

JANUARY QUESTIONNAIRE 2014: ANALYSIS

35 Questionnaires Returned

Should the Plan provide design guidance for any new development (or adaptations/conversions of existing buildings) to ensure appropriate materials, scale and form?

Yes = 33

No = 2

Comments:

- Conversion of existing buildings and construction of new should use materials sympathetic to existing heritage and historic buildings, notably brick, stone and pantile colours.
- No. Local authority planning officers are trained and experienced in assessing such matters. The weakness in the system is that individual and community responses to planning applications are often ignored by the planning committee, even against the recommendation of the officers. Local authorities can provide design guides for conservation areas, but these tend to become over-prescriptive and stifle good-quality modern design.
- Yes, but creativity in appropriate locations should not be ruled out without some consideration.

We have many Listed Buildings within the Parish, but would you like to suggest other buildings or features of special interest to go onto a local list of “positive unlisted structures” within Neighbourhood Plan? If so please say which and why.

Yes = 20

No = 10

Comments:

- Such structures have a big effect on ambiance.
- English Heritage already has a good system for this.
- Water Pump near Church, historical interest.
- Hough Grange cluster of buildings.
- Gelston Cross due to historical significance.
- Loveden Hill, Stubton Church, valley scene and view of Lincoln cathedral on horizon.
- Gelston village green, with its ancient Cross, and Pinfold, should be protected.
- Quiet rurality of Thompson's Lane in Hough.
- Buildings around the church and Brownlow Arms due to their unique features and positive visual impact on the village.
- Whole village dwellings! Specifically Brownlow and attached houses, Hough House, Vicarage, church Farm, School House, Hough Manor etc.
- Stone walls on Hough High Road and Grantham Road; well doors and brickwork surrounds.
- At present I do not know which buildings are unlisted.
- Buildings and cobbled path on India Rubber Hill in Hough.
- The whole street in front of Hough church, incorporating the Rectory and Brownlow Arms.
- I enjoy seeing the preservation of the buildings associated with our rural heritage - farm outbuildings and barns, eg small brick barn on Hall Road footpath; stone barn in field adjacent to NE Brandon. In addition there is an inconsistent approach to listing. The history of Brandon is evident in the stone (church, Old Hall), later hand-made brick (1800s) houses. Many of these are unlisted.
- Might reinforce the importance of the character and design value of our villages.

- No. Buildings are listed due to their special architectural or historic interest, and the processes of selection and grading are well established. The system relates to the identification, and ultimately the protection, of specific buildings and does not, other than listing for group value, consider wider community issues. Spaces can be identified and protected through conservation area designation. Local lists have been around for many years, and their worth depends on how local authorities wishes to use and rely upon them. The risk is that local lists, without clear guidance and a level of prescription, are not comparable across counties, districts or communities and can too often be used to preserve, rather than conserve, the historic environment.
- The Ancient Pond at Old Hall Cottage, Brandon; the Well at the end of Church Lane, Brandon.
- There is a well in Brandon would be good to put on list.

Would you support the provision of new hard-surface recreational facilities on the Playing Field in Hough on the Hill (future funds permitting)?

Yes = 23

No = 6

Comments:

- Supportable idea, but would probably not make use of it.
- Yes, but only if there is evidenced demand and available resources. I would not be affected by this proposed development, so the views of local residents would be more relevant.
- A MUGA would be useful. The usage would need to merit the amount of time, effort and funding put into the scheme.
- Facility at Brandon first.

Would you like to see improved access (paths, bridleways etc) for walkers and horseriders?

Yes = 30

No = 3

Comments:

- I enjoy jogging/walking in the countryside, improved access would be beneficial.
- Yes, but not to the extent of vehicular access.
- Yes, and cycling off road. This area is very popular with cyclists, with natural routes passing through.
- Yes, but with the correct designation. The current BOAT (by-way open to all traffic) on Loveden Hill is problematic as it attracts off-road bike and vehicle users that damage the surface and detract from the qualities of the space.
- Would also like to see better maintenance of existing paths and bridleways.
- Some never cut or maintained.

Do you think there should be more affordable housing available within the Parish. If so please state why.

Yes = 16

No = 17

Comments:

- No bus service.
- Not sure how you define affordable housing.
- Yes - helps enable the villages to thrive.
- Yes, old population, need younger residents and housing for local workers.
- Yes, to attract younger people.
- Yes, the local community needs rural workers and starter homes.

- No, we want village to remain as it is. Village should be untouched.
- No, lack of public transport, local employment opportunities and other local services.
- Yes, to make for a socially and economically balanced community that is sustainable into the future.
- No, because there are no jobs here or facilities.
- Yes. Housing is needed for younger people and their families. It is not good if the area becomes one where only the wealthy, middle-aged, middle-class can afford to live.
- Yes, so our children are not forced to leave the area.
- Yes, but only located where there is infrastructure and bus routes. So more sensibly in/adjacent Caythorpe.
- Yes, to retain a balanced community.
- Yes, but only if there is evidenced demand and preference for local families. Blakeney in Norfolk has a local trust that provides housing only for people resident in the town.
- Draft Plan suggests there is a need for affordable housing. It would make it possible for first-time buyers to live in the Parish and also for residents who want to downsize to stay in the Parish. The Parish is in danger of becoming a commuter/pensioner Parish without provision of affordable housing in the future.
- There are insufficient facilities to support more housing.

A Neighbourhood Plan can designate areas as 'Local Green Space' (see leaflet for explanation). Do you agree that Loveden Hill should be so designated because of its unique beauty and historic significance within our landscape character? Are there any other areas you would like to see designated in this way?

Yes = 32

No = 2

Comments:

- Also the archaeological space in Hough on the Hill.
- The slopes from Folly Lane down Bosom Hill, plus the Wilderness and the Monastery Field site.
- I would like to see all slopes of the Caythorpe-Gelston ridge left open and undeveloped.
- Fox Wood due to its biodiversity and wildlife habitats.
- Yes and also woods around the Parish, eg Fox Covert, Beighton's Copse (Gorse?) and the woods near Moor Barn and Laughton's Farm.
- Yes, as many as possible.
- Yes, and old quarry workings to east of Hough.
- Yes; Brandon village green adjacent to the church; area of woodland east of Brandon, below Caythorpe. The view from Hough across the vale.
- Green in Brandon; Bosom Hill in Hough.
- Yes, but designation without teeth is worthless. Will designation be able to address the situation of inappropriate use and what restrictions will be applied to local landowners?

Do you think this Parish should be doing more to encourage homeowners and businesses develop local renewable energy provision?

Yes = 21

No = 12

Comments:

- We should look at 'whole community' approaches to renewables.
- Small scale renewables for local use, eg ground source heat pumps, solar panels etc.
- Renewable energy proposals should be small scale, appropriate to the character of the area.

- Keep it small and non-intrusive.
- In so far as it is not intrusive to the landscape.
- Solar panels are ok; wind turbines no.
- Yes but renewable energy schemes should not include windfarms or schemes which had an adverse visual impact.
- Renewable energy provision is ugly and inefficient. What we need is fast broadband.
- Yes but not poorly sited solar.
- Yes, relax permission for solar on listed buildings, combined heat and power boilers, ground source energy schemes for one or more properties.
- No. The benefits and economies of local energy production are unproven and provision of wind turbines, solar or PV panels, and visible air-source plant would be counter-productive when set in the context of other issues. There is plenty of available information and parish councils will only reasonably be able to pass on existing information without resources for research and dissemination. We have an excellent local facility with the Hockerton Housing project (<http://www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/>), which provides publications and courses for various levels of audience.
- Solar panel fields don't impact on the local area like wind turbines.
- Each house to provide its own energy on their own land.
- Action is needed at District or County levels.

Any further comments you wish to make (continue overleaf if required)?

- The Parish Council needs to be 'proactive' not 'reactive'.
- Encourage visitors, eg maps of local interest, walks, places to stay etc.
- Open up the tower of All Saints Church to enjoy the stunning views.
- We love the walks and views. Maybe we could have a policy to protect these.
- New development must take account of existing limitations of mains services, ie water, electricity, surface drainage and sewerage. If these services are to be improved, costs and who is to pay must be clearly attributed prior to approvals.
- I am opposed to any developments not in keeping with the village and surrounding countryside.
- It is important to maintain the unspoilt nature of the views, countryside and surrounding villages/houses.
- Should the Plan be approved or not, I suggest a review be taken after 5/6/7 years.
- We would not want to see existing buildings/barns demolished and replaced by new buildings.
- Press councils for weight restriction on roads, especially C0001.