



A Neighbourhood Plan for Bottisham

Dear Resident,

August 2024

We last updated you with progress on the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan (NP) in the July edition of The Cresset. These updates are also available on the Bottisham Parish Council Website. Due to the summer months marginal progress has been made and this has been primarily concentrated on gathering evidence to support the aspirations you gave in the 2023 Survey project. The structure of the plan and its contents will be discussed by the Bottisham Working Group (BWG) at its meeting planned for the middle of September, when we also hope to be able to set a date for residents to view and to comment on the plan so far.

The survey was delivered to 1000 Bottisham households from which 168 responses were received – this equates to a 17% response rate. 160 responses were from the 40 plus age group. 73 responses were sent in online and 95 responses were submitted on the form provided with the survey. 80% of residents who completed the survey expressed the view that Bottisham could not withstand more housing.

Other concerns also expressed comprise - in order:

1. Too much car traffic
2. Poor infrastructure / transport
3. Few community activities for young people
4. Not enough affordable housing
5. Limited employment opportunities
6. Poor local services
7. Size/Growth of education provision
8. Too remote

Whilst the plan cannot address all of these issues directly, they are recognised. It is essential therefore, that the NP exercises every effort to ensure these views are taken into account. In so doing the NP must also strategize to meet a potential need for additional housing with suitable amounts and types of mixed housing. An additional consideration in looking at future development is to address the view that local infrastructure is not able to absorb a larger population. Residents also tell us that they would like to protect and preserve the topography of the countryside around us, and that they value the tranquillity this characteristic brings - but, above all, that they wish to have a much greater say on the future development of their local area.

A collation of the survey results and previous consultations have been translated in to a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis. This can also be accessed via the Bottisham Parish Council Web Site.

Given the demands that will inevitably be placed upon the village by central government and by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for additional housing, we believe we have struck an equitable balance in identifying a site that will minimise the effect on the historic core of the village settlement whilst offering sufficient land for possible housing growth over the decades to come. By proposing a designated site we believe that our protected areas and our local green spaces can be kept entirely free from all forms of development. But we also recognise that not everybody might agree with our assessment.

Please note the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan logo at the top of this article.

BWG