bridge over the A1 (ramp not steps) to access the shop from the village, as well as to enable parish properties on the west side of the A1 to access the main village facilities, was also mentioned a number of times.

Setting of Foston

Almost a quarter of responses focussed on general opinion on Foston's setting. It is apparent that residents enjoy the rural setting, with the scenic and open views, and typical village character which Foston offers. This is combined with an appreciation of its safe environment, low crime levels and low pollution levels.

Key focus needs to be on protecting this current status, including its historic assets.

Development

Over 10% of responses indicated that development needed to be restricted within the village to protect its current status and maintain a safe village. The majority of responses focused on heavily limiting industrial development which included renewable energy. Housing development should also be limited, retaining the current village look/feel and ensuring it meets local needs (eg well-priced/affordable housing, downsizing options).

Utilities and public services

Comments requesting an improvement to the broadband service and bus service fell just short of the Top 10 Priorities. The slow and unreliable broadband service is a concern in both a business and personal capacity.

Concern about bus services for school children as well as general services to Newark and Grantham were flagged. Suggestions included all Long Bennington buses should service Foston.

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Community

Respondents generally praised the strong sense of community felt within the village. Various suggestions were given to retaining and strengthening this, including continuation of groups focussed on village improvements, and more community events such as village pantomime, village in bloom and a youth club.

Current facilities and suggested improvements

Praise was given for the facilities currently available in the village including the village hall, the church, the playing fields and MUGA pitch. It is recognised that the village has a very active Scouting movement despite being a small village.

Improvements were suggested on a commercial basis: shop, pub food outlets. Also requests for an informal meeting place and a bus shelter for school children were noted.

The playing fields could be improved by the provision of a pavilion/changing area (including area for refreshments), play equipment for older children, and tennis nets for the MUGA pitch. Also the provision of structured sports activities was suggested. Respondents indicated a keen interest in improvements at the village hall and the scout hut.

A few single improvement suggestions suggested more benches in the village (eg playing fields, at the river), allotments, increased maintenance of the churchyard and a traditional village sign.

Nature and wildlife

Respondents outlined how the scenic views and footpaths are thoroughly enjoyed by most, allowing residents to enjoy the variety of wildlife found here, and the need to protect it was prevalent. Suggestions to increase/replace the number of native hedgerows and trees were made as well as protect wildlife from chemical use and encourage more of it by providing appropriate habitats (eg owl/bat boxes).

Village Status

A sense to protect the current village offering was gained from the completed questionnaires. A few respondents suggested applying for a formal 'village envelope' achieving a buffer between Foston and Long Bennington, as well as applying for 'conservation status'.

Detailed output from the Initial Questionnaire can be found in Appendix 3.

6. Young People's Consultation

Young people were consulted in April 2014 by individual questionnaires. There were six questions for secondary school-aged children and three for younger children. They were incentivised with a reward of chocolate for completed questionnaires and a chance to win an iTunes voucher! In total 40 young people responded, providing a sound overview of young people's thoughts of the village.

Secondary school-aged children found the rural nature of the village both the best aspect of Foston and the most frustrating! Whilst they enjoyed the countryside for dog walking, cycling, etc, they felt isolated from their friends and more amenities. They used the footpaths around the parish, as well as the playing fields, Scout Hut and Village Hall. Changes they would like to see include more amenities (eg café, more sports clubs, youth club, shop, skate park, picnic benches), a more frequent bus service, and people to clear up after their dogs!

Younger children provided similar views. They certainly enjoyed the playing fields and the surrounding footpaths for walking or cycling. They also used the Scout Hut, Village Hall and Church within the village.

The questionnaires are found in Appendix 5.

7. Landscape Character Assessment

It became apparent from the consultation feedback that the landscape and rural setting of the parish was considered a priority for residents. The Working Party decided to secure professional support in developing an overview of the character of the landscape to support the development of relevant policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. Allen Pyke Associates were therefore appointed to carry out the Landscape Character Assessment in February 2014, using financial aid from Government grants (through Locality).

The Consultant initially used the output from the Issues Questionnaire and open session to commence the formulation of the assessment. The Working Group reviewed and revised the initial drafts before holding a further open session with residents, in conjunction with the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting in June 2014.

At this session the Landscape Architect (our Consultant) outlined the purpose of a Landscape Character assessment and detailed the 4 main areas in the parish which she had identified. The attending residents (13 in total) gave their views on these 4 areas, the key features of the landscape and how they currently use/interact with the landscape.

Residents indicated they valued the following aspects of their surrounding landscape:

	What do you value most about the surrounding landscape / countryside in which you live?
Rural setting, peaceful, typical village character	14
Open views	10
Historical assets / unspoilt parts	5
Easy access (to towns and other counties)	4
River / Ford	3
Variety of wildlife	2
Excellent walking paths / rights of way plus other rural activities (shooting, riding, etc)	12
Low pollution (air, noise and light)	2
Protect the current status	1
Total Comments	53



Subsequently, the attendees debated suggestions to improve their surrounding landscape which resulted in the following propositions:

	What suggestions do you have to improve the local countryside / surrounding landscape?
Protect the current status	4
Increase public rights of way, incl path to Marshall Way	2
Plant more trees / replace native hedgerows	3
Improve signing of and ensure maintenance of footpaths	4
No industrial development / renewable energy / housing	8
Restrict development (housing, industrial and renewable energy)	3
More contact with local landowners	1
Better provision for wildlife survival (incl less use of chemicals by gardeners / farmers)	1
Restrict traffic (and speed)on the lanes	2
Stop dumping of rubbish	1
Continuation of community groups for improvements	1
Bridge over A1	1
Total Comments	31

The Consultant reviewed all discussion points and output, and amended the Landscape Character Assessment as appropriate, and the final document was accepted by the Parish Council in November 2014. (The report is provided as an Appendix to the Neighbourhood Plan.)

The Working Group has been able to draw extensively on the findings and recommendations outlined in the Landscape Character Assessment in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, and it forms a key part of the Evidence Base utilised in the compilation of the Plan and its policies.

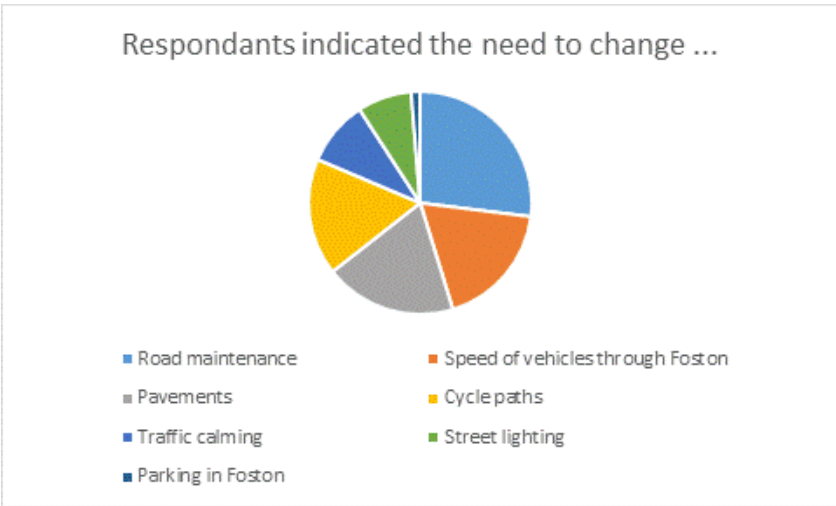
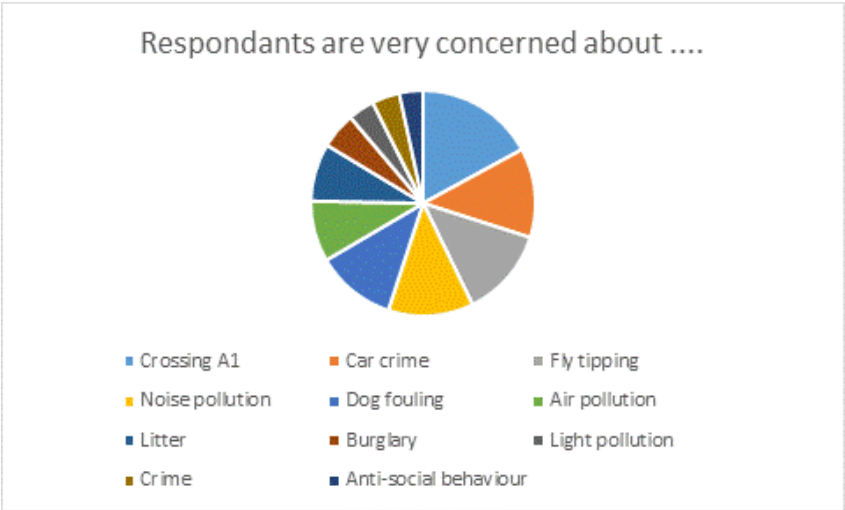
8. Issues Consultation

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 (copy is found in Appendix 6). Response rates increased with this questionnaire, reaching in excess of 40% which is higher than the national average.

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 full overview of the results is in Appendix 8; the summary 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.

The questionnaire also included aspects linked with the Parish Plan (compiled in 2007) to obtain updated information on residents' priorities. The illustrations below outline the topics respondents are most concerned about and the ones which need to change. Full detail is found in Appendix 7.



Whilst many of the topics highlighted as issues in the Parish Plan are not relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan, there is some overlap, and these have been integrated in to the Plan where appropriate.

9. Housing Needs Survey

Whilst some considerations for housing needs were established in the Issues Consultation undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, a formal Housing Needs Survey was carried out by South Kesteven District Council in November 2014.

The questionnaire was compiled using findings identified throughout the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and provided a method of quantifying evidence gathered to-date. The objective of the survey was three fold:

1. To identify the number of residents wishing to move within Foston in the next 5 to 15 years
2. To identify the type of housing required to meet their needs
3. To gather views on the different tenures of housing required in the future.

All households received a questionnaire and 89 (42%) were returned. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix 8 while the full analysis of the results from South Kesteven District council is included in the Appendices for the Neighbourhood Plan.

An overview of the results indicates that:

- 15 households responded saying they needed to move within 5 years and 15 years
- 4 of these households indicated they wished to move within Foston Parish; the specific needs of these households was:
 - Household 1: Flat - 2 bed (rented from Council or open market)
 - Household 2: Bungalow - 3 bed (purchased from open market)
 - Household 3: Flat or bungalow - 1 bed (ownership not stated)
 - Household 4: Bungalow or house - 2 bed (rented from Council)
- 1 respondent indicated that a resident who had previously left the village, may wish to return should an appropriate property become available

Consideration of the data indicates that there is currently no means to service the small need one or two-bed units, either privately or with affordable/Council-owned housing. As the need is currently small, this issue should be re-visited in 5 years' time.

10. Statutory Consultees

Throughout the process, statutory consultees were kept informed of the development of Foston's Neighbourhood Plan. A number of general bodies / companies were included in this list (full listing – Appendix 9), but more importantly the Working Group wanted to ensure the engagement of key landowners in the area. Eight key landowners were identified. They, together with the statutory consultees received an initial letter outlining the process for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan in November 2014. Likewise, they received information in September 2015 regarding the statutory consultation of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Copies of these letters are found in Appendix 10.

11. Statutory Consultation of Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The Working Group continued towards producing a finalised draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, drawing on professional assistance from independent planning consultants to help draft the proposed policies, but with all other sections written by members of the Working Group. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan was finally approved for public consultation by the Parish Council at its meeting in March 2016.

The period of formal consultation ran from 16th September – 4th November 2015 (thus meeting the minimum 6-week statutory period). The draft Neighbourhood Plan was made available on the website (www.fostonvillage.org.uk), and hard copies were also available for viewing. Every property was leafleted to provide information about the consultation, where to view the draft Plan, how to make comments, and the closing date for comments. The leaflet also provided a brief summary of the main objectives of the Plan, and explained what would happen after the consultation (copy can be viewed in Appendix 1).

Letters, either hard copy or via email, were sent to all relevant statutory consultees, landowners, neighbouring parishes and other relevant organisations (see Appendix 9 for the list of those contacted). The letter advised that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was out for consultation, where to view the Plan, and the closing date for any comments and observations.

Members of the Working Party also attended the Foston Village Fair on 27th June 2015, running a publicity stall about the impending draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation, and confirming the required process and the closing date for comments.

All comments received by the closing date (4th November 2015) were each considered individually at the November meeting of the Working Group and incorporated into the Plan as required.

Work was also undertaken to complete the Basic Conditions Statement, this Statement of Consultation and the presentation of the Evidence Base – all of which needs to be approved by the Parish Council and submitted to SKDC alongside the finally agreed Neighbourhood Plan. The Working

Group are indebted to the advice and assistance received from the Planning Aid England Consultant provided by Locality with throughout the process, but particularly at this stage of their work.

12. Conclusion

The publicity, engagement and consultation completed throughout the production of the Foston Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been open and transparent, with many opportunities provided for those that live, work, and do business within the Neighbourhood Area to feed into the process, make comment, and to raise issues, priorities and concerns.

The Parish Council considered and accepted this Statement of Consultation at its meeting held on tbc as a true record of all the consultation activities that have taken place. It is the Parish Council's understanding that all statutory requirements have been met and that this Statement complies with Part 5, Section 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Appendix 1 - Newsletters

Invitation to residents – May 2013

The Government has unveiled funding to help communities shape their neighbourhood using improved planning powers.

Are you interested in shaping

the future of your village?

Foston Parish Council needs volunteers to help

Put together a

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A neighbourhood plan gives villages and communities a major say in shaping development in their area. It gives communities the power to help decide where development should go and the type and design of development that can be granted.

This is an opportunity not to be missed!

For the first time neighbourhood planning is making sure local residents are centre stage in helping decide their neighbourhood's future.

More information will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting

20th May - 7.30pm - refreshments will be served.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please fill in the form below and return it to Christina Lees: Western House, Main Street, Foston or Tracey Gardner: Lancasters, Goosegate Lane. Or simply email Christina with your contact details to cmlees@btinternet.com - Thank you.

Newsletter #1

Neighbourhood Planning

Newsletter 1

November 2013

The first meeting of the **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group** took place on Monday 14th October. At the meeting a core group of Foston residents agreed to commit in various ways to help put the plan together. Following the initial meeting a Planning Aid England advisor came to Foston on 28th October to explain the process and to arrange for a training session that took place on the 28th November in Long Bennington.

We would like you to start thinking about the following questions:

What is good about Foston?

What is bad about Foston?

What makes Foston good to live in?

What needs to be changed in Foston?

If you have a business in Foston, what is good for your business?

What is bad or difficult for your business?

What is good for children and what is bad for Children?

Everybody gets an input via open meetings to discuss ideas and a questionnaire that covers all ideas put forward.

This is a very important plan which stems from the Government's Localism bill. The idea is to produce a planning document for the village to cover the next 10 to 15 years.

We will have help and guidance from Planning Aid England throughout the process and we have a grant to cover most of the costs. The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers for people to make neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood planning orders, with reduced interference from central government.

Neighbourhood planning legislation came into effect in April 2012.

The Policy: Giving communities more power in planning local development

The Issue: We want people to be able to influence decisions about new and modified buildings and facilities in their area.

People have the right to get involved in development decisions that affect them but in practice they have often found it difficult to have a meaningful say.

The Actions: To give people more control over the development of their local area.

Christina Lees

On behalf of Foston Parish Council

Newsletter #2

Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter 2 March 2014

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is progressing well with the development of Foston's Neighbourhood Plan. A core group of residents are working hard to ensure the legislation can be put to good use in Foston, by understanding the wants and needs of all residents and translating this information into planning policy.

What has happened so far?

January 26th 2014

Open information afternoon at the village hall – 37 residents attended to understand more about the impact of Neighbourhood Plans and to provide their opinion on the future requirements of the village.

February 2014

Each household received a questionnaire, asking 14 questions to understand what residents value about the village and what the key issues and concerns are. 37 completed forms were returned.

What are people saying?

It is clear that respondents enjoy living in Foston and appreciate the beautiful setting it offers. From the questionnaire responses, the following points came through as most valued in Foston:

1. The rural setting and typical village character Foston offers
2. The open views and scenic landscapes enjoyed from Foston
3. The access to excellent walking and other rural activities from the village

There are areas of improvements desired in the village or concerns respondents have about the future of Foston. The key concerns are:

- Restrict industrial development, including renewable energy initiatives, which could have a detrimental effect on village life
- Limit the weight and speed of traffic along the lanes and in the village to maintain the road condition and improve safety
- Increase the footpaths around the village, particularly towards Long Bennington from Newark Hill to Marshall Way.

What next?

Mar/April Questionnaire to all school-aged children with treats and lucky draw prizes for completed questionnaires.

June 2014 Another open session to develop the key themes will be in conjunction with the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting; on **Friday 6th June at 7.30pm**, Village Hall

Monthly The group generally meets the second Monday of the month to join at any time. Please contact me for more details if you are interested.

Completed questionnaires are still being received so there is time if you want to have your say. If you would like another copy please let me know.

Don't forget, more information will be available at Foston's Annual Parish Meeting to be held June at the Village Hall, 7.30 pm. We hope to see you there!

Christina Lees
On behalf of Foston Parish Council

Newsletter #3

Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter 3 August 2014

Foston's
Neighbourhood Plan
Planning for our Future

Foston's Neighbourhood Plan is taking shape! Consultation with all residents continues and the output is starting to shape the core focus for the Neighbourhood Plan.

What has happened so far?

Feb 2014

All **households received a questionnaire**, asking 14 questions to understand what is valued about the village and what the key issues and concerns are. Whilst only 17% of households responded (37 households), we received over 700 comments to take into consideration! An overview of responses will be available on the village website (www.fostonvillage.org.uk) under the Neighbourhood Plan section.

April 2014

All **school-aged children received a questionnaire** (as well as chocolate and prizes for completing it!). 40 responses were submitted – more than from overall households, so well done children!

We received 21 responses from those at secondary school, giving us a real insight into what they liked about the village and what they would change. The rural setting of the village is a double-edged sword for most – great for walking the dog, not so good for meeting with friends (and better buses would help the latter!). Francesca Lenton was the lucky winner of the £15 iTunes voucher – well done Francesca!!

19 primary school aged children returned their forms. The playing field is certainly a big hit with them! But they do dislike litter being dropped and dog poo being left – lots of good citizens for the future!

June 2014

Our **2nd consultation session** was held in conjunction with the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting. Disappointingly only 8 residents turned up – only just above the 6 Parish Councillors there! However, we spent a very informative evening reviewing the Landscape Character Assessment. It is a key element of the Neighbourhood Plan, highlighting prominent features and uses within our rural landscape which should be taken into consideration in planning cases.

What does a Neighbourhood Plan do? a reminder

Increases Foston's
influence on
Planning Matters

Enables planning
decisions to be made
with a high degree of
**predictability and
efficiency**

Plans should set out the opportunities for development and clear policies on **what will or will not be permitted and where**. Only policies that provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to the development proposal should be included in the plan.

What next?

Aug 2014 - Develop the key objectives and draft policies for the Plan from the input gathered to-date.

Sept 2014

- SKDC will be distributing a Housing Needs Assessment – asking you for your future housing requirements in the village. We urge you to respond as this is a key part of our Plan.
- Gain feedback from residents and others to refine the policies in readiness for creating the Consultation Statement. This is a key stage in the consultation process and will shape the content of the final Referendum.

If you want to add your say to the small proportion of households we have heard from, you can!

Questionnaires are still available – let me know if you would like another copy.

Christina Lees
On behalf of Foston Parish Council

Newsletter #4

**Neighbourhood Planning
Newsletter 4
November 2014**

**Foston's
Neighbourhood Plan**
*Planning for our Future
...Together*

A big thank you to all residents who have filled in and returned their neighbourhood plan questionnaire. We had a response rate of 40% - a fantastic uplift on our previous responses and much higher than the nation's average. The questionnaire was in two parts, part 1 focussing on the Parish of Foston in planning terms and part 2 being an up-date of the Parish Plan which was originally produced in 2007. We now have the results of the questionnaire which will be placed on the Parish website in due course, but a brief summary is outlined here:

- **95% of the responses felt that the quality of life was very important / important.**
- **93% of the responses felt that the historic fabric of Foston was very important / important.**
- **85% of the responses felt that the current rural environment was very important / important.**
- **60% of responses felt that the encouragement of green energy development was not important.**
- **95% of responses felt that that conserving the village facilities was very important / important.**
- **82% of responses felt that solving transport issues affecting the village were very important / important.**
- **93% of the responses felt that control of all developments was very important / important.**

You will now have received a Housing Needs Survey from South Kesteven District Council and we would ask you to fill it in and post it back by 28th November. This will be analysed by SKDC and the results will be added to our Neighbourhood planning document. This will demonstrate our future housing needs / requirements within the village. We urge you to respond as this is a key part of our Plan.

What next?

The key objectives and draft policies for the Plan will be developed from the input gathered to-date. Your feedback will be needed to refine the policies. From this, a Consultation Statement is created which is a key stage in the consultation process and will shape the content of the final referendum.

An independent examiner will then check the Plan to make sure it meets the required standards and suggest any amendments. Following examinations and amendments, it will be time for the village referendum!

*Christina Lees
On behalf of Foston Parish Council*

Newsletter #5

Policy Theme	Topic / Issue identified through the Consultation Process	Policy detail
Business	Improved communication infrastructure	To support the delivery of improved communication infrastructure in line with technological developments, eg faster broadband
	Commercial development	Support commercial development which is appropriate to the region, subject to safeguarding / suitable mitigation of the character of the area / strategic views
Housing & New Development	Affordable and appropriate housing for local needs (eg starter homes, retirement homes)	Develop policy for local needs housing based on evidence of housing needs survey
	New development to be sympathetic	Develop policy for adherence to Design Codes or Design Guidance
	Individual scale infill plots only	Develop policy for release of infill sites with adherence to criteria. Garden size, improvements, etc.
Spend of community funds	Appropriate spend of available funds (eg from Section 106, CIL monies, etc)	Develop policy to accommodate spend of community funds in line with regional and national policy. Key priorities identified are: • Improved communication infrastructure, eg broadband • Traffic management throughout the village • Ongoing improvements to community facilities (meeting places, sports facilities, etc)

Thank you for your support during this process!

If you do want to provide any feedback, please contact Christina Lees, Chair Foston Parish Council on cmlees@btopenworld.com or 281309 (by 2nd June).

Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter 5 May 2015

**Foston's
Neighbourhood Plan**
Planning for our Future
... Together

We have an exciting update for you as Foston's Neighbourhood Plan really is taking shape now! You may remember the questionnaire and housing needs survey you completed for us back in November – your input has now shaped the Plan's vision and aims, as well as formed the basis of the policies. Together this will form the statutory development plan for Foston, if it is accepted at the referendum.

At this stage, we wanted to give you visibility of the Plan's aims and policy themes, before the formal consultation process starts. If there is anything stated here which you do NOT feel is relevant or appropriate for Foston's Neighbourhood Plan, please let us know. If we don't hear from you, we will presume that you feel these themes should be developed in our Plan.

Vision for Foston's Neighbourhood Plan

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

Aims / Objectives for Foston's Neighbourhood Plan

- 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 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 encourage measures to improve highway safety for all road users.

If you do want to provide any feedback, please contact Christina Lees, Chair Foston Parish Council on cmlees@btopenworld.com or 281309 (by 2nd June).

Policy Theme	Topic / Issue identified through the Consultation Process	Policy detail
Quality of Life	Retain rural outlook and views	To identify and protect key (named) views towards and out of the parish
	Strong sense of community to be safeguarded	To safeguard and enhance community facilities and services
	Maintain safe environment / low crime levels	To develop policies with criteria for designing out crime in new development
Environment	Wildlife protection and enhancement	To protect and enhance biodiversity and our rural landscape
Historic Environment	Heritage assets and their setting to be safeguarded	To protect identified designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting
Renewable Energy	Schemes appropriate for the village setting	To promote renewable energy development, subject to safeguarding and/or suitable mitigation of the character of the area and our strategic views. This should specifically take into account the height and settings of key historic assets in and around the Parish.
Leisure & Recreation	Lack of general facilities, eg shops, pubs	To support the creation of new retail / community facilities and services, of appropriate scale, to support the village population, as opportunities arise
	Safeguard and improve public footpath / bridleways connections	Develop policies for the provision of new public footpath / bridleway links and safeguard existing ones, in association with new development
	Explore all opportunities to continue to develop the excellent provision of sports facilities in the village	Develop policy for new and improved facilities responding to local need
Transport	Restrict HGV traffic	a) To require new development to provide or contribute to sustainable transport provision within the Parish b) To work with LCC / SKDC to find solutions for traffic problems linked with new development
	Reduce vehicle speed	a) To require new development to provide or contribute to sustainable transport provision within the Parish b) To work with LCC / SKDC to find solutions for traffic problems linked with new development
	Maintain and improve road links and paved footpaths	Work with LCC / SKDC / Highways Agency to ensure that road infrastructure and pedestrian access is maintained and improved. Support measures requiring planning (eg fencing, access points, pedestrian bridges, crossings, etc) as well as non-planning measures (eg re-surfacing). Support will also be given for improving related environmental factors (eg bunding, noise reducing measures, etc) and sustainable traffic movement (eg pedestrian, cycling, etc)

Newsletter #6

There are a number of documents available for your review:

- Draft Neighbourhood Plan – outline of Foston's historic and current position and includes the proposed Policies & Design Guidance for future planning applications
- Built Character Assessment (Appendix 1) – an overview of Foston's built landscape and village character, including common materials
- Landscape Character Assessment (Appendix 2) – an assessment of Foston's geography and surrounding landscape including views
- Housing Needs Survey (Appendix 3) – summary from SKDC of the results submitted by you to them in November 2014
- Consultation Statement – overview of the process to-date to reach this point, including all consultation activity with residents and local businesses

Your three options to review the documents are:

1. **Online** at www.fostonvillage.org.uk

Select the section
Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. Viewing of **hard copy** at:
Western House, Main St.
(Chair to Parish Council)

3. Additionally the documents will be available for **viewing** at the following village events, all taking place at the Village Hall:

- 27th Sept – Hedgehog Welfare Afternoon Tea (1.30-4pm)
- 2nd Oct – Pub Night (from 8pm)
- 7th Oct – Coffee Morning (10-11.30am)
- 21st Oct – Monthly Luncheon (12-1.30pm)
- 3rd Nov – before the Parish Council meeting (6.30-7.30pm)

Please feedback any comments either by email or post by 4th November 2015:

foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk
or cmlees@btopenworld.com

- Christina Lees, Chair to Foston Parish Council, Western House, Main Street, Foston, NG32 2JU
- Wendy McCallin, Clerk to Foston Parish Council, Clensey House, Dry Doddington, Newark, NG23 5HT

Thank you for all your support during this process!

Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter 6 September 2015

**Foston's
Neighbourhood Plan**
*Planning for our Future
... Together*

We are at the final stage of developing Foston's Neighbourhood Development Plan – all the hard work and contributions of all parishioners is taking shape! A draft Plan has been compiled and is now available for you to review. This is a formal consultation period and longer than the required 6 weeks outlined in the process. The remaining timetable looks like this:

- 16th Sept–4th Nov 2015: 7 week consultation with local residents and businesses
- Nov – Dec 2015: Prepare submission documents
- Jan 2016: Submit Plan to SKDC who will check it meets the Basic Conditions
- Feb – March 2016: An independent Examiner will report on the Plan
- June 2016 (latest): If recommended by the Examiner, a referendum will be held and a majority of over 50% will make the Plan part of the legal planning framework for Foston.

It is important you feel comfortable with the proposed policies and Plan, as this is the last chance to input before you vote in the referendum.

The documents are available on the website (www.fostonvillage.org.uk) or hard copies are available for viewing from the Parish Council. The documents will also be accessible at various village events throughout the period up to and including 3rd November. Full details are on the reverse of this leaflet.

Remember: the Vision for Foston's Neighbourhood Plan is
To be a successful vibrant rural village that values its past but looks to the future.

And we can't do this without your contribution and participation, so we look forward to hearing from you!

Please let us have your feedback either by email or post (details on back of leaflet) by 4th November 2015.

Policy Overview

9 Policy Categories and 21 Policies have been developed within the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Your feedback and contribution over the past 18 months has shaped the scope and content of them. Additionally they are set in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework and SKDC's Local Planning Strategy.

A brief overview of each category is set out here.

1. QUALITY OF LIFE

These four policies look to retain the distinctive quality of the local landscape. This includes the rural outlook and open views, the protection of community facilities as well as the safety and security of residents.

2. ENVIRONMENT AND COUNTRYSIDE

The two policies in this section prioritise the protection and enhancement of local wildlife and safeguard our access to the countryside via footpaths and bridleways.

3. HERITAGE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It has been clear from the outset that the community wants to preserve the historic fabric of Foston – it is a prime focus for the vision of the Plan. The two policies in this category therefore look to protect the heritage assets in the village, both listed buildings and those structures deemed 'positive unlisted buildings' (ie those which make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area).

4. HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Three policies have been created to support new development as required by local need and of a design in keeping with the village. This includes applications for in fill development as well as re-development of current structures. Design Guidance has been provided to aid the process, which covers residential, commercial and renewable energy projects.

5. BUSINESS

Two policies have been drafted to support increased employment opportunities in the Parish as well as promoting improved telecommunication infrastructure.

6. RENEWABLE ENERGY

Three policies have been developed to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy production which benefits the local community and is appropriate to the local topography and historic fabric of the village.

7. LEISURE, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

It is recognised that the community facilities are a key part of the strong community spirit as well as positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents. The two policies in this section look to retain the current facilities and enable the development of increased facilities relevant to the Parish, including retail facilities.

8. TRANSPORT

Two policies have been drafted to ensure all new development incorporates sustainable transport infrastructure including road speeds, parking, pavements and increased transport movement.

9. IMPLEMENTATION

The final policy ensures the Parish Council are fully engaged with how any associated funding from development is spent in the community.

Appendix 2- Analysis from initial open Consultation Event - January 2014

Themes	Question:	What is good for children and what is needed?	What makes life difficult for children?	What would you not like to see in Foston?	How can we protect wildlife in Foston?
Landscape	Maintain unspoilt views / countryside / wildlife / flora and our access to it	3			
	Protect / increase tree planting / hedgerows / wild flowers			1	10
Paths	Clear signing and delineation of footpaths, including indicating dogs to be on/off leads. Protect from motorbikes				5
	Goosegate lane footpath needs stoning				
	Cycle path from Foston to Long Bennington				
	Footpath to Long Bennington/Newark Hill to Marshall Way (but not at expense of school bus).	2	2		
	Footbridge over A1				
	Retain footpaths / bridleways / right of way				
Roads / Speed	Decent roads with proper kerbing and footpaths / Path at top of Chapel Lane for access to play area				
	No increase on council tax				
	Traffic calming measures in village (neon flashing lights rather than speed bumps) / speed restrictions - safety aspect for children playing / walking	3	4	1	3
	Weight restrictions on lanes to restrict HGV traffic			7	
	Maintain roads (resurfacing needed on Tow Lane, Church Street, junction of Chapel Lane/Long Street), fix potholes regularly				
	Remove double bend (Newark Hill / Marshall Way) as dangerous with increased heavy traffic				
	Improved signage to Foston when exiting A1 North to decrease danger at junction				
	Improved access onto A1 southbound				
	Improved public transport, incl to secondary schools in Grantham	1	1		
	Quiet roads				
Housing	In keeping with current build				
	An established village envelope to restrict major development on green sites				
	Plenty of garden space				
	Affordable and appropriate housing (starter and retirement) / A mix of different sized properties appropriate to area			3	
	No housing / development			3	

	Question:	What is good for children and what is needed?	What makes life difficult for children?	What would you not like to see in Foston?	How can we protect wildlife in Foston?
Themes					
Rubbish	Measures to prevent fly tipping / litter / More rubbish bins, particularly near ford				
	Dog poo bins and requisite emptying / less dog fouling in the village				
Energy	Sustainable energy measures for the village's benefit but appropriate to the landscape (eg size)				
	No wind turbines / farms			12	
	No solar panels covering fields			1	
Village appearance	Grass verges (protect from HGV/traffic damage)				1
	more blossom / flowers particularly at entrance of village				
	Traditional village sign similar to other Lincs villages/hamlets				
Village facilities	Improve church facilities (toilets/ kitchen/etc)		1		
	Improve/replace Gorrie Hall / Replace with all purpose community centre / village hall	1	5		
	Green area for youth to use				
	Cricket pitch / Rugby posts / working tennis net / sandpit with cover / boules court / tennis club	6			
	Allotments / bee-keeping				2
	more parks				
	Well-kept/maintain MUGA (incl lights, changing rooms, toilets)				
	New play equipment for older children				
	Outdoor exercise equipment for adults				
	Picnic benches at playing fields				
	More litter bins at playing fields				
	Home security / CCTV			1	
	Regular events at playing fields / meetings with younger children / toddler group	3			
	Café (pop up café in summer)				
	School		1		
	Alley way near village hall		1		
Clubs	Horticultural Club (pooling resources, bulk buying, annual show)				
	Youth Club (11-16yr olds) supervised by Community Police Officers and parents)	3			
	Tennis club / junior football club / rugby club / sports club	5			
Industry vs agriculture	No industry			5	1
	Retain agricultural heritage / farming			1	
	Local businesses and jobs				
	Rural quietness				
	HGV park			1	
Communications	Better/faster broadband				
	Better dialogue with landowners				
	No travellers			1	
Community	Feeling of safety in village				
	community spirit / friendly				

	Question:	What do you value most in Foston?	Public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways	What sort of housing would you like to see in Foston?	What next at the playing field?
Themes					
Landscape	Maintain unspoilt views / countryside / wildlife / flora and our access to it	9			
	Protect / increase tree planting / hedgerows / wild flowers				
Paths	Clear signing and delineation of footpaths, including indicating dogs to be on/off leads. Protect from motorbikes		6		
	Goosegate lane footpath needs stoning		1		
	Cycle path from Foston to Long Bennington			1	
	Footpath to Long Bennington/Newark Hill to Marshall Way (but not at expense of school bus).			4	
	Footbridge over A1			2	
	Retain footpaths / bridleways / right of way	2			
Roads / Speed	Decent roads with proper kerbing and footpaths / Path at top of Chapel Lane for access to play area			3	
	No increase on council tax			1	
	Traffic calming measures in village (neon flashing lights rather than speed bumps) / speed restrictions - safety aspect for children playing / walking			12	1
	Weight restrictions on lanes to restrict HGV traffic			4	
	Maintain roads (resurfacing needed on Tow Lane, Church Street, junction of Chapel Lane/Long Street), fix potholes regularly				
	Remove double bend (Newark Hill / Marshall Way) as dangerous with increased heavy traffic				
	Improved signage to Foston when exiting A1 North to decrease danger at junction				
	Improved access onto A1 southbound			1	
	Improved public transport, incl to secondary schools in Grantham				
	Quiet roads	3			
Housing	In keeping with current build			2	
	An established village envelope to restrict major development on green sites			2	
	Plenty of garden space			1	
	Affordable and appropriate housing (starter and retirement) / A mix of different sized properties appropriate to area			16	
	No housing / development			3	1

	Question:	What do you value most in Foston?	Public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways	What sort of housing would you like to see in Foston?	What next at the playing field?
Themes					
Rubbish	Measures to prevent fly tipping / litter / More rubbish bins, particularly near ford			2	
	Dog poo bins and requisite emptying / less dog fouling in the village			4	
Energy	Sustainable energy measures for the village's benefit but appropriate to the landscape (eg size)			4	
	No wind turbines / farms			7	
	No solar panels covering fields				
Village appearance	Grass verges (protect from HGV/traffic damage)				1
	more blossom / flowers particularly at entrance of village			1	
	Traditional village sign similar to other Lincs villages/hamlets				
Village facilities	Improve church facilities (toilets/ kitchen/etc)	2		3	
	Improve/replace Gorrie Hall / Replace with all purpose community centre / village hall			1	3
	Green area for youth to use			1	
	Crickets pitch / Rugby posts / working tennis net / sandpit with cover / boules court / tennis club			1	4
	Allotments / bee-keeping			1	
	more parks			1	
	Well-kept/maintain MUGA (incl lights, changing rooms, toilets)			1	3
	New play equipment for older children			1	1
	Outdoor exercise equipment for adults				1
	Picnic benches at playing fields				1
	More litter bins at playing fields				1
	Home security / CCTV				1
	Regular events at playing fields / meetings with younger children / toddler group				3
	Café (pop up café in summer)				2
	School				
	Alley way near village hall				
Clubs	Horticultural Club (pooling resources, bulk buying, annual show)			1	
	Youth Club (11-16yr olds) supervised by Community Police Officers and parents)			1	
	Tennis club / junior football club / rugby club / sports club				
Industry vs agriculture	No industry				2
	Retain agricultural heritage / farming	2			
	Local businesses and jobs				
	Rural quietness	11			
	HGV park				
Communications	Better/faster broadband			1	
	Better dialogue with landowners			4	
	No travellers				
Community	Feeling of safety in village	6			
	community spirit / friendly	9			

	Question:	What needs support and protection in Foston?	Roads and footpaths - What does Foston need and why?	What needs to change in Foston?	What would help you running a business in Foston?	Total
Themes						
Landscape	Maintain unspoilt views / countryside / wildlife / flora and our access to it	8		3		23
	Protect / increase tree planting / hedgerows / wild flowers	1				12
Paths	Clear signing and delineation of footpaths, including indicating dogs to be on/off leads. Protect from motorbikes	1				12
	Goosegate lane footpath needs stoning					1
	Cycle path from Foston to Long Bennington					1
	Footpath to Long Bennington/Newark Hill to Marshall Way (but not at expense of school bus).		3			11
	Footbridge over A1					2
	Retain footpaths / bridleways / right of way	7				9
Roads / Speed	Decent roads with proper kerbing and footpaths / Path at top of Chapel Lane for access to play area		2			5
	No increase on council tax					1
	Traffic calming measures in village (neon flashing lights rather than speed bumps) / speed restrictions - safety aspect for children playing / walking	2	6	5		37
	Weight restrictions on lanes to restrict HGV traffic	4	2			17
	Maintain roads (resurfacing needed on Tow Lane, Church Street, junction of Chapel Lane/Long Street), fix potholes regularly		9	1		10
	Remove double bend (Newark Hill / Marshall Way) as dangerous with increased heavy traffic		1			1
	Improved signage to Foston when exiting A1 North to decrease danger at junction		2			2
	Improved access onto A1 southbound		1	3		5
	Improved public transport, incl to secondary schools in Grantham			6		8
	Quiet roads					3
Housing	In keeping with current build					2
	An established village envelope to restrict major development on green sites					2
	Plenty of garden space					1
	Affordable and appropriate housing (starter and retirement) / A mix of different sized properties appropriate to area			1		20
	No housing / development					7

Themes	Question:	What needs support and protection in Foston?	Roads and footpaths - What does Foston need and why?	What needs to change in Foston?	What would help you running a business in Foston?	Total
Rubbish	Measures to prevent fly tipping / litter / More rubbish bins, particularly near ford	1		1		4
	Dog poo bins and requisite emptying / less dog fouling in the village		1			5
Energy	Sustainable energy measures for the village's benefit but appropriate to the landscape (eg size)			3		7
	No wind turbines / farms					19
	No solar panels covering fields					1
Village appearance	Grass verges (protect from HGV/traffic damage)	4				6
	more blossom / flowers particularly at entrance of village			6		7
	Traditional village sign similar to other Lincs villages/hamlets			1		1
Village facilities	Improve church facilities (toilets/ kitchen/etc)					6
	Improve/replace Gorrie Hall / Replace with all purpose community centre / village hall	1				11
	Green area for youth to use					1
	Cricket pitch / Rugby posts / working tennis net / sandpit with cover / boules court / tennis club					12
	Allotments / bee-keeping					3
	more parks					1
	Well-kept/maintain MUGA (incl lights, changing rooms, toilets)					4
	New play equipment for older children					2
	Outdoor exercise equipment for adults					1
	Picnic benches at playing fields					1
	More litter bins at playing fields					1
	Home security / CCTV			1		3
	Regular events at playing fields / meetings with younger children / toddler group					6
	Café (pop up café in summer)					2
	School					1
	Alley way near village hall					1
Clubs	Horticultural Club (pooling resources, bulk buying, annual show)					1
	Youth Club (11-16yr olds) supervised by Community Police Officers and parents)					4
	Tennis club / junior football club / rugby club / sports club					5
Industry vs agriculture	No industry			1		9
	Retain agricultural heritage / farming	4		1		8
	Local businesses and jobs	1				1
	Rural quietness	2				13
	HGV park					1
Communications	Better/faster broadband		1	11	9	22
	Better dialogue with landowners					4
	No travellers					1
Community	Feeling of safety in village					6
	community spirit / friendly					9
						382

Appendix 3 – Initial Questionnaire - January 2014

Foston Neighbourhood Planning

Foston's Neighbourhood Plan could be a powerful tool in shaping the development of our neighbourhood. It is all up to us!

Following on from our initial Newsletter in November, we want to establish the issues which the village wants to address in our Neighbourhood Plan. The following questionnaire is our starting point. Below is a brief introduction to what Neighbourhood Planning is.

More information will be available at the Village Hall on Sunday 26th January (3-5pm).

What is Neighbourhood Planning and Localism?

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Government in 2012. Local communities are now able to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their neighbourhood, putting in place a vision and policies for the future development of the area. The idea behind Localism is that decision-making be passed to a more local level and it presents real opportunities for the local community.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a framework developed by the community for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. It is about the use and development of land and may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area, providing new facilities, or allocating key sites for specific kinds of development. It may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues (such as housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues only. These may be issues that are relevant to the whole neighbourhood or just to part of the neighbourhood. This is for the community to decide.

A successful Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the statutory planning decisions for the area. Its legal status gives Neighbourhood Plans far more weight than some other local documents, such as parish plans. A Neighbourhood Plan must comply with European and national legislation, as well as generally conforming to existing strategic local planning policy held by South Kesteven. It should not promote less development than that already identified by South Kesteven in the development plan. The Neighbourhood Plan can however specify policies and guidance on how new development should be designed, orientated and located.

The timeframe for the Neighbourhood Plan can range from a 5 year plan to a vision for 20 years.

If you would like to receive further information by email, please complete and return the contact slip below when you return your questionnaire, or email: foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk

I would like to receive future Neighbourhood Plan information and updates via email:

Name: _____
Home address: _____
Email address: _____

Foston Parish Council is spearheading this initiative with involvement from residents who have volunteered. If you would like to be involved, please contact us via:

Christina Lees on 01400 281309

Email: foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk

Please return your completed questionnaire by **2nd February 2014** either to Western House, Main Street or 2 Wyggeston Cottage, Main Street.

If you would like your questionnaire collected, please email foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk or call Christina Lees on 281309.

If you would prefer to complete this questionnaire electronically, please email the above address requesting this.

Foston Neighbourhood Planning
Initial Consultation Questionnaire

Please complete the following questions, indicating the aspects of the village which are important to you, those currently in place and those which are missing.

What do you like about the Parish of Foston?
What things do you not like about the Parish of Foston?
What things would you like to see in the Parish?
What things would you not like seeing in the Parish?
What makes Foston good to live in?
What needs to be changed in Foston?
What would you like to see in the future for Foston?

If you have a business in Foston, what is good for your business?
What is bad or difficult for your business in Foston?
What is good for children?
What is not good for children?
What do you value most about the surrounding landscape/countryside in which you live?
What suggestions, if any, do you have to improve the local countryside / surrounding landscape?

Please include any further comments you might like to make below:

Please say how many people live in your household by category below:

0-18 years	over 18 years

Appendix 4 - Analysis from Initial Questionnaire - January 2014

Roads and footpaths	
Excellent walking paths / rights of way plus other rural activities (shooting, riding, etc)	41
Increase public rights of way, incl path to Marshall Way	40
Restrict traffic (weight and speed) on the lanes/ in village to support road maintenance and safety	47
Easy access (to towns and other counties) - road and rail	28
Bridge over A1 (ramps not steps)	18
Noise and pollution from A1	13
Minimal through traffic	8
Improve signing of and ensure maintenance of footpaths	7
Dog fouling	7
South slipway to A1 needs improvement	4
Reduce parking on roads	3
Northbound access to A1 near roundabout	1
Cycle path to Grantham	1
Kerb stones along roads	1
Double bend near Foston Lodge	2
	221

General view on setting	
Rural setting, peaceful, typical village character	72
Scenic landscapes / Open views	42
Protect the current status (ie keep rural with minimal street lights, no CCTV, no house numbers, etc)	22
Safe / low crime	14
Historical assets / unspoilt parts	13
Low pollution (air, noise and light)	8
Protect historic assets	1
	172

Utilities and public services	
Improved broadband service	26
Improved bus service	24
Good bus links for secondary school	6
access to good schools	3
CCTV with vehicle recognition capability on approaches	5
Poor drainage (Main St)	2
Gas and electric mains supply	2
no school	2
Reinstatement of willow trees along river	2
Strong Neighbourhood Watch scheme	1
road-side / kerb-side weeds need removing (Burgin Close, Wilkinson Rd)	1
Stop dumping of rubbish	1
	75

Community	
Strong sense of community	36
Continuation of community groups for improvements and activities	8
Apathy of residents / no sense of community (increase village activities, eg village panto, village in bloom, etc)	4
More community events (incl more use of the church); youth club	4
More contact / collaboration with local landowners / farmers	3
Volunteers to drive/pick up for non-drivers	1
Few children in village	1
	57

Development	
Restrict industrial development (incl renewable energy)	47
Restrict housing development and ensure development is appropriate (ie affordable housing) and in-keeping with village energy / housing	23
No industrial development / renewable energy / housing	10
Freedom for owners to develop their own properties	1
Development of sustainable energy to make village self sufficient	1
	82

Nature and wildlife	
Plant more trees / replace native hedgerows / meadows	11
Variety of wildlife	7
River / Ford	4
Better provision for wildlife survival (incl less use of chemicals by gardeners / farmers; barn owl / bat boxes)	3
	25

Suggested improvement for amenities	
Lack of facilities (shops, food outlets, pub, bus shelter for school children, informal meeting place for meeting)	30
Improve playing fields facilities (Pavilion/changing area, equipment for older children, nets for MUGA, refreshments area); structured sports activities	17
Improve village hall / scout hut	5
More benches in village incl by the river	2
Allotments	2
Improve Churchyard maintenance	1
Traditional village sign	1
	58

View of current facilities / amenities	
Active facilities (village hall, church, playing fields, MUGA)	32
Scouting movement in village (though can be oversubscribed due to other villages using it)	6
	38

Village Status	
Apply village envelope / Buffer area between LB and Foston	4
Achieve conservation status for the village	2
	6

Appendix 5 – Young People’s Questionnaire - April 2014

Questionnaire for Teenagers

Foston Neighbourhood Plan Working Group <i>Calling all Foston teenagers</i> (Including all senior school children)  Quick Questionnaire & Free Chocolate!  <u>Plus the chance to win a £15.00 iTunes Voucher</u> Simply answer the following six questions whilst enjoying the free chocolate & don't forget to fill in your contact details at the back of this flyer.	Enter our Free Prize Draw to win a £15.00 iTunes Voucher!!  Please fill in your contact details here for your chance to win! NameAge..... Address Tel:..... Email..... Thank you for your valued input & Good Luck! If you miss the collection from the school bus, please drop your questionnaire off at Western House, Main Street, Foston before 14th April for a chance to win a £15 iTunes voucher.	About your life in Foston 1. What do you like/dislike about Foston? 2. How do you spend your free time? 3. Which facilities do you use in Foston? About Foston's future 4. Would you choose to stay in this area after finishing school/college? Why? 5. Foston's future – how do you see it? 6. Name 3 changes you would like to see in Foston? About your life in Foston 7. What do you like/dislike about Foston? 8. How do you spend your free time? 9. Which facilities do you use in Foston? About Foston's future 10. Would you choose to stay in this area after finishing school/college? Why? 11. Foston's future – how do you see it? 12. Name 3 changes you would like to see in Foston?
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Young Children's Questionnaire - April 2014

Foston

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Calling all Primary School Children

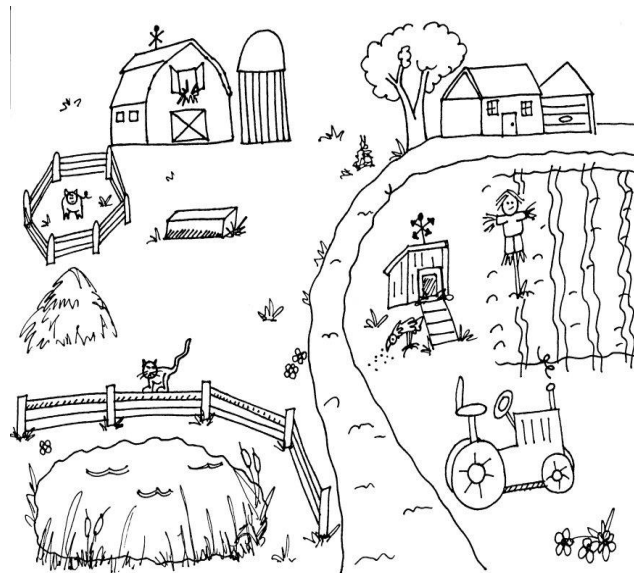


A treat for every questionnaire returned to

Western House, Main Street, Foston by 1st May 2014.

Please answer the questions and draw us a picture of Foston or colour in the picture on the back and in return we will give you a treat.

1. What do you like best about Foston?
2. What don't you like about Foston?
3. What would you like to have in Foston?



Please fill in your contact details below so we can deliver a treat to your home.

Name Age

Address

Please return questionnaire by 1st May 2014, thank you.

My picture of Foston by:

Appendix 6 - Issues Questionnaire - October 2014

Your Neighbourhood Plan representative is:

**Foston's
Neighbourhood Plan**
*Planning for our Future
...Together*

Foston Neighbourhood Plan

YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT OF FOSTON



Our aim is to have a questionnaire completed by every household.

Please complete the questionnaire by Tuesday 21st October. Your questionnaire will be collected by your local Neighbourhood Plan representative or you can drop it off to the address outlined above (Representative list found on final page).

Part One is the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire

Part Two is the up-date of the Parish Plan

The Questionnaire is anonymous and the results will be used to make a draft Neighbourhood Plan reflecting the consensus views of the community as a whole.

Additionally South Kesteven will be issuing a Housing Needs Survey for the Village, the results of which will feed into the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This will be distributed over the next few weeks.

When the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and sent to various statutory consultants, it then goes to an adjudicator for approval. Once approved by the adjudicator, the final authorisation will be sought by holding a formal referendum within the Village.

These results will be available on Foston's website and paper copies will be available to view by contacting the Parish Clerk.

**Please complete this questionnaire and
tell us what you think is important for the future of Foston.**

ENVIRONMENT

Part One

Foston Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

THE PARISH OF FOSTON

How important are the following to the quality of life in Foston?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Open/green spaces in the village			
Rural atmosphere			
Public footpaths			
Local wildlife and habitats			
Views across landscape			
Historic landscape			
Sense of community			
Friendly and safe environment			
Separation distance from other villages by countryside			
Village activities			
Community groups			
Easy access to the country side			

Additional comments:

How important are the following to the historic fabric of Foston?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Conserving the setting of St Peter's Church			
Conserving listed buildings / houses			
Conserving old buildings / houses not listed			
Conserving playing field			

Additional comments:

TRANSPORT

When considering the local environment, how important to you are the following?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Create conservation area in the centre of the village around the church			
Protecting local wildlife and habitats			
Planting trees by the river			
Using the countryside for recreation, e.g. walking, cycling, horse-riding, etc.			
Encourage green energy development of a small scale for domestic, farm and light industry use			
Large-scale renewable energy initiatives in the village and surrounding area			

Additional comments:

How important is it to conserve the following Village facilities?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Conserving the Parish Church			
Conserving and enhancing the Village Hall			
Conserving and enhancing the Playing Field			
Conserving and enhancing the Scout Hut			
Conserving public footpaths and bridleways			
Conserving the current rural environment			

Additional comments:

How important are issues affecting transport through and in Foston?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Improving road safety on Foston's roads			
Ensuring safe pedestrian routes throughout Foston			
Reduce noise from A1			
Create north bound entrance to A1 south of Long Bennington			

Additional comments:

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AND AGRICULTURAL/INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

How important are each of the following criteria when it comes to choosing which sites to develop in the parish?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
The development should have low visual impact on the surrounding countryside and should avoid spoiling any views			
Development should avoid being taller than our Parish Church of St Peter			
The development should avoid areas with existing parking & traffic issues			
The development should back on to as few existing houses as possible			
The development should be away from areas which are valued and used for recreational activities			
The development should aim to preserve hedgerows and green areas			
Development should protect the current local amenity for residents and visitors			
Farming and light industrial units should be located in areas away from residential sites and those used for recreational activities to avoid loss of amenity			

Additional comments:

How important is housing and built environment in Foston?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
To encourage appropriate and good housing design in keeping with village street scene			
To ensure all new development conversions and extensions are in keeping with village character			
To set strict design criteria for house extensions and replacement dwellings			
To set requirements for types of housing relating to type, size and cost for new developments			
To set out criteria for infill developments			
To retain buffer zones between industrial / intensive farming units and residential areas			
To retain a buffer area between Long Bennington and Foston where all development is restricted			
Include sustainable development features in any new development			

Additional comments:

BUSINESS

What do you think about the current composition of housing in Foston?

	Need more	About right	Too many already
Flats			
Bungalows			
Low cost/affordable/starter homes			
Family housing			
Luxury housing			
Private rented accommodation			
Sheltered housing			
Retirement housing/apartments			
Eco friendly housing			
Social housing (e.g. housing association, council-rented, etc.)			

Additional comments:

What sort of new housing development would you like to see in the Foston?

	Yes	No
Large scale developments		
Small developments		
Individually-released plots		
Garden infill development		
Tandem development (ie behind existing development)		

Additional comments:

Part Two

	Yes	No
Do you operate a business from the village?		
If so, what type of business is it?		
Do you work from home?		
If yes, do you work from home over 50% the time?		
Is there any support the village could provide to you and your business / work?		
What changes would help your business / work?		

Additional comments:

Parish Plan Up-date Questionnaire

In 2007, Foston developed a Parish Plan which subsequently achieved a lot throughout the village (eg playing field improvements, conservation initiatives, walking leaflets, etc.) We want to assess what the key areas of concern are in the village seven years on, to help determine ongoing village improvement efforts.

Are you concerned about any of the following in and around the Village?

	Very concerned	Slightly concerned	Not concerned
Adults crossing A1 on foot			
Children crossing A1 on foot			
Dog fouling			
Litter			
Crime			
Anti-social behaviour			
Burglary			
Car crime			
Fly tipping			
Noise pollution			
Air pollution			
Light pollution			

Additional comments:

What changes are needed with regards to the following transport issues?

	Need to change	No need to change
Speed of vehicles through Foston		
Parking in Foston		
Road maintenance		
Cycle paths		
Pavements		
Traffic calming		
Street lighting		

Suggestions for change needed:

Additional comments:

Should funds be available, what priority would you give to providing the following services and facilities?

	High Priority	Low Priority
Installing closed circuit TV cameras at village entrances and exits		
Foot bridge over the A1 to service station		
Paved footpath between Marshall Way and Foston Lodge at the bottom of Newark Hill		
Allotments		
Improvements to the playground or sport facilities		
Cycle path from Foston to Grantham		

Additional comments:

Is there anything else you would like to mention which hasn't been covered in this document?

Thank you for your support! We very much appreciate the time you have taken.

From your
Foston Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Please contact one of the following individuals if you have any queries or need your completed questionnaire picking up.

Which of the following amenities do you use? (please tick)

St Peter's Church	
Village Hall	
Scout Hut	
Playing field	
Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)	
Children's play area	
Countryside walks (please state which ones overleaf)	
Public bus service (please state which services overleaf)	
CallConnect Service	
School bus services	
A1 Services shop and other facilities	
A1 Service cash machine	

Who	Area covered	Contact Number
Ian Hesford	Long Street	01400 281441
Christina Lees	Wilkinson Road, Burgin Close, Tow Lane and Newark Hill	01400 281309
Lucy Bliss	Main Street, Allington Lane and Great North Road	01400 282661
John Lucey	Church Street and Highfield Close	01400 281933
Tracey Gardner	Goosegate Lane, Back Lane and Chapel Lane	01400 282727

**Foston's
Neighbourhood Plan**
*Planning for our Future
...Together*

Foston Neighbourhood Plan

Output from Issues Questionnaire (October 2014)

1. Introduction

Foston is in the throes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan which will become a road map for the village going forward. A vital part of the planning process is to engage with the residents and give them a say on the future development of the village. Progress to-date has been outlined in various newsletters that have been circulated to the residents. We are at a crucial stage in the process and a detailed questionnaire has been produced and delivered to all households in early October. The final date for returning the questionnaires has passed and to date we have received 88. This represents a return rate of nearly 40% which is much higher than the nation average. The questionnaire results have now been analysed and inputted on to a master spreadsheet. The questionnaire was in two parts. Part 1 focused on the Parish of Foston and part 2 was an update of the Parish Plan which was produced in 2007.

2. The Parish of Foston

This section deals with the quality of life, the historic fabric of Foston, the local environment, village facilities, motor vehicles and general transport, residential and agricultural and industrial and business development, housing design and development and the composition of new housing. These are dealt with individually below.

2.1 Quality of life

QUALITY OF LIFE	Very Important	Important	Not Important		Very Important	Important	Not Important
Open/green spaces in the village	60	24	2		70%	28%	2%
Rural atmosphere	60	25	0		71%	29%	0%
Public footpaths	60	29	0		67%	33%	0%
Local wildlife and habitats	59	31	1		65%	34%	1%
Views across landscape	57	22	8		66%	25%	9%
Historic landscape	49	23	10		60%	28%	12%
Sense of community	52	20	1		71%	27%	1%
Friendly and safe environment	67	12	1		84%	15%	1%
Separation distance from other villages by countryside	28	28	15		39%	39%	21%
Village activities	41	40	5		48%	47%	6%
Community groups	37	34	7		47%	44%	9%
Easy access to the country side	51	25	3		65%	32%	4%
	621	313	53		63%	32%	5%

95% of the responses felt that the quality of life was very important / important.

2.2 The historic fabric of Foston

HISTORIC FABRIC	Very Important	Important	Not Important		Very Important	Important	Not Important
Conserving the setting of St Peter's Church	70	16	2		80%	18%	2%
Conserving listed buildings / houses	49	35	4		56%	40%	5%
Conserving old buildings / houses not listed	39	33	14		45%	38%	16%
Conserving playing field	57	20	5		70%	24%	6%
	215	104	25		63%	30%	7%

93% of the responses felt that the historic fabric of Foston was very important / important.

The questionnaire allows the respondents to add their comments. In most cases the comments were used to emphasise an item that was already in the questionnaire. One comment was that a small village improves the sense of community.

2.3 The local environment.

ENVIRONMENT	Very Important	Important	Not Important		Very Important	Important	Not Important
Create conservation area in the centre of the village around the church	33	33	13		42%	42%	16%
Protecting local wildlife and habitats	49	42	5		51%	44%	5%
Planting trees by the river	25	33	35		27%	35%	38%
Using the countryside for recreation, e.g. walking, cycling, horse-riding, etc.	47	35	2		56%	42%	2%
	154	143	55		44%	41%	16%
Encourage green energy development of a small scale for domestic, farm and light industry use	10	33	47		11%	37%	52%
Large-scale renewable energy initiatives in the village and surrounding area	6	21	60		7%	24%	69%
	16	54	107		9%	31%	60%

85% of the responses felt that the current rural environment was very important / important, whilst 60% do not feel that green energy development of either a small or large scale are important in our village. There were several open comments within this category: the current balance is about right, large wind turbines do not fit in, move the Village Hall, demolish the Scout Hut and plant flowers on the verges.

2.4 Conserving the village facilities.

CONSERVING VILLAGE FACILITIES	Very Important	Important	Not Important		Very Important	Important	Not Important
Conserving the Parish Church	71	18	2		78%	20%	2%
Conserving and enhancing the Village Hall	61	26	4		67%	29%	4%
Conserving and enhancing the Playing Field	50	42	4		52%	44%	4%
Conserving and enhancing the Scout Hut	39	40	13		42%	43%	14%
Conserving public footpaths and bridleways	58	29	2		65%	33%	2%
Conserving the current rural environment	58	30	2		64%	33%	2%
	337	185	27		61%	34%	5%

95% of the responses felt that that conserving the village facilities was very important / important.

2.5 Transport issues in and through the village.

TRANSPORT ISSUES	Very Important	Important	Not Important		Very Important	Important	Not Important
Improving road safety on Foston's roads	43	41	2		50%	48%	2%
Ensuring safe pedestrian routes throughout Foston	55	31	1		63%	36%	1%
Reduce noise from A1	46	22	18		53%	26%	21%
Create north bound entrance to A1 south of Long Bennington	18	17	40		24%	23%	53%
	162	111	61		49%	33%	18%

82% of responses felt that transport issues were very important / important. This section attracted quote a number of comments. The comments were:

- Noise pollution from the A1 (it is felt that resurfacing the old crossing with modern tarmac would substantially reduce noise)
- Lengthen the southbound slip road into the first lay by
- Minimise large HGVs coming through the village
- Construct a proper foot path to Marshall Way

One pedestrian route includes crossing the A1 crossing at Foston and is identified on the signage approaching Foston as a Pedestrian Crossing. The A1 effectively splits the village in two and isolates the residents on the Allington side. A footbridge would enable pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and walkers to cross the A1 safely. This is the issue causing greatest concern from Parish Plan issues outlined in section 3.

2.6 Residential, agricultural and industrial development.

DEVELOPMENT	Very Important	Important	Not Important		Very Important	Important	Not Important
The development should have low visual impact on the surrounding countryside and should avoid spoiling any views	59	22	7		67%	25%	8%
Development should avoid being taller than our Parish Church of St Peter	70	12	7		79%	13%	8%
The development should avoid areas with existing parking & traffic issues	50	42	3		53%	44%	3%
The development should back on to as few existing houses as possible	47	31	12		52%	34%	13%
The development should be away from areas which are valued and used for recreational activities	47	30	8		55%	35%	9%
The development should aim to preserve hedgerows and green areas	51	29	5		60%	34%	6%
Development should protect the current local amenity for residents and visitors	52	32	1		61%	38%	1%
Farming and light industrial units should be located in areas away from residential sites and those used for recreational activities to avoid loss of amenity	59	20	2		73%	25%	2%
	435	218	45		62%	31%	6%

93% of the responses felt that the sensible control of all developments was very important / important.

2.7 The importance of housing build

HOUSING / BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Very Important	Important	Not Important		Very Important	Important	Not Important
To encourage appropriate and good housing design in keeping with village street scene	52	30	3		61%	35%	4%
To ensure all new development conversions and extensions are in keeping with village character	49	28	6		59%	34%	7%
To set strict design criteria for house extensions and replacement dwellings	38	36	12		44%	42%	14%
To set requirements for types of housing relating to type, size and cost for new developments	31	39	18		35%	44%	20%
To set out criteria for infill developments	38	36	10		45%	43%	12%
To retain buffer zones between industrial / intensive farming units and residential areas	60	23	2		71%	27%	2%
To retain a buffer area between Long Bennington and Foston where all development is restricted	56	20	15		62%	22%	16%
Include sustainable development features in any new development	36	42	8		42%	49%	9%
	360	254	74		52%	37%	11%

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.

46

2.8 The current composition of housing.

CURRENT HOUSING COMPOSITION	Need more	About right	Too many already		Need more	About right	Too many already
Flats	10	53	4		15%	79%	6%
Bungalows	16	25	2		37%	58%	5%
Low cost/affordable/starter homes	43	26	3		60%	36%	4%
Family housing	19	55	5		24%	70%	6%
Luxury housing	3	50	22		4%	67%	29%
Private rented accommodation	12	53	7		17%	74%	10%
Sheltered housing	16	40	7		25%	63%	11%
Retirement housing/apartments	24	43	1		35%	63%	1%
Eco friendly housing	24	37	2		38%	59%	3%
Social housing (e.g. housing association, council-rented, etc.)	9	45	10		14%	70%	16%
	176	427	63		26%	64%	9%

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.

2.9 New housing developments.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS	YES	NO		YES	NO
Large scale developments	1	79		1%	99%
Small developments	26	42		38%	62%
Individually-released plots	58	20		74%	26%
Garden infill development	43	44		49%	51%
Tandem development (ie behind existing development)	28	53		35%	65%
	156	238		40%	60%

Respondents are generally in favour for development on individually-released plots or as garden infill. As can be seen in the above table, only one person was in favour of large scale developments.

2.10 Businesses operating in Foston.

There were 24 people operating businesses from Foston and they all would like faster broadband.

3. Parish Plan Up-date.

ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE	Very concerned	Slightly concerned	Not concerned		Very concerned	Slightly concerned	Not concerned
Children crossing A1 on foot	55	7	19		68%	9%	23%
Adults crossing A1 on foot	47	16	22		55%	19%	26%
Crossing A1 (total)	102	23	41		61%	14%	25%
Fly tipping	41	31	17		46%	35%	19%
Noise pollution	38	26	22		44%	30%	26%
Car crime	38	28	23		43%	31%	26%
Dog fouling	36	39	11		42%	45%	13%
Air pollution	25	27	26		32%	35%	33%
Litter	22	36	18		29%	47%	24%
Burglary	14	27	32		19%	37%	44%
Light pollution	14	29	39		17%	35%	48%
Crime	10	48	15		14%	66%	21%
Anti-social behaviour	9	35	38		11%	43%	46%
	349	349	282		36%	36%	29%

The issues respondents are concerned about in the village are listed above in order of concern. Crossing the A1 on foot, fly tipping, noise pollution, car crime and dog fouling were the main concerns. Open comments stressed the issues of dog fouling (with suggestions of more dog fouling bins) and the proper repair of pot holes. As has already been mentioned the resurfacing of the old A1 crossing would substantially reduce the noise pollution. Suggestions for reducing fly tipping included CCTV at the ford.

3.1 Changes require to address transport issues.

CHANGES TO TRAFFIC	Need to change	No need to change		Need to change	No need to change
Road maintenance	60	20		75%	25%
Speed of vehicles through Foston	40	40		50%	50%
Pavements	41	35		54%	46%
Cycle paths	34	41		45%	55%
Traffic calming	18	55		25%	75%
Street lighting	19	59		24%	76%
Parking in Foston	2	63		3%	97%
	214	313		41%	59%

Respondents were split regarding changes to traffic in the village. A majority are in favour of improving road maintenance and pavements, as well as reducing speed through the village. The speed issue is intriguing as it is generally the residents who drive too fast towards and through the village!!! It was also noted that speed down Chapel Lane on route to the playing fields and/or the Scout Hut is also an issue. The use of close circuit TV was not supported. One comment suggested that we should have a speed indicator at the bottom of Newark Hill which informs drivers of their speed as they enter the village, whilst another suggested extending the 30mph limit to the fishing lakes. A number of responses wanted a foot path all the way to Marshall Way as it would also be useful to cyclists.

3.2 Should funds become available what would be your priority?

48

PRIORITY FOR FUNDING	High Priority	Low Priority		High Priority	Low Priority
Paved footpath between Marshall Way and Foston Lodge at the bottom of Newark Hill	58	21		73%	27%
Improvements to the playground or sport facilities	33	42		44%	56%
Foot bridge over the A1 to service station	32	41		44%	56%
Cycle path from Foston to Grantham	31	43		42%	58%
Installing closed circuit TV cameras at village entrances and exits	18	56		24%	76%
Allotments	16	55		23%	77%
	188	258		42%	58%

The most favoured facility for funding was a footpath all the way to Marshall Way. Improvements to the playing fields and a foot bridge over the A1 were the next desired improvements. Close circuit TV was not well supported.

3.3 Current usage of village amenities.

WHICH VILLAGE AMENITIES ARE USED?	
Village Hall	55
Countryside walks (please state which ones overleaf)	50
St Peter's Church	37
Playing field	30
Children's play area	26
Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)	20
A1 Services shop and other facilities	16
A1 Service cash machine	10
Public bus service (please state which services overleaf)	6
School bus services	6
Scout Hut	5
CallConnect Service	5

The most used amenities were the Village Hall, countryside walks, St. Peter's church, and the playing field.

Appendix 8 – Housing Needs Survey 2014 – issued by SKDC

Rural Housing Needs Survey

Part A

Q1 DETAILS OF RESPONDENT

Please give the number of people in your household, including you, that fall into each of these age categories (please enter a number in each box)

Child (under 16 years of age) Young Adult (17-24 years old)

Adults (25-64 years) Pensioner (65 years old +)

Which category best describes your household (please circle)

One person household / Couple / Two parent family / Lone parent family

Other (please specify)

Q2 HOUSING CIRCUMSTANCES

What is your current housing situation? (please circle)

Owner occupier-mortgage Owner occupier-no mortgage Private renting
Rented Council house Housing Association renting Living with parents
Housing Assoc. shared ownership* Accommodation tied to employment
Other (please specify)

Do you live in? (please circle)

House / Bungalow / Flat (apartment) / Mobile Home

One Bed / Two Bed / Three bed / Four bed / Five bed plus

*See back page for definition of shared ownership (now called New Build HomeBuy)

Q3 LIFE IN THE PARISH

Do you feel that the parish benefits from the following? (please circle)

Good reputation	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
Nice place to live	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
Balanced and varied population	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
Friendly atmosphere/community spirit	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW

2

Do you feel that the parish suffers from the following? (please circle)

Crime	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
Anti social behaviour	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
Lack of adequate housing	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
Lack of facilities, e.g. shops, transport	YES / NO / DON'T KNOW

Comments:

.....
.....

Q4 LOCAL HOUSING

Do you know of anyone who has had to leave the parish in the last 5 years through lack of suitable or affordable housing? (please circle)

Yes / No If yes, how many people?

If the people referred to above would like to complete a Housing Needs Survey questionnaire, please ask them to call 01476 406371 to request a survey form.

If there was a local need identified would you be in favour of a SMALL scheme (average 6-12 units) of new affordable homes for rent/New Build HomeBuy* in the parish, for LOCAL people? (please circle)

Yes / No / Don't Know

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE PARISH PLEASE COMPLETE QUESTIONS 5 – 12 IN PART B

IF NOT, THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. PLEASE RETURN THE FORM IN THE FREEPOST ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

Part B

PLEASE COMPLETE QUESTIONS 5 - 12 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR HOUSING THAT MAY RESULT FROM THIS SURVEY. THIS HOUSING COULD BE:

AFFORDABLE RENTED PROPERTIES or NEW BUILD HOMEBUY PROPERTIES

Q5 – DETAILS OF PERSON REQUIRING HOUSING

Title (please circle) Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr

Name

Address

Telephone numbers

Home

Mobile

Date of birth

When will you require alternative accommodation? (please circle)

Immediately / within 2 two years / 2-5 years

What is your current housing situation? (Please tick)

Owner occupier-mortgage

Owner occupier-no mortgage

Private renting

Housing Association renting

Rented Council house

Housing Assoc. shared ownership*

Living with parents

Accommodation tied to employment

Other (please specify)

Do you live in (please circle)

House / Bungalow / Flat (apartment) /

Mobile home / Other (please specify)

No. of Bedrooms (please circle)

One bed / two bed / three bed /

four bed / five plus bed

Q6 – HOUSING NEED

Please indicate why you feel you will need alternative accommodation

(please tick all that apply)

Need larger accommodation

Need independent accommodation

Need to be closer to employment

Need to be closer to carer/dependent

Need to move to supported housing

Need physically adapted property

Need smaller accommodation

Need first home

Need to change tenure

Need cheaper home

Need to avoid harassment

Need certainty of tenancy

Other

Q7 – LOCAL CONNECTION

Do you: (please tick all boxes that apply)

Currently live in the parish

(If so, for years)

Have previously lived in the parish

(If so, for years)

Have permanent work in the parish

(If so, for years)

Have immediate family in the parish

(If so, for years)

Have another strong connection to the parish? (please specify)

.....

Q8 – HOUSING REGISTER

Are you listed on Housing Registers? (please circle all that apply)

Yes

No

Local Authority Housing Register

Housing Association Register

If you are not listed on a housing register, we would recommend that you do so. Please contact South Kesteven District Council, on 01476 406371

5

Q9 - Family Details (if they would live with you)

TITLE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO YOU	DATE OF BIRTH

Q9 – Special Requirements

Please state if there are any specific housing needs (e.g. mobility/disability, additional support etc)

.....

Q10 – Housing Requirements

Would you wish to be considered for? (Please circle)

Rented housing* / New Build HomeBuy *

*see back page for definitions of housing/tenure types

What type/size of accommodation would be required? (Please tick)

	HOUSE	BUNGALOW
ONE BEDROOM		
TWO BEDROOM		
THREE BEDROOM		
FOUR BEDROOM		

Q12 - Financial Information (we need this information to be sure that the housing is affordable)

What is your basic annual household income (pre tax)? (Please circle)

Below £14,999	£15-£19,999	£20-£24,999	£25-£29,999	£30-£39,999
£40-£49,999	£50-£59,999	£60-£69,999	£70-£79,999	£80-£89,999
£90-£99,999	£100,000 +	£110-114k	£115-£119k	£120k+

Comments:-

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6

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION, PART C, QUESTION 13 - IF YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN AFFORD APPROPRIATE PRIVATE MARKET ACCOMMODATION SUITABLE TO YOUR NEEDS THAT WOULD ENABLE YOU TO REMAIN LIVING IN FOSTON.

Part C**Q13 Market Housing: Stay or Move?**

A) If and when you did downsize would you consider staying in the village if suitable accommodation was available? – YES/NO

IF YES, (CIRCLE as per needs) - 1 BED, 2 BED, HOUSE, BUNGALOW, OTHER =

When? – 1 year, 2 year, 3 year or specifyyears, from now.

B) Are there any dependents who would wish to stay also? – YES/NO

IF YES, (CIRCLE as per needs) - 1 BED, 2 BED, HOUSE, BUNGALOW, OTHER

OTHER =

C) As a Foston resident do you know of any person who has lived here previously or has strong local connections that might wish to return here if appropriate private/market housing was available? – YES/NO

IF YES, GIVE DETAILS -

.....

D) If there was a local need identified would you be in favour of a SMALL scheme of 10 – 15 private market houses in Foston Parish? – YES / NO

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Please return it in the freepost envelope provided by..... (date)

***Additional Information on Affordable Housing in rural parishes.**

Any small scale scheme may include a mix of property sizes, types and tenures. Affordable housing may be available for rent and shared ownership.

Rented social housing properties are made available at an affordable rent, to people with a strong local connection, who cannot afford to rent or purchase on the open market and are considered to be in housing need by the Local Authority. When managed by a Housing Association, this type of property always remains in the ownership of the Housing Association and residents do not have the opportunity to purchase the house under the 'right to buy' scheme. This means that the houses will always be available to local people and will remain affordable.

New Build HomeBuy is an alternative to renting or full ownership of a home. It is particularly suitable for people who have a regular income and want to buy their own home, but cannot currently afford to do so. Under a New Build HomeBuy scheme you can buy a share of your home and pay a small rent on the remaining share. By retaining a share of the house, the Housing Association can ensure that the home is used to provide housing for a local person/s in need of an affordable home when it is sold on. Part owners of a property developed within an affordable scheme are not able to buy the property outright. If the property is sold, it would be valued and the part owner would receive their proportion of the sale price. In this way they would benefit from any increase in the value of the property, should this occur.

If you have any questions regarding this survey or require any additional forms, please contact :

South Kesteven District Council
Council Offices
St Peters Hill
Grantham
Lincs
NG31 6PZ
w: www.southkesteven.gov.uk
e: m.gee@southkesteven.gcsx.gov.uk |

Notes

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Appendix 9 – List of Statutory Consultees

STATUTORY AGENCIES:

The Environment Agency
Natural England
Highways England
English Heritage
Homes and Communities Agency
South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

LANDOWNERS:

8 Foston landowners

LOCAL AUTHORITIES and PARISHES:

South Kesteven District Council
SKDC Heritage Officer
Lincolnshire County Council
Lincolnshire County Council Highways
Westborough and Dry Doddington Parish Council
Stubton Parish Council
Hougham Parish Council
Allington Parish Council
Long Bennington Parish Council
Sedgebrook Parish Council
Marston Parish Council

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire
CPRE
Federation of Small Businesses
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
National Farmers Union
Greater Lincolnshire LEP
National Trust
The Woodland Trust
Ramblers Association
Sustrans

UTILITY COMPANIES:

Anglian Water Services
Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board
Mobile Operators Association
Central Networks
E.ON Energy
National Grid
Openreach (BT)

Appendix 10 – Letters to Statutory Consultees and Landowners

Initial Letter to Statutory Consultees

FOSTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Mrs W. McCallin, Clensey House, Dry Doddington, NEWARK, Notts NG23 5HT
Telephone: 01400 282001 Email: foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk

November 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

Foston Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation

Foston Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan covering all of the Parish Area. The work is being managed by a working group comprising parish council members, local residents and business owners.

In addition to finding out the views of local people and businesses through a comprehensive engagement and consultation programme, the working group wishes to obtain the views of statutory bodies and other interested organisations.

Any views or input that you wish to make are welcomed.

Please make all representations in writing to Mrs Wendy McCallin, Clerk to Foston Parish Council. They can either be emailed or posted to me at the above address.

The draft plan will be produced early in 2015, please let me know if you would like to be consulted on this and your preferred email or contact details?

More information on Foston is available on the web site: www.fostonvillage.org.uk. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any matter prior to submitting your comments.

Yours sincerely

Wendy McCallin (Mrs)
Clerk

**Foston a
Quality Parish Council**



Response email to Statutory Consultees commenting on Initial Letter

January 2016

Dear

Thank you for your response to the Foston Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

Please find below the link to the summary of all responses, action and schedule of amendments in Response to Consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan

http://www.fostonvillage.org.uk/pdf/Comments_overview_from_Draft_NP_FINAL.pdf

A copy of the draft plan and other documents can be found in the Parish Council section of the Foston village website or at the link below
http://www.fostonvillage.org.uk/fostonj/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=156&Itemid=40

Thank you again for your response.

Yours sincerely
Wendy McCallin
Clerk
01400 282001

Letter/email informing Statutory Consultees of Statutory Consultation

September 2015

Dear Sirs

FOSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2016 – 2026

Foston Parish Council has produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan for the period 2016–2026 which is now available for the required minimum 6-week consultation period (ending 4 November 2015). The Plan sets out a number of key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications.

The draft Plan and associated appendices can be viewed at www.fostonvillage.org.uk (under the section Neighbourhood Development Plan). Web link: <http://www.fostonvillage.org.uk/fostonj/index.php?option=comcontent&view=article&id=156&Itemid=40>

We write to give you the opportunity to review the draft plan and comment. Comments can be sent to Wendy McCallin at foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk or forwarded to Mrs Wendy McCallin, Foston Parish Council, Clensey House, Dry Doddington, Newark, Notts Tel: 01400 282001.

Please note that the closing date for comments is 4th November 2015. Unfortunately comments received after this date cannot be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Wendy McCallin (Mrs)

For and on behalf of
Foston Parish Council
Foston Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Letter informing landowners of Statutory Consultation

14 September 2015

Dear Foston Landowner

FOSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2016 – 2026

Foston Parish Council has produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan for the period 2016–2026 which is now available for the required minimum 6-week consultation period (ending 4 November 2015). The Plan sets out a number of key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications.

The draft Plan and associated appendices can be viewed at www.fostonvillage.org.uk (under the section Neighbourhood Development Plan). Web link: <http://www.fostonvillage.org.uk/fostonj/index.php?option=comcontent&view=article&id=156&Itemid=40>

We write to give you the opportunity to review the draft plan and comment. Please contact me if you would like to view a paper copy.

Comments can be sent to Wendy McCallin at foston.parishcouncil@fostonvillage.org.uk or forwarded to Mrs Wendy McCallin, Foston Parish Council, Clensey House, Dry Doddington, Newark, Notts Tel: 01400 282001.

Please note that the closing date for comments is 4th November 2015. Unfortunately comments received after this date cannot be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely

Wendy McCallin (Mrs)

For and on behalf of
Foston Parish Council
Foston Neighbourhood Plan Working Group