

EAST BRIDGFORD COMMUNITY PLAN 2019

**As presented to the Village Meeting
21st February 2019**

This version is based on the Interim Version presented in June 2018, updated to take account of later developments, particularly Rushcliffe Borough Council's Local Plan which proposes 125 new homes in the Green Belt around East Bridgford.

It is important that the Community Plan reflects as far as is possible the views of East Bridgford residents which may differ from those of the authorities. However, the Plan may be further updated to take account of the decisions of the Planning Inspector on the RBC Local Plan when they are known.

This version will be presented for discussion and endorsement at a Village Meeting on 21st February 2019.

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1 FOREWORD

As residents of East Bridgford we like it much as it is. The aims of the East Bridgford Community Plan 2018 are:

- *to keep all the things that we like so much;*
- *to improve those we dislike;*
- *to present a strategic vision for the future of the Parish;*
- *to develop Action Plans for improvements.*

It is fifteen years since the last East Bridgford Village Plan in 2003, so it is now time for a new Community-led Plan. Some important problems, like traffic and parking have become much worse. There are also new challenges: the biggest is Rushcliffe Borough Council's plan to permit the building of 125 new homes in the Green Belt surrounding the village - a 15% increase in the number of homes in the village.

The creation of the East Bridgford Community Plan Group (EBCPG) was endorsed by the Parish Council. It is organised by volunteers, all residents of East Bridgford. The group is independent but includes some present (and past) Parish Councillors who have volunteered in a personal capacity.

The Plan is based on the wishes of the residents established by consultation via the Household Appraisal Questionnaire sent to all residents in the village in 2016, with separate Appraisals for Young People aged 11-18 and for Businesses. These Appraisal findings have been augmented by residents' comments made at the Drop-in Consultation in December 2017.

The Community Plan is only advisory, but it does provide a basis for negotiating improvements with public bodies (the Parish Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council) and the many service providers (such as Severn Trent Water Authority, broadband & mobile phone operators and public transport providers).

A successful Community Plan depends on the active support of the village community. The Community Plan Steering Group has tried to keep the Village involved in the Community Plan as it develops:

- *An Interim Version was published in June 2018*
- *A Short Summary leaflet responding to the RBC Local Plan proposal for 125 new homes in the Green Belt surrounding East Bridgford was published in the September 2018 Village Magazine*
- *A Village Meeting on February 21st 2019 will focus on developing detailed action plans*

The Community Plan Report is just the start of a process. The Community Plan Steering Group has prepared this Community Plan Report. It is now publicly available and concludes this stage of the Community Plan process.

It is now the responsibility of village volunteers and the Parish Council to take the work forward in the form of Action Plans. This will be the focus of the village meeting on the 21st February 2019

We ask for your active participation in the meeting and in those resulting Action Plan Groups that best represent your own interests as concerned villagers.

Patsy Andrews
Chair of Community Plan Steering Group

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Community Plans are part of the process of community involvement in the planning process. They are however merely advisory, only the more detailed and demanding Neighbourhood Plans have a formal influence on local planning decisions.

The aim of the Community Plan is not just to establish the facts and villagers' priorities, propose solutions to problems and suggest action plans. It is also to develop a strategic vision for the future of the Parish.

To do this the Community Plan Group (CPG) has had to extrapolate from the Appraisal data and react to the developments coming later than the Appraisals, such as Rushcliffe Borough Council's series of consultations on extending EB into the Green Belt and the publication of the RBC Local Plan.

The essence of Community Plans is that they are genuinely community led. This Community Plan is based on the input of volunteers coordinated by the Community Plan Group Steering Committee.

Regular reports to the village community have been made:

- In 2016 three Appraisals (questionnaires) were delivered to all households and businesses in the parish of East Bridgford. 45% of all EB households, representing 632 adults, answered the Household Appraisal, additional Appraisals focused on Young People aged 11-18 and Businesses. 354 households accounting for 632 adults responded to the 109 question Household Appraisal (an estimated 45% response rate). Spreadsheets showing the statistics have been posted on the Community Plan page of the Village website
- In December 2016 villagers were invited to a public meeting where the top line results were presented;
- A year later, in December 2017 the CPG held a Drop-in Event to report on progress and receive feedback on all issues, including the Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) proposals for new homes in the Green Belt surrounding EB.
- There were also updates from the CPG at the Annual Parish Meetings in 2017 and 2018.
- The Village Magazine has reported on CP progress, notably with an 8 page insert published in September 2018
- Updates have also been posted on the Community Plan page of the Village website.
- A Public Meeting is planned for 21st February 2019 to agree on the Next Stage: Endorsement of the Plan, Implementation and Action Plans

The EB Parish Council endorsed the setting up of the Community Plan process and provided funding. Up to now it has stood aloof from the Community Plan Group's activities and conclusions.

If the Community Plan Report and Action Plans are approved at the February 21st village meeting, The EBPC will be asked to take a decision on whether to endorse the Community Plan as a whole or in part.

The Household Appraisal recorded overwhelming opposition to an expansion of EB into the Green Belt. The CPG considered that national/borough priorities could override these local concerns and concluded that if expansion was imposed on the village then there should compensating gains for the village.

The RBC planners have proposed a series of different expansion plans culminating in the RBC Local Plan 2 which proposes to give planning permission for 125 new homes on four Green Belt sites on the north and south sides of Butt Lane.

Objections have been raised to these proposals, so they are currently being reviewed by a Planning Inspector. At the time of writing his decision is not known. The decisions of the planning authorities will be unavoidable, but they will not necessarily change the opinions of EB residents that the Community Plan tries to reflect.

2.2 COMMUNITY PLAN GROUP TASK GROUP - KEY PROPOSALS

2.2.1 Developing & Adopting A Strategic Vision For The Future of EB based on:

- 2.2.1.1 Maintaining EB's current character with distinct separation from other towns/villages, especially from the growing encroachment from Bingham**
- 2.2.1.2 As the village overwhelmingly opposes any expansion into the Green Belt, if any significant changes to the Green Belt are proposed, then the village should have a say in where and what is to be built, so that EB's character is preserved and the village benefits.**
- 2.2.1.3 Ensuring a vibrant community, the viability of existing retail facilities and a balance across the age structure**
- 2.2.1.4 The provision of excellent public services including sports and leisure facilities for all ages.**

2.2.2 Addressing the Traffic and Parking Problems

- 2.2.2.1 The Volume and Speed of Traffic;**
- 2.2.2.2 Parking Congestion;**
- 2.2.2.3 Non-Village Vehicles Cutting Through the Village to Avoid Bottle Necks on the Major Roads**

2.2.3 Addressing Particular Areas of Poor Public Services:

- 2.2.3.1 mobile phone reception, broadband provision**
- 2.2.3.2 evening and weekend bus services**
- 2.2.3.3 poor condition of roads and pavements**

2.2.4 Ensuring That Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) Proposals To Build Houses On The Green Belt Are Matched By:

- 2.2.4.1 Adequate public services, especially sewage which is already under strain**
- 2.2.4.2 Expansion of primary school places in other parishes currently relying on St. Peters**

2.2.5 Providing Better Recreation, Leisure Space and Facilities, Especially for Those of Secondary School Age

2.2.6 Increasing the Involvement of All Residents In the Affairs of the Village:

- 2.2.6.1 More effective communication to the authorities of village opinion on issues affecting EB**
- 2.2.6.2 Better communication by the Parish Council of its role and its councilors**
- 2.2.6.3 Support for modern, informal and timely sources of information alongside the formal Village web site which would continue as a website of record**

2.2.7 Tackling Environmental and Wildlife Concerns:

- 2.2.7.1 The adoption of an East Bridgford Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy**
- 2.2.7.2 Lack of any wildlife sites with formal protection status**

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2.2.8 Key Facts & Priorities By Topic

Analysis of the Appraisal data and the development of key policies was organised by CP Task Groups - we summarise the findings and the CPG conclusions here; the full report follows on pages 10-36. The priorities are highlighted in bullet points.

2.2.8.1 Village Demographics Priorities

The Parish population is just over 1,800, in around 800 households. Almost 60% of the population had been added since 1951. The 2011 Census showed that compared to Rushcliffe BC and even more to the rest of England, East Bridgford residents are older, with fewer pre-school children.

- Unless younger families replace departing older residents in either existing or new homes the village may become less vibrant.
- The RBC proposal of 125 new homes in the next few years will represent a 15% increase in the population - a faster rate than the village has ever experienced. In the Appraisal the Villagers strongly opposed any developments into the Green Belt

2.2.8.2 Village Structure, The Conservation Area and Village-Scape Priorities

The village of EB is inset in the Green Belt, but there is no longer much scope for expansion inside the existing village envelope. The village structure over centuries has been based on an irregular grid structure. The RBC's East Bridgford Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan of July 2008 (CAMP) provides detailed planning guidance on the Conservation Area and an analysis of the whole village, summarised in the "Townscape Map".

- The large belt of fields between the village and surrounding main roads, the village's perimeter tree planting and the many mature individual trees in the existing village are important elements of the village-scape and should be continued.
- Any significant extension into the Green Belt should be an integrated plan following EB's irregular grid rather than being the piecemeal development of individual developers' sites.
- Developers should follow the guidance of the report "East Bridgford – A Place making Guide" and the "RBC Residential Design Guide" (see Appendix)
- RBC Planning should continue to apply the policies set out in the Conservation Area Management Plan
- The EBPC should continue to use the Townscape Map as a guide when considering planning decisions

2.2.8.3 Building Design Priorities

Much of the development of the last 70 years has been in buildings that do not replicate or enhance the character of the village

- East Bridgford should retain its individuality, sense of place and character
- New buildings, particularly those in any significant expansion into the Green belt should echo EB's traditional style of red brick and pantiles or its modern interpretation. Developers are encouraged to justify how their proposals enhance EB's character and sense of place
- The EBPC should publish an EB Design Guide for property owners, landowners and developers across the parish.

Housing Development Strategy Priorities

Affordability is a real problem for younger families, including those with long family connections with the village.

- Any significant housing expansion into the Green Belt should reflect the housing priorities expressed in the Appraisal. The village's top three priorities for new housing are: sheltered homes for the elderly; starter homes for young people; affordable housing for lower wage earners.
- The village should develop a Strategic Vision for the future of EB

2.2.8.4 Traffic and Parking Priorities

Residents have identified traffic and parking as major problems for EB. Achieving a better balance between the resident/pedestrian and the motor vehicle requires:

- Continued engagement with the authorities to improve traffic conditions within and around the village
- Encouraging residents, EB-based businesses and services like school/medical centre/shops to adapt their own driving behaviour and that of their visitors/suppliers to improve traffic conditions in the village

2.2.8.5 Public Services Priorities

General satisfaction with public services is high.

- The village should continue to monitor public service performance, respond to residents' criticisms and lobby for improvements
- At the time of the Appraisal a significant proportion criticised mobile phone reception, mains drainage/sewage and broadband.
- The capability of services to cope with village expansion merits careful review

2.2.8.6 Roads, Pavements and Footpaths Priorities

A significant proportion of residents were not satisfied with the state of the streets and pavements. The footpaths within the village were thought to be better, as were the access roads.

- The condition of roads, pavements and footpaths should continue to be monitored, and the relevant authorities lobbied to improve their maintenance.
- Dog fouling was recognised as a problem on pavements and footpaths, communal action by dog owners may be more effective solution than more byelaws

2.2.8.7 Environment and Wildlife Priorities

Nearly every household value the key environmental features of EB Parish and most respondents are firmly opposed to any building development in the Green Belt.

There are no legally protected wildlife sites although there is a handful of 'Local Wildlife Sites' (LWS).

- the Parish's Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy to be revised and re-submitted to the Parish Council for implementation

2.2.8.8 The Parish Council and Communications Priorities

Most respondents recognised the good work of the Parish Council and the Village Magazine was highly rated. However, there were suggestions for improvement:

- The Parish Council’s public image should be more visible with better communication and encouraging all sections of the Community (including Young People 11-18 years) to become involved in village affairs.
- There is a need for more timely news than the monthly Village Magazine, perhaps through village-focused social media websites

2.2.8.9 Sport and Leisure Priorities

The contribution of sports and leisure to the life of the village is highly valued and the range and variety of clubs and groups is good. Topping the list of exercise regularly taken by household members are walking, gardening, and cycling.

Outdoor facilities are much better than indoor provision. There is a lack of provision indoor and outdoor for children of secondary school age.

- RBC’s proposed expansion into the Green Belt provides an opportunity to provide informal play areas suitable for young people of secondary school age
- Improved routes for cyclists with links to surrounding villages, especially to Bingham are desired.

2.2.8.10 Young People Priorities

Overall, young people have a favourable opinion of East Bridgford.

However, socializing is important for young people and they need places where they can meet their friends. There were suggestions for additional sports facilities e.g . a multi-use hard surface games area suitable for basketball; better skate ramp; cycle paths; a covered shelter in Butts Field. Leisure suggestions included a meeting places – a café and better public transport in evenings and at weekends.

A majority of Young people considered they did not have a say in the development of the village.

- Involve Young People in Village Decisions that impact them
- Consider additional outdoor space for informal play

2.2.8.11 Business Priorities

EB is in general a good place to do business. However: many businesses complained of poor and variable mobile phone reception; better broadband is crucial to the modern business; unimproved broadband will leave the EB businesses at a disadvantage. Traffic and parking problems vary: some businesses rely on passing traffic being able to stop park for a short time, others want a longer parking option for their customers. Public transport was poor and likely to have an adverse effect on customers.

- Set up an EB Business Group to lobby on issues affecting the business community and participate in relevant village action groups.

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3 THE EAST BRIDGFORD COMMUNITY PLAN REPORT

3.1 THE PARISH OF EAST BRIDGFORD

East Bridgford is a civil parish in the Nottinghamshire Borough of Rushcliffe. It has a population of around 1,850 living in around 800 homes

- Population 1,814, homes 787 (2011 Census); 2015 mid-year population estimate 1,856.

The population is concentrated in the village of East Bridgford.

The parish lies 8 miles east of the city of Nottingham occupying an area of 7,668 hectares, 18,948 acres (Census 2011). It rises from its western boundary with the river Trent to an undulating ridge at a height of one hundred feet above the river. The old A46 trunk road, forms the eastern boundary, the A6097 road marks the boundary to the south-west, while the northern edge is poorly defined, following hedgerows and fields between the A46 and the River Trent.

East Bridgford has a long history extending back to Roman times. The site of the fort of Margidunum lies at the south eastern corner of the Parish on the Fosse Way, the Roman road running from Exeter to Lincoln. A Roman track ran from Margidunum to a ford over the River Trent; this is now the Bridgford Street bridleway that marks the southern boundary of the parish. The Grade 1 Church of St Peter's is the oldest building in village and dates from the 11th century. For several centuries until the 1920s Magdalen College, Oxford was a substantial landowner and had a major impact on the village structure.

More recently the growth in traffic has been a significant influence. First, in the 1930s Gunthorpe Bridge and the new A6097 road replaced the Toll Bridge and traffic no longer passed through the village to cross the river. In 2010 the A46 became dual carriageway and by-passed the Margidunum roundabout bringing the new road closer to the village and creating increased cut-through traffic accessing Gunthorpe Bridge. The dual carriage way new A46 does however provide a strong natural barrier to encroaching development already established on the EB side of the old A46.

The Green Belt has had a significant impact on East Bridgford. The Derby/Nottingham Green Belt was effective informally from 1955 and finally adopted in 1989. The parish is at the northern extremity of the Green Belt on the southern side of the River Trent. The parishes of Car Colston and Bingham on the east side of the A46 and the parish of Kneeton to the north are not in the Green Belt. The village of EB is inset within the Green Belt so that virtually all EB's growth since the 1950s has been infill, changing the previous open structure of the village.

3.2 THE EVIDENCE BASE

The Community Plan Group proposals are developed from the opinions of EB residents in 2016 when three questionnaires were distributed to all in East Bridgford. The questions posed were those that seemed most relevant when the CPG designed the questionnaires.

3.2.1 The 3 Appraisals

- The Household Appraisal with 109 questions, achieved a 45% response among households: 354 households accounting for 632 adults. This far exceeds the numbers attending any of the RBC planning consultations held in the village.
- The Young People's Appraisal for those aged 11-18 years. 33 responses on paper and online were received; to this number can be added the 67 11-18 year olds included in the Household Appraisal
- The Business Appraisal received 23 responses, but this was augmented by personal interviews with 7 additional businesses.

3.2.2 Community Plan Group: Public Meetings & Presentations

- Additional input has come from villagers' comments at public meetings held by the CPG in December 2016 and December 2017.
- The CPG has also made short presentations at EBPC Annual Village Meetings in 2017 & 18

3.2.3 Official Reports

Additional information comes from:

- The Census of 2011 for demographic data
- RBC reports such as: the EB Conservation Area Management Plan and Townscape Map.

3.3 A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF EAST BRIDGFORD

The CPG in developing a strategic vision for the future of the Parish has had to extrapolate from the Appraisal data and also react to the developments coming later than the Appraisals, such as Rushcliffe's proposal to give planning permission for 125 new homes in the Green Belt surrounding EB (the RBC Plan is being reviewed by a Planning Inspector).

The argument in the topic sections of the Community Plan follows this sequence:

- Comment on current situation
- The evidence
- The policy conclusions
- The action proposals

3.4 VILLAGE CHARACTER

3.4.1 Landscape & Setting

The village of East Bridgford lies in the south eastern side of the parish surrounded by grade 2 agricultural land, largely arable, but with rural "edge lands" of small holdings and stabling. The Parish is bounded on the south and east by fields separating it from two trunk roads and on the west is the River Trent below its wooded escarpment.

3.4.2 Demographics

The Parish population is just over 1,800, in around 800 households. Almost 60% of the population has been added since 1951. The 2011 Census statistics for East Bridgford show that compared to Rushcliffe BC and even more to the rest of England, East Bridgford residents:

- Are older, aged 65+ (EB 23.8%)
- Have fewer pre-school children (EB 4.4%); the same proportion of 5-11 yr. olds (EB 7.9%); but more 12-18 yr. olds (EB 10.8%).
- Are better educated: adult population with level 4 education (EB 42%)
- Have better jobs: - in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations (EB 28.5%)
- Contain more self-employed (EB 13.4% of those households containing 16-74 yr. olds)

The 2016 Village Appraisal respondents were biased towards the older ages.

The Appraisals show that East Bridgford is a village of incomers

- 71% of households contained no one with a prior family connection. However, 42% have lived in the village over 25 years and on average 3% of households arrive every year. (HA q6&7)

3.4.3 Living In EB

Villagers like EB as it is and oppose changes that will alter its character; this was the most frequent vision for EB in the next 5-10 years:

- "To stay much the same! I like living here!!" (HA q108)

Residents value highly East Bridgford's setting as a village, clearly separate from more developed centres such as Bingham. Many specific features are rated as Important or Very Important by more than 90% of villagers:

- The five aspects of living in EB liked most are: it is in the countryside, not the town or the suburbs; it's an attractive village; the actual house lived in and the medical centre (HA q9)

The special characteristics that 9 out of 10 think should be preserved are:

- The fields separating the village from the main roads; Butt Close playing field; the network of footpaths and bridle ways; the Green Belt surrounding EB; the old village houses; the River Trent, its bank and the wooded escarpment overlooking the river; the many mature trees; the Conservation Area (HA q13)

3.4.4 Village Facilities: Communal & Retail

East Bridgford is fortunate in its range of facilities. It has a primary school, two churches, a Post Office and grocery store, a village pub, a newsagent, a hairdresser, a medical centre, a physiotherapist; there is a large garden centre (EB's largest employer) on the old A46 at the eastern edge of the parish. Other services like building maintenance, gardening services, etc. are found in the village. For additional retail outlets and other services villagers need to travel to the larger neighbouring settlements of Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent or to Nottingham/West Bridgford or Newark, both within 10 miles.

There are numerous social and sporting clubs/groups which are indicators of residents' involvement in village life.

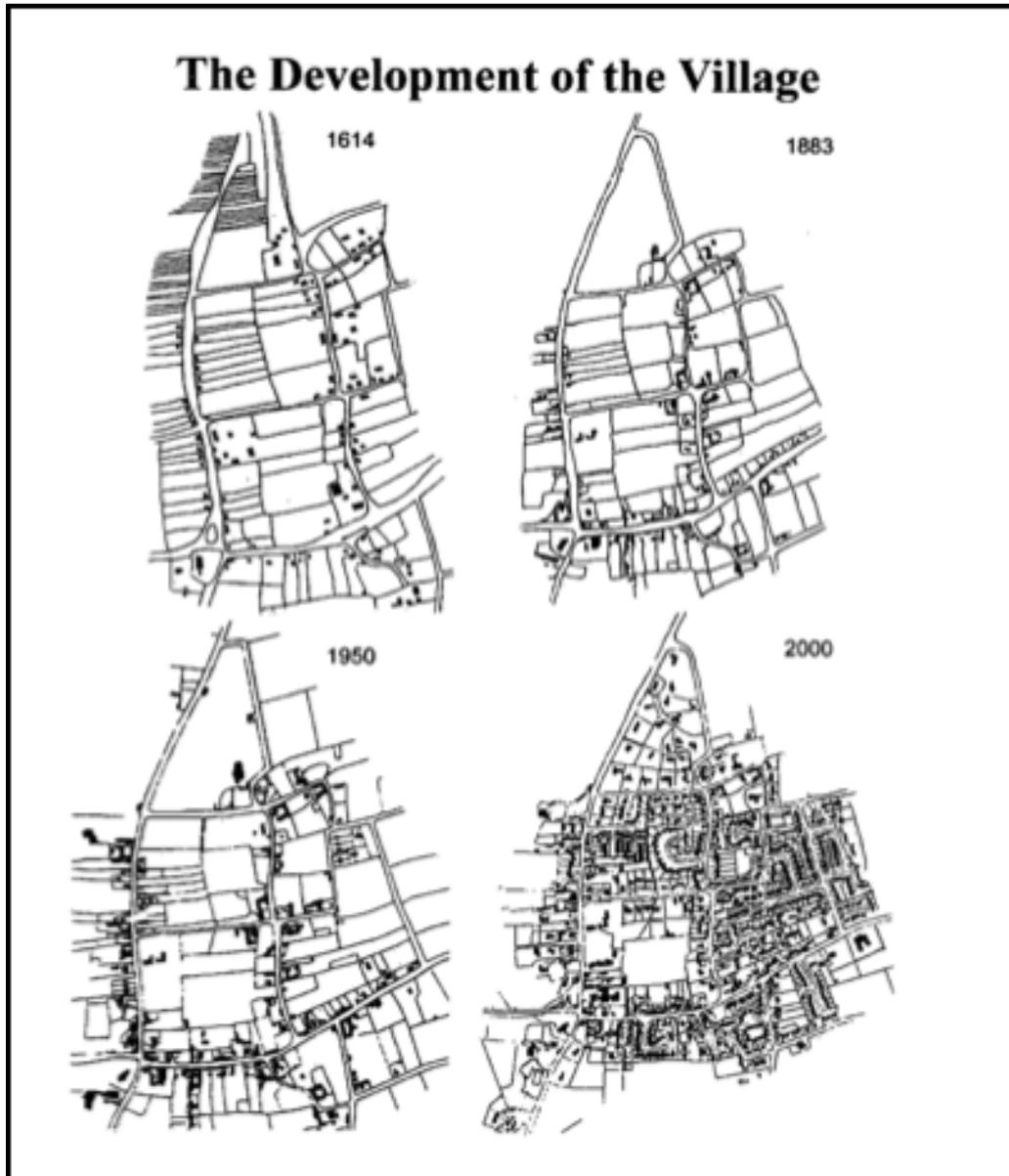
- 72% rate the range and variety of clubs and groups as good or very good (HA q37).

Some of the facilities that make EB an attractive place to live are the result of population growth in the last 50 to 60 years. Local villages that have remained small have lost many if not all retail services. EB's growth has also contributed to and made good use of communal assets like the Village Hall, W.I. Hut and Butt Close, the parish-owned playing field with its Pavilion, Bowls and Tennis Clubs, Children's Play Areas, etc. More recently Springdale Wood is now leased by the EBPC and managed by local volunteers: East Bridgford Wildlife & Biodiversity C.I.C. and the Friends of Springdale Wood.

3.5 EB'S STRUCTURE, CONSERVATION AREA, BUILDINGS, HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

3.5.1 Village Structure

The basic outline, but not the density, of the village has remained much the same for 400 years. See Map (Source: EB Local History Group)



Until the 1960s the village consisted of farmsteads, orchards, several large mansions and cottages in an open and irregular grid layout of roads, streets and footpaths. Extensive house building in the 1960s, '70s and '80s has been mainly infill.

There has been only one major expansion of the village into the Green Belt, namely Rushcliffe Council's development of social housing to the east of Cross Lane (Holloway Close). Smaller developments into the Green Belt have been the Medical Centre and the more recent housing on Fosters Close (first proposed in the 2003 Village Plan).

3.5.2 Village Structure Policy

- **East Bridgford’s communal identity and distinct separation from other villages in the area is important. A large belt of fields separating the village from the two main roads should be retained.**
- **Any development outside the existing village envelope into the Green Belt should only be considered in exceptional circumstances.**
- **The village’s settlement pattern, based on an irregular grid structure with housing densities differing by locality, is a distinctive feature. Significant developments outside the village envelope should maintain this irregular grid, if necessary creating a new sector.**
- **The pattern of earlier modern developments has been in smaller estates of 15 to 30 homes. It is considered that this is a good pattern for future developments, with larger developments combining a series of smaller units.**

3.5.3 The Conservation Area

East Bridgford has a defined Conservation Area (CA). Following a recommendation in the 2003 Village Plan, the CA was enlarged in 2008, and now incorporates the large majority of the settlement, including EB’s 20 protected (listed) structures.

- 84% think the CA's planning controls help preserve the character of the village (HA q28)

RBC published the East Bridgford Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan July 2008 (CAMP). It provides not only detailed planning guidance on the Conservation Area itself but also provides an excellent analysis of the whole village, summarised in the “Townscape Map”. CAMP draws extensively from the 2003 Village Design Statement (VDS), which formed part of the 2003 Village Plan.

3.5.4 Conservation Area Policy

- **RBC Planning to continue to apply the policies set out in the Conservation Area Management Plan**
- **The role of the remaining houses with large gardens in maintaining the visual character of the village should be a prime consideration when assessing the appropriateness of in-fill development in the Conservation Area.**

3.5.5 Village-Scape Features

The RBC EB “Townscape Map” shows the key features of the village: street character; significant buildings; tree-scape, views out over greenspace, etc.

It is the historic core of the village that gives EB much of its current character. The historic core of the village has a declining wealth of large mature trees, many of these are now, as a result of infilling, in much smaller gardens and when removed they will probably be replaced by smaller tree species that will create a more suburban landscape. *“Without EB’s trees and hedges it would be suburban.”*

These large trees give the old village its “hidden character”; *“walk around the village on its network of footpaths and bridleways and you will see how newer developments have been built to the edge of green fields, with no surrounding border of traditional hedges and hedge row trees”* (two examples: Haycroft Way, Holloway Close).

The available data on the size of houses and gardens shows that EB is characterised by relatively generous gardens (2011 Census).

- Area of Domestic Buildings; per H'hold 104.5 (m²)
- Area of Domestic Gardens; per H'hold 511.9 (m²)

3.5.6 Village-Scape Policy

- **Retain the ‘hidden’ aspect of the village seen from the approach roads**
- **Maintain a large belt of fields and mature trees between the village and surrounding main roads**
- **Add tree screening to the external edges of new developments, avoiding solid blocks of development visible at the boundaries (e.g. the Holloway Close flats).**
- **Any significant expansion into the Green Belt should follow the historic irregular grid layout**
- **Any significant developments should be grouped into units of say 15 to 30 units to give a greater sense of community**
- **The mature trees and open aspects of earlier patterns of habitation should be retained in infill developments.**

3.5.7 Building Design

Particularly before the major housing infill development of 30 to 50 years ago, there was a pleasing diversity of housing patterns using a limited palette of materials. In the last 60 years the village has grown in size and sadly much of the *“relatively modern housing has not been designed to replicate or enhance the character of the village”* (CAMP)

The overall character of the modern East Bridgford is determined more by its place in the countryside, proximity to Nottingham and perhaps most importantly its social structure than by its architecture. So, outside the CA a key design element of any new buildings should be *“neighbourliness or good manners”*, and respect for the design and built environment of its surroundings.

The 2003 Village Design Statement (VDS), which formed part of the 2003 Village Plan set out the key design features that contribute to EB’s character. However, the VDS did not set out guidelines for street layout and landscaping that should apply to significant expansions into the Green Belt. This is now covered by Rushcliffe’s Residential Design Guide and East Bridgford’s - A Place Making Guide.

Historic examples of street layout are: terraced housing (Teapot Row); housing built gable-end-on to the road (Kneeton Road). Two small modern estates include pedestrian squares - one with terraces, the other with detached houses (Croft Rise & Burnham Close).

The housing materials that characterise the village particularly on the older buildings are red brick with pantile or slate roofs. To maintain EB’s particular character any significant development into the Green Belt should EB’s traditional style or a modern interpretation of the traditional style.

Solar panel installations retro-fitted on roofs facing the street reduce the simplicity of original pantile and slate roofs.

The majority of housing is two storeys. Examples of three storey housing are few; they include the old houses at the crossroads by the church which add to the sense of a central place but also the 1960s flats in Holloway Close which being very visible from the Butt Lane contradict EB’s hidden village character.

The old village, centred on Kirk Hill, Kneeton Road, Main Street and College Street and the green space that is Butt Close playing field, defines the essential and individual character of the village.

3.5.8 Building Design Policy

- **The overall objective is for East Bridgford to retain its individuality, sense of place and character**
- **Inside the Conservation Area, the Management Plan (CAMP) should be used to safeguard significant individual buildings and groups of buildings and the spaces round and between them.**
- **New buildings outside the CA, but inside the village envelope, should be: well designed and improve the streetscape, even where surrounding buildings have no particular merit.**
- **New developments/buildings/alterations, especially those in the Conservation Area, should be encouraged to use the typical traditional vernacular materials of EB, such as red brick with red pantile roofs.**
- **The design of any large developments should be in EB’s traditional style or a modern interpretation of the traditional style and should include landscaping, open green space and features that encourage wildlife.**
- **Most new buildings will be two storey or bungalows. However new three storey buildings may be justified in specific areas, e.g.to create a sense of place.**
- **EB’s property owners, landowners and developers should be given more comprehensive advice on how these policies should be implemented.**
- **The EBPC should publish an EB Design Guide for property owners, landowners and developers across the parish, but particularly in any extensions into the Green Belt. This guide should integrate the key policies set out in this Community-led Plan; the Conservation Area Management Plan; Rushcliffe’s Residential Design Guide and East Bridgford - a Place Making Guide.**
- **EB Householders should be provided with simple advice how to ensure that new homes or extensions replicate or enhance the character of EB and encouraged to have pre-planning consultations with both Borough and Parish Councils.**

3.5.9 Housing

The Census data showed that in East Bridgford:

- 63% live in detached houses or bungalows; 16.5% in semi-detached; 11% in terraces and 7% in flats. (Census)

The average house had 2.3 residents, living in an average of 3.3 bedrooms. With an average house price of £340,000 over the 50 sales in the last 2 years the village is out of the reach of many first-time house buyers (data: estate agency website).

Much of the rapid growth in EB at the end of the last century was in developments of 15 to 30 homes each with its own character but lacking an EB village style.

The village’s top three priorities for new housing are (HA q21):

- sheltered homes for the elderly
- starter homes for young people
- affordable housing for lower wage earners.

Low priority is given to:

- 4 or more bedroomed executive homes
- social housing for rent or flats.

3.5.10 New Housing Policy

- **Any significant expansion of East Bridgford into the Green Belt should reflect the housing priorities expressed in the Appraisal**

3.5.11 Development Strategy

Villages need to adapt and change if they are to remain vibrant - EB is no different. Some new housing is needed to keep a balanced social and age mix and to maintain the viability of the village's retail businesses.

For the last 50 to 60 years EB has developed as a village "inset" or "embedded" in the Derby/Nottingham Green Belt. In that period, it nearly doubled in population and has remained a successful community retaining a good range of services. RBC has selected EB for additional homes in the Green Belt because of its infrastructure and services, so the village is in one sense a victim of its own success.

- "Due to the current Borough wide shortfall in the delivery of new homes however, East Bridgford has been identified as one of three additional settlements where a limited level of housing growth should occur." (RBC).

There is strong opposition to developments into the Green Belt:

- **92% Agree that the Green Belt surrounding East Bridgford is important and should be preserved (HA q30)**

Planning decisions on the number of houses are taken at Rushcliffe Borough Council or national levels. In EB the opportunities for further infill are now severely limited, so any expansion can only come in the Green Belt. In the opinion of the CPG outright opposition to any expansion into the Green Belt is not a tenable approach.

As the recent RBC Green Belt Review has shown, the Borough responds only to individual landowners' applications for permission to build. In contrast the Community Plan seeks to provide an overall strategic vision rather than one driven mainly by individual landowners' financial objectives.

Development into the Green Belt that unlocks some of the planning gain may be the only way of meeting village demands for improved facilities, for better public services and at the same time keeping EB as a vibrant and socially cohesive village.

The Household Appraisal established the views of 354 households (632 adults). This a much greater number of residents than has attended any one of the recent RBC or CPG consultations or the residents' meeting to oppose the latest RBC proposals.

If development into the Green Belt is compulsory, then the village prefers that the directions of expansion are to the east or to north, rather than to the south into the belt of fields separating the village from the A6097 and not to the west towards the river Trent. The impact of any development on traffic in the village should also be taken into account.

Only larger developments make matching infrastructure improvements economic, but unless sensitively planned they risk altering the character of the village that EB householders cherish. Larger developments are, through the adoption of Section 106 agreements, more likely to be able to meet residents' attitudes on the need for social and affordable housing and communal infrastructure such as greenspace and play areas. Larger developments can fund the costs of higher quality design in for example buildings that respect EB's traditional designs and materials.

Individual developments of around 30 or more dwellings can be considered large for EB (Cross Lane & Holloway Close 1950s development - 42 dwellings; Croft Rise Stage 1 1970s - 33 dwellings; Ludgate Drive stage 1 1970s - 28 dwellings; Farm Close 1980s - 21 dwellings). So, a development of over 100 new homes will clearly be a significant one for EB and should be phased.

3.5.12 : The Community Plan Group's Alternative Proposals to the RBC November 2017 Planning Proposals

Based on the policies outlined above the CPG developed an alternative proposal to the RBC's November 2017 plan for 100 new homes in the Green Belt. The key features and reasoning were:

- Creation of a new sector to the east of Holloway Close, serviced by a new street from Butt Lane to Closes Side Lane conforms to EB's traditional irregular grid structure.
- A surrounding tree belt that would replicate another characteristic of the older EB. The internal footpath network would be extended in to the new development.
- This larger contiguous site proposed by the EBCP would permit a mixed development, including for instance starter homes and homes for the elderly, not only the 4 and 5-bedroom houses favoured by developers.
- The larger contiguous site if it were designed and developed as a whole might permit a higher standard of design than could be achieved on separate plots.
- A larger site should be able to provide certain needed benefits for the village, such as a site for young people's play (an example might be a Multi-Use Games Area or MUGA which cannot be accommodated on the existing Butt Close playing field).
- The proposed new sector would provide easier access to the existing sewerage system and also to the A46 traffic routes without necessarily passing through the village (unlike developments to the north of Closes Side Lane).
- The site to the south of Butt Lane could provide some space for extending the EB Medical Centre car park.
- A large development like this should be dependent upon certain pre-conditions concerning sewage/drainage, space in the primary school for the children of the new families and other benefits for the community.

3.5.13 The RBC's Decision as Set Out In The Local Plan 2

- Rushcliffe has decided to approve development on 4 sites proposed by landowners. Two sites EB 08 and 10 were in the RBC's October Consultation; two new sites EB 11 and 12 are proposed. Two sites EB 6 and 7 to the north of Closes Side Lane were rejected. Concerning these new sites the RBC did not hold a separate village consultation, however EB villagers were consulted on these new sites in the CPG's Drop-In event held in the Village Hall in September 2018.
- **The RBC proposal is being decided on by the Planning Inspector; his decision is awaited.**

3.6 CPG COMMENTS ON RBC LOCAL PLAN

The CPG's assessment of the RBC Local Plan was published in the EB Village Magazine for September 2018.

3.6.1 The CPG consider that the key changes in this RBC Plan are:

- the location of the new developments on an integrated site to the east of EB next to Holloway Close & Bridal Ways and on a parallel site south Butt Lane by the Medical Centre
- the increase in the number of homes from 100 to 125.
- the conditions placed on the developers that are of benefit to the Village

3.6.2 The CPG approve of the RBC's planning stipulations and their justification:

- retaining the rural approach to the village along Butt Lane and the importance of an attractive eastern boundary, including a substantial tree belt on the eastern edge between Butt Lane and Springdale Wood
- the provision of additional parking for the EBMC

- the requirement that 30% of the new homes should be affordable ((intermediate, affordable rent and social housing) will go some way to meet the expressed desires of EB villagers in the Household Appraisal.
- the treatment of the 3 sites between Butt Lane and Closes Side Lane as one comprehensive site
- the new access road connecting Butt Lane to Closes Side Lane so avoiding an increase traffic along Cross Lane and permits access to the A46 without passing through Main Street.

3.6.3 The CPG have reservations concerning:

- The increase in the number of houses from 100 to 125 (a 15% increase in the current size of EB) needs further examination. It risks changing the village's character unless detailed design proposals are imposed on the developers
- The planned implementation over a 2 year period is probably too fast.
- The site densities proposed make no allowance for additional green space or space for informal play that is required for sites of 50 or more houses

3.7 CPG'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR EB

- **There should be strategic development strategy for East Bridgford, endorsed by both the residents and the EBPC.**
- **East Bridgford's communal identity and distinct separation from other villages in the area is important. A large belt of fields separating the village from the two main roads should be retained.**
- **As the village overwhelmingly opposes any expansion into the Green Belt, if any significant changes to the Green Belt are proposed, then the village should have a say in where and what is to be built, so that EB's character is preserved and the village benefits.**
- **In any significant expansion the historic irregular grid pattern of the village street network should be adopted.**
- **New developments should aim to minimize additional pressure on the roads by providing adequate off-road parking and, if feasible vehicle access without necessarily travelling through the existing village (e.g. by access to the A46 from Butt Lane).**
- **Any significant developments should be integrated groupings of smaller units creating a sense of shared space. Small neighbourhoods of 15 to 30 homes linked to the village by footpaths would seem to fit in best with the village's current structure.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ACTION EAST BRIDGFORD DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proposed LEAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To develop a Strategic Vision for the future of EB based on: – Maintaining EB’s current character and Its distinct separation from other villages – The Village opposes extension into the Green Belt, so if any extensions are to be imposed on us, then the Village should be actively involved in their nature and location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EBPC to set up a specific Strategic Vision committee to work with existing village interests, (including a proposed “East Bridgford Society” to continue the work of the Community Plan Group on EB’s Structure, Conservation Area, Buildings, Housing & Development Strategy)

3.8 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Traffic and parking problems top the list of residents’ major concerns:

- Volume of traffic and speed of traffic significant problem 48% minor problem 38% (HA q10)
- When asked what respondents most disliked about the village and would like to see changed the answer was clearly related to issues with traffic (HA q19).

These problems are difficult to solve.

EB has little local employment so there is commuting traffic, some activities like the Business Centre and the Medical Centre generate traffic from outside the parish. The primary school St Peters Academy generates traffic at the start and end of the school day, as do school buses serving local secondary schools; on-line ordering has led to an increase in delivery vehicles; additional cut through traffic is generated by delays on the access from the A46 and Bingham to Gunthorpe Bridge on the A6097.

With traffic there come parking problems: some older houses have no driveways or garages, so 145 cars (out of the total of 1,250) are regularly parked on streets or verges.

- If one single aspect of East Bridgford could be changed then top of the list would be the problems with parking (HA q12).

More specific issues identified were:

- the amount of cut through traffic;
- parked vehicles restricting traffic flow (for some this is seen as a benefit);
- parking problems particularly near the main service providers, the medical centre, shops and school at dropping off and pick up times;
- pedestrians are particularly concerned about motorists driving onto pavements and pavement parking;
- access in and out of East Bridgford at the A6097 and Trent Lane junction;
- absence of cycle lanes, particularly to Bingham although the cycle lane on Butt Lane leading over the new A46 is little used as cyclists stay on the road).

The Business Appraisal confirmed that traffic pressures also cause problems for the business community.

Many suggestions of what actions might be taken to improve the situation were put forward in the Appraisal ‘Have your Say’ questions and from the Drop-In event. Some examples are:

- Impose a 20 mph speed restriction throughout the village.
- No entry except for access signs from old A46 and Butt Lane entrance.

- Provide ‘no parking’ spaces 3 car lengths on Main Street, at selected areas to allow passing places.
- A no parking space outside the hairdressers to be used as quick drop off/pick up place.
- Provide a chicane at the Butt Lane entrance to the village with preference for ‘out-going’ traffic.
- Add a pedestrian crossing point by the Medical Centre
- No Exit’ from Trent Lane onto A6097 to deter ‘through traffic’ coming down Main Street and on down Trent Lane.

The number and tone of comments indicate that most respondents agree that something should be done to remedy the problems, though not necessarily which ideas would be most effective.

Implementation of most of the suggested actions would be the responsibility of Notts. CC Highways and to get results the Village will need to develop persuasive arguments.

Much can be done by the village itself without official regulation. For example, by encouraging:

- residents to reduce unnecessary trips and parking within the village
- residents and businesses to: better schedule the timing of deliveries outside key congestion periods such as school arrival and departure; ensure parking conforms with local regulations and reduce unnecessary size, tonnage, articulation and length of vehicles delivering to the village.

3.8.1 Current Progress on Traffic

The CP Traffic Group has been actively involved in negotiations to reduce the volume of cut-through traffic and improve parking behaviour. The main result has been the trial closure later in 2019 for vehicles entering or leaving Trent Lane on to the A6097.

3.8.2 Traffic & Parking Policy

- **To achieve a better balance between the resident/pedestrian and the motor vehicle**
- **To engage with the authorities to improve traffic conditions within the village**
- **To encourage residents, EB-based businesses and services like school/medical centre/shops to adapt their own driving behaviour and that of their visitors/suppliers to improve traffic conditions in the village**

– ACTION TRAFFIC AND PARKING	– Proposed LEAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish a Community Plan Transport Group whose remit is to consider traffic and parking issues. – To lobby official bodies to consider the key areas of concern raised from the appraisal questionnaire and implement suitable suggestions 	– CP Transport Group working with the Parish council

3.9 PUBLIC SERVICES

3.9.1 Essential Services

Good public services are important at all times and particularly when a community is expanding. General satisfaction with public services is high. However, at the time of the Appraisal a significant proportion criticised mobile phone reception, mains drainage/sewage and broadband (HA q60):

- Mobile phone reception rated fair 22% poor 45%
- Main drainage & sewage rated fair 25% poor 24%
- Broadband rated fair 30% poor 19%

The criticism of mobile phone reception and broadband was strongly echoed in the Business Appraisal.

The utilities of water, gas and electricity perform much better, as did RBC's rubbish collection (HA q60)

- Water, gas, electricity fair 7% poor 1%
 - RBC rubbish collection services fair 15% poor 7%
- with the exception of
- large item rubbish services fair 14% poor 19%.
 - In contrast 9 out of ten household rated the postal service as either excellent or good.
 - When asked to whom any service complaint should be made there was greatest confusion concerning flooding and mains drainage and sewage (HA q61).

3.9.2 Bus services

Local public bus services are important in the daily life of half the households

- Bus service rated very important 20% important 35% (HA q64)

According to www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk in May 2018:

EB is serviced by 4 different bus services. On weekdays there are

- 14 buses to and from Bingham
- 11 to Nottingham
- 7 to and from Newark

Evening services are limited:

- Last bus to Nottm is at 16:05, but with 4 later buses from Newton, last at 19:15
- Last return bus from Nottm. 18:30

Services on Saturday are slightly less frequent. There are no services on Sunday

Among all households the time of day when the service is least good are

- End of working day/early evening adequate 19% poor 32% (HA Q63)
- Late evening adequate 8% poor 50% (HA Q63)
- Over 1 in 4 households are don't know who probably never use the bus.

Bus Services are particularly important or young people of secondary school age or over;

- School buses from Bingham are scheduled at the end of the official school day and pupils staying on for after school activities have to walk home
- Social activities with school friends are hindered by the poor evening bus service.

3.9.3 St Peter’s Academy

The capacity of the village primary school to find places for the children coming with any village expansion was not covered in specific Appraisal questions. However, at the Drop-in event on 6th December 2018 the planned new primary school in Newton was raised as a critical pre-condition before any significant addition to the number of homes in EB.

Any significant housing development should consider the impact of the type of housing on primary school numbers.

3.9.4 Security & Crime: The Police Service, etc

Although only a small minority of households feel unsafe in EB, this is still a serious problem for some; more are worried about levels of crime:

- Feel unsafe at night 6% (HA q56)
- Worried about burglary, ant-social behaviour, petty theft, car crime 23% HA q57)

Two thirds of households agree on measures that would improve security:

- Increased police presence strongly agree 32% agree 37% (HA q58)
- Better street and path lighting strongly agree 29% agree 33% (HA q58)
- More active Neighbourhood Watch strongly agree 20% agree 40% (HA q58)

3.9.5 Medical Services - The EBMC

A separate section in the Appraisal recorded favourable ratings for the East Bridgford Medical Centre (NB the EBMC covers a much larger area than the parish of EB). The nurses were the most highly rated, followed by the doctors, the dispensary and then the reception/appointments. The overall rating was high:

- East Bridgford Medical Centre very good 42% good 32% (HA q98)

3.9.6 Public Services Policies

- **The village should continue to: monitor public service performance; respond to residents’ criticisms and lobby for improvements**
- **The capability of services to cope with village expansion merits careful review**

– ACTION PUBLIC SERVICES	– Proposed LEAD
– Periodically review Public Services and lobby for improvements	– Parish Council
– Improve mobile phone and broadband services	– Lobby Group on electronic media (include business interests)
– Review the implications of the RBC plan for up to 125 new homes on public services, especially sewage	– Parish Council

3.10 ROADS, PAVEMENTS & FOOTPATHS

Since the Appraisal was conducted public attention at national and county level has increasingly focussed on the poor state of maintenance of streets and roads. As a result, there is now an online system for reporting any problems to Nottinghamshire CC., a link for its use is now available from the EBPC village website. Currently the EBPC is in active discussions with Notts CC Highways on ways to improve problems at the Trent Lane A6097 junction to reduce cut through traffic.

“PC needs to be more public. Publish who they are, photos, what they are doing for the village, actively seek views of villagers. When new councillors are to be elected or co-opted the village should be made aware of the choices. The village website should be more user friendly and kept up to date. In its present form it is not a useful tool”.

In the separate Appraisal for Young People 11-18 years nearly two thirds thought they were not able to have a say in the development of the village and its facilities and made suggestions how this could be improved:

- Create a young people’s panel / specific meetings inviting young people of the village / more questionnaires and a suggestion box to put ideas in / get young people involved in projects.

3.11.2 Communication of Village News

How well village news is communicated has a major impact on a village’s sense of community, as a result the Household Appraisal covered how and where respondents find out about village events, sports, education, lectures, exhibitions, etc.

By far the most mentioned source of information was the Village Magazine, followed by: Village notice boards outside Post Office and Medical Centre; Word of mouth; Notices in village newsagent and/or Post Office; Fliers on telegraph posts. The official village website and the village diary at the Post Office were very little used sources:

- Village Magazine for all types of news 61% for Parish Council News 80% (HA q51)
- Village Notice Boards for all types of news 26% for Parish Council News 31% (HA q51)
- Official village website for all types of news 8%
for Parish Council News 11% (HA q51)
- Readership of the EB Village Magazine
regular 86% only free December issue 3% rarely/never 2% (HA q53)
- Visits to Village Website
weekly or monthly 10% infrequently 39% never 46% (HA q54)

Although the Village Magazine was highly regarded by respondents, there were suggestions for additional information that could be included:

- More news, a social media page, Include school activities in village news, Village Diary to be more visible, showing 6 months of detail; requests to reinstate planning applications (action already taken).

There was general agreement that the village website should be modernised:

- More should be made of the website. It needs more frequent updates, should contain all aspects of village news and information. Needs a revamp. Maybe a forum.
- Often out of date. “St. Peters School is our greatest way of hearing village news”.
- Need for a resident managed unofficial site on which to express views from active interest groups (FaceBook site already set up).
- Have online facilities for debate, opinions and booking facilities. Online calendar.
- Weekly/monthly bulletin that can be emailed at request of residents.

There was also the suggestion that the Village Welcome Pack should be reinstated (the Village Magazine has now taken on this project).

3.11.3 Parish Council & Communication Policy

- **The Parish Council to communicate better and to encourage all sections of the Community to become involved in village affairs**

– ACTION THE PARISH COUNCIL AND COMMUNICATION OF VILLAGE NEWS	– Proposed LEAD
– Maintain the EB Village website as a website of record	– Parish Council
– Develop efficient, online platforms for the timely communication of current events and greater involvement of villagers in village affairs	– Parish Council working with Village Magazine and existing EB-focused social media
– Increase residents’ knowledge of the EB Parish Councilors and of the role of the Council	– Parish Council to conduct a publicity campaign “Get to know your Parish Councilors
– Mentor/monitor Action Plan groups formed through the CP process	– Parish Council
– Implement suggestions made by Youth Appraisal for young people to be given a greater voice in village affairs	– A project for the Parish Council, Youth Groups and Primary School

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3.12 ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE

The Parish of East Bridgford is 7668 hectares at the north east extremity of the Nottingham/Derby Green Belt. Greenspace accounts for 89.7%, Domestic Building 1.07% and Domestic Gardens 5.25% (Census 2011). The village of East Bridgford is set in an intensively managed agricultural landscape. but the Parish of East Bridgford has a very limited area of wild space (nature reserves, woods, lakes etc.) with open public access.

There are no legally protected wildlife sites (National Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserve) although there is a handful of ‘Local Wildlife Sites’ that are designated by the Nottinghamshire Biological Records Centre but have no legal protection.

A section of the River Trent with its flood plain and wooded escarpment that forms part of the western boundary of the Parish is a major biodiversity and wildlife feature in need of appropriate management. Additional biodiversity results come from: a few meadows managed on a low input low output basis; Springdale Wood that was planted to mark the Millennium; and a series of hedges and verges with old ash and oak trees in the lanes that radiate outwards from the village envelope.

A detailed ‘Nature Conservation Strategy’ was submitted by East Bridgford Biodiversity and Wildlife Group to the Parish Council in 2014. It was accepted but has never been implemented.

Nearly every household values the key environmental features of EB (HA q13)

- Over 90% rate as important the following features that give EB its special character and should be preserved
 - The fields separating the village from the main roads
 - the network of footpaths and bridle ways
 - the River Trent, its bank and the wooded escarpment overlooking the river
 - the many mature trees

In addition (HA q27):

- 94% consider that for developments extending beyond the edge of the village into the countryside landscapes of significant character like woodland and ridge and furrow pasture should be preserved

Protection of the Green Belt is an issue that runs through several of the Community Plan Themes. Most respondents are firmly opposed to any building development in the Green Belt

- 92% Agree that the Green Belt surrounding East Bridgford is important and should be preserved (HA q30)
- 67% Agree that all development outside the village limits into the green belt should be opposed. (HA q26)

Respondents to the Questionnaire and consultees raised other environmental issues concerning EB and climate change and the carbon footprint (HA q35)

- 92% agree with energy saving measures like insulation
- 62% agree with a hydro-electric scheme next to the Gunthorpe weir
- 61% agree with solar panels, but
- 65% disagree with wind turbines

Many residents use the extensive network of footpaths and bridleways to get out into the green countryside

- 82% walk along the footpaths or bridleways surrounding the village at least once a month; 63% at least once a week (HA Q33)

There was also interest in extending the network of footpaths that occur throughout the Parish and to link these to biodiversity and wildlife education, information and monitoring. Another environmental issue raised concerns dog fouling.

3.12.1 ENVIRONMENT POLICY

- **Protect and enhance local wildlife and biodiversity through the EB Nature Conservation Strategy**
- **Promote knowledge of local wildlife through walks along the cycleways and footpaths network**
- **Develop a Parish 'Environment Strategy' that includes wildlife, green space, energy, water, recycling and public health**

– ACTION ENVIRONMENT	– Proposed LEAD
– Revise the Parish Nature Conservation strategy and submit it to the Parish Council for Implementation	– EB Wildlife & Biodiversity Group
– Develop an integrated Environmental strategy that takes account of current and emerging issues that affect residents and influence human behaviour.	– Any residents with this interest.
– Action group to investigate opportunities for integrating cycleways, footpaths and wildlife interpretation. Prepare a strategy for implementation.	– Any residents with this interest.

3.13 SPORT AND LEISURE

Respondents value highly the contribution of the sports and leisure clubs to the life of the village and thought the range and variety of clubs and groups to be good.

- rating the range and variety of clubs and groups good 73% (HA q37)
- consider that EB’s sports clubs play a very important role in village life 65% (HA q38)

Outdoor facilities were considered to be much better than indoor provision. There was a particular weakness in the indoor provision for teenagers and young adults; even outdoor provision for teenagers was less good than for young children and mature adults:

- Rating **indoor** facilities (HA q39) for

young children	Very good + good	12%	adequate 17%	poor 31%
teenagers	Very good + good	6%	adequate 11%	poor 44%
young adults	Very good + good	7%	adequate 13%	poor 40%
mature adults	Very good + good	22%	adequate 26%	poor 26%
- Rating **outdoor** facilities (HA q40) for

young children	Very good + good	47%	adequate 25%	poor 7%
teenagers	Very good + good	28%	adequate 26%	poor 21%
young adults	Very good + good	34%	adequate 24%	poor 16%
mature adults	Very good + good	47%	adequate 31%	poor 7%

Suggestions were given for future development of leisure/fitness groups for the young and old utilising the Pavilion more.

There was strong support in both the Household and Youth appraisals for provision of additional recreational space:

- additional informal play area very necessary 19% desirable 40% (HA q44)

The creation of a multi-use games area (MUGA) was supported at the Village Drop-in Meeting in December 2018. However, since the publication of the Rushcliffe Plan there has been significant level of opposition to a MUGA.

Topping the list of exercise regularly taken by household members were walking, gardening, and cycling. For households someone:

- goes recreational walking (mainly in or around EB 71% (HA q46)
- does gardening 67% (HA q46)
- walks along the footpaths or bridleways surrounding the village once a week 63% (HA q33)
- visits Springdale Wood 2 or 3 times or more a year. 68% (HA q33)
- Is a cyclist 50% (HA q79)
a better cycle route particularly to Bingham would be very helpful 42% (HA q81))

This leisure activity in the countryside surrounding EB is confirmed by residents’ strong support for green space

- Informal, accessible green space is important for their quality of life strongly agree 70% (HA q30)

Earlier unverified data shows that compared to NPFA standards EB is underprovided with Public Outdoor Sports Facilities (NPFA Standard @ 3.0) per 1000 popn) and Provision for Children and Young People (NPFA Standard. @ 0.5 ha per 1000 popn)

- Public Outdoor Sports Facilities: EB Current 2.3; Deficit -0.7
- Provision for Children and Young People EB Current 0.2; Deficit -0.3

As noted in the Traffic Section, organisers of Sports and Leisure activities that draw participants from outside the area need to mitigate the impact of parking on traffic flow

3.13.1 Sport And Leisure Policy

- Provide additional facilities, particularly for teenagers and young adults
- Review and upgrade equipment and facilities provided on Butts Field.
- Improve routes for cyclists with links to surrounding villages and especially to Bingham.

– ACTION SPORT AND LEISURE	– Proposed LEAD
– Review, maintain and improve the range and standard of sporting facilities especially for young people. (including the pavilion.)	– All sports groups & Sports Management committee – and Parish council
– Review and upgrade children’s play equipment on Butts Field	– Parish Council
– Provision of additional outdoor play area	– Parish Council. Developers of new sites in the Green Belt
– Improve routes for cyclists, particularly to Bingham.	– EBPC, Notts CC

3.14 YOUNG PEOPLE 11-18

The two main sources of information on the opinions of Young People aged 11 to 18 are the Young People's Appraisal (YPA) with replies from 33 young people and the Household Appraisal (HA) which includes responses from 54 households containing 67 young people between the ages 11 to 18. In addition, a group of East Bridgford Scouts entered written comments at the Village Consultation 'Drop In' Event on 6th December 2017 (D-IE).

- YPA respondents: 11-14 year-olds 60%; 15-18 years 40%; male 46%; female 54%. (YPA)

Overall Young people had a favourable opinion of East Bridgford

- 90% liked living in EB and thought it pretty good for a village, but 66% thought EB a better place for older people than young ones (YPA).

Socializing is important for young people they have many places where they meet their friends.

- Most meet at their own or friends' houses (YPA).
- Butt Close playing field is an important meeting place for 72% (YPA).
- 60% wanted more places to meet with several suggestions for a café. (YPA).

When given an opportunity young people have many suggestions to make. When asked what would improve East Bridgford for young people suggested:

- Sports facilities to include multi-use hard surface games area suitable for basketball, better skate ramp and cycle paths. (YPA).
- Leisure suggestions for meeting places – a café (YPA).

When given a choice of improvements the most positive response in the survey was for:

- a new site – not Butt Close - for informal play 93% (YPA).

A covered shelter at the park was also favoured and better public transport at evenings and weekends would be an improvement.

The YPA asked if young people were able to have a say in the development of the village and its facilities.

- 62% felt they didn't have a say and made proposals to rectify this. (YPA).

Suggestions for improving young people's participation included:

- create a young peoples' panel – specific meetings inviting young people of the village; more questionnaires and a suggestion box to put ideas in; getting young people involved in projects. (YPA)

The Have Your Say or write- in section of the YPA produced a number of ideas and the group of Scouts who attended the 'Drop In' event December 2017 (D-IE) made many suggestions:

Sports and Butt Close related

- It would be great to have a multi-use games area. (YPA)
- Have (sports) equipment for loan and return at the park (YPA)
- Girl's toilets and changing rooms in sports pavilion and access to toilets especially for girls when the pavilion is not open (D-IE)
- Allow children to use the sports pavilion. (D-IE)
- Create a REAL sports club not a key holding organisation. (D-IE)
- Review and upgrade play area. Extend range of activities to engage young people. (D-IE)
- Roundabout in park and swings for older children – not just baby swings. (D-IE)
- Everyone hates the sand on the park! Please could we have some soft fake grass? (D-IE)
- Once there were swings for primary children other than toddlers – also a roundabout in the play area. A fort was taken away and never replaced – much more could be done with the tower end near the rope climbing area. (D-IE)
- A fitness club for Youth. (D-IE)

- Football goal posts on the park (D-IE)
- Bike jumps and trails (D-IE).
- Extend the park. (D-IE)

Activities & Involvement

- Have something for teenagers at the village show. (YPA)
- Definitely somewhere for us to go on an evening/weekend; How about a village film night. (YPA)
- To have a youth government for the village (D-IE).
- Youth views have been asked for twice before – but no action has been taken. (D-IE)

Other

- Desperately need better public transport. Bus services run too infrequently, stop running too early and don't suit the needs of young people. (YPA)
- Cycle path to Bingham. (YPA)
- Concerned about parked cars on the roads. Need safe pedestrian crossings on Main Street (YPA).
- Zebra crossing. (D-IE)

3.14.1 Policies For Young People

- **Improve formal & informal sports & leisure facilities for Young People:**
- **Involve Young People in Village Decisions that impact them**

– ACTION YOUNG PEOPLE	– Proposed LEAD
– Improve access and availability of sporting and leisure facilities especially for those of secondary school age	– All Sports and leisure Clubs. – Sports Management committee
– Establish communication channels and provide forums for a youth voice in village affairs	– Parish Council

–

3.15 BUSINESS

The Business Appraisal had 23 responses to the questionnaire (BA qs 1-14) from the business community.

- employed in businesses in the village 156 people
- employed full time nearly 65%
- but living elsewhere and not in the village 75%

Several businesses agreed to a follow up call and they were duly contacted with 3 of that 8 making further comment. To achieve a greater spread of business activity a further 7 businesses were approached.

Three Key Business Issues were identified

3.15.1 Traffic

Traffic represented different opportunities to different businesses. There were those whose service relied on passing traffic being able to stop and access their service at ease and on a short parking time scale and those who wanted a longer parking option for their customers.

Those whose business relied on staff being able to access the village easily and being able to leave the village without delay.

Those whose business relied on deliveries and services being able to travel along the main routes, Kneeton Rd. and Main Str. without being snarled up in traffic.

The school drop off and pick up times dominated most conversations with some businesses showing great concern on the adverse effect these daily occurrences have on their businesses.

In response to the traffic issues on Kneeton Rd. one business requests that their suppliers don't deliver between 8am - 9am and 3pm - 4 pm because of the traffic issues and that they deliver on smaller 7.5 ton or less wagons.

3.15.2 Mobile phone reception and broadband speed

Many businesses complained of poor and variable phone reception. Common complaint was that the calls kept dropping off or could not be made. At best it is 2G reception that is achieved and not the 4G that many providers say they offer.

Crucial to the modern business for current trade but an increasing "online trade" will leave the EB businesses at a disadvantage. Current fibre download speeds offered into the village is 54mbs (for wired) but the reality is the service has a 34mbs bottom threshold but we all experience less.

3.15.3 Public transportation

The business community felt that the public transport offer was poor and likely to have an adverse effect on customers being to access their service. They also felt that it did not help when recruiting staff. On a wider view access to mainline stations from the North or South was very good Newark and Nottingham but there was no realistic public transport link between these two mainline station and the village.

3.15.4 EB As A Place For A Business

There were many positives which were noted during the conversations and appraisals. A good number of businesses enjoyed the "local customer base". Home-base working provided lower costs a better working environment and work life balance.

- EB as a place to work Good At least 50% Excellent 25%

It was nice to hear that one business was delighted to see how much the community valued his service. "Great to have that feedback" he said.

3.15.5 Business Policy

- **Make EB an attractive place to conduct business.**

– ACTION BUSINESS	– Proposed LEAD
– Promote Business needs with all bodies that consider the state of traffic and parking within the village.	– Community Plan transport group. – Parish council. R.B.C Notts C.C
– Improve MOB/Broadband by making representations to service providers on a village basis.	– Participate in Broadband & Mobile phone lobby group
– Participate in local Social Network Sites	– Individual initiatives
– Support any local initiative to improve public transport.	– Transport group to lobby: Parish Council; Local County Councillors; MP

4 ANNEXES

4.1 Membership of Community Plan Group

With Parish Council support the Group was first established in 2014 and the numbers of volunteers and their commitment has fluctuated over time as the plan progressed from the design and analysis of the Appraisals to a focus on particular topics. A smaller steering group has been responsible for the final report

4.1.1 Community Plan Steering Group

Patsy Andrews Chair)	David Meylan
David Atkins (Treasurer)	Jack Reiley
Sheila Brunt	Gill Stevens
Richard Mackie	Douglas Sutherland

4.1.2 Other contributors include:

Peter Cross	Emma Robens
Dot Crawford	Helena Rockett
Jonathan Farrington	Sue Davis
Lizzie Gough	Suda Sharma
Christopher Henwood	Tiffany Taylor
Jess Molineaux	Euan Temple (set up Secretary)
Kathie Richards	Clive Turner

4.2 Maps

Ideally this printed version of the Community Plan should be supported by a series of maps in both printed and digital format that would both inform residents and permit better monitoring of Action Plans:

- the village and the whole parish;
- the position of EB inset in the north eastern extremity of the Derby/Nottingham Green Belt;
- the Conservation Area;
- the network of footpaths and bridleways (see Section 4.4);
- the land owned or leased by the EB Parish Council
- the current speed limits and parking restrictions;
- sites identified in the EB Wildlife & Biodiversity Strategy
- the sites identified by RBC for new housing

It has proved difficult to resource such maps, for instance: for funding reasons Notts County Council no longer supply an EB footpath map in digital or pdf format; the EBPC has decided not to commission digital maps of the parish.

4.3 Photo Evidence

Photos would add considerably to Section 3.5 EB'S STRUCTURE, CONSERVATION AREA, BUILDINGS, HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

4.4 Web-Based Information

The following documents are or will be available on the Village Website pages

- The EB Community Plan 2019 latest version
- The Household Appraisal Questions and Tabulated Answers:
 - PowerPoint presentation as pdf; Excel spreadsheet as pdf
- The 2011 Census data for EB: in Excel as a pdf
- EB Planning Guides:
 - RBC Residential Design Guide
 - EB – A Place making Guide
 - RBC’s EB Conservation Area Management Plan, including Townscape Map
 - Planning Applications: Allowable Comments (Councillor Nigel Lawrence’s list in the Village magazine) forthcoming.
- Footpath map:
<http://www.rowmaps.com/showmap.php?place=East%20Bridgford&map=OS&lat=52.9811&lon=0.971693&lonew=W>