

Rectory Lane car park charging point initiative.

Market Bosworth Parish Council has agreed to work with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to move forward on a joint project to consider installation of electric vehicle charging points in the Rectory Lane car park.



Although at an early stage, the working group have identified that the initial phase of the scheme is likely to comprise 6 active charging points and power feeds for a further 12. We are awaiting quotes and timescales and will hopefully be able to obtain grant funding for a significant proportion of the cost.

Christmas Lights Event

The Christmas Lights event in December was a huge success. It was attended by an estimated 3000 people, our largest attendance ever. A big thank you to the volunteers on the events team who plan, organise and ensure the event is successful. Our thanks also go to Friezeland Farm who supply, erect and take away the tree. We would like to express our thanks to Dr Luke Evans MP and Cllr Ted Hollick, Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, for attending the event and switching on the lights. A thoroughly enjoyable family event . If you would like to help please let us know.

Contacting the Parish Council

If you have any concerns that need reporting to the Parish Council or require Council help and advice please contact any Councillor directly, or the Clerk, by email: clerk@marketbosworth-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01455 291867 .

The Clerk works flexible hours, but is usually in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to take calls and respond to emails.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Members of the public are able to attend and listen to proceedings.



Market Bosworth Parish Council

Newsletter

Spring 2022

Welcome to this Spring Newsletter.

One way or another it seems to have been an exceptionally busy year for the Parish Council. Planning has dominated but there are many more aspects to our work. See pages 2-3.

We continue to face a barrage of development from speculators as well as the new Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan proposing a 46% increase in housing numbers, the highest in the borough by far. This increase in housing means a similar increase in population, number of cars, added pressure on doctors, schools etc. Please support us by sending feedback to the Local Plan consultation. See pages 4-8.

Chairman's report on the Planning Appeal Inquiry

This was my first experience of a full inquiry and certainly interesting. With a limited time of 1.5 hours for the five of us who spoke to represent our community, the barristers and expert witnesses duelled over 7 days. The developers, believed they had the right to build and consistently challenged Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for failing to meet its housing targets, proposing anywhere within the borough is ripe for development.

The Barrister for Hinckley and Bosworth fought to defend the decision made by borough councillors in May 2021 to support Market Bosworth Parish Council objections and refuse the plan despite officers recommendation for approval. After days of technical and legal discussions from both parties, we are highly delighted that the final report clearly demonstrates that Neighbourhood Plan policies play a key role in the decision making and that speculative development is not an automatic right. The Inspector's Decision Report whilst quite technical, recognises that our community led plan counts despite the local planning authority struggle to meet its housing shortfall.

Parish Council activities as usual

We all have expectations and we all want the very best service so it is understandable that our community and visitors also expect the same. We would like to pass on our thanks to all those who tell us they appreciate our endeavours. As a council we are responsible for the public toilets, the cemetery, the play areas and many open spaces, the Parish Field, Memorial gardens as well as responding to planning applications, licensing applications, monitoring the Borough and County Council activities in our parish, attending meetings as well as advising, supporting and working on behalf of many residents.

Although it has been stated in previous editions of the newsletter, we feel it is important to reiterate for some members of our community that all parish councillors are elected representatives of this parish and give their time in a voluntary capacity to represent you our residents to the best of our ability. Parish Councillors work to a strict code of conduct and all meetings are open to the public and minutes and finances are open to scrutiny. I write this as it has been distressing to read the anonymous letters that have over recent months been left in our post box. Similarly the accusatory and even defamatory posts that appear on social media, although unfounded and based on supposition rather than fact, demean the hours and hours of work most councillors dedicate to our community on a weekly basis.

We are not responsible for:

- A) the driver behaviour such as dangerous parking near our schools or blocking cars in the market place or Rectory Lane car park. We do however regularly report these issues to the relevant authorities.
- B) the individuals who throw their take away food boxes and cups on the floor next to a litter bin, or cannot walk 3 metres to an empty bin. Several of us empty bins at the weekend, but recently 'take away' debris has increased exponentially.
- C) the vandals that empty the litter bins onto the Parish Field, or prise up and throw away plants and even the new stepping stones which our younger children love to play on. We are now having to deploy covert cameras in this area.
- D) The plethora of developers submitting applications to build here.

The Parish Council wish to thank all residents and stakeholders who contributed to these events and the outcomes will be published early in the New Year.

The Bosworth Vision website is very much now live. Take a look at www.bosworthvision.org.uk If you register with us on the website you will receive regular updates about our activities and related progress. You can also follow us on Facebook @BosworthVision



The Bosworth Vision Planning Group already has several new members and we continue to welcome anyone who can support in any way as we continue the process of updating the Neighbourhood Plan, to ensure it reflects the aims, objectives and aspirations for the period up to 2039. It is important we capture the aspirations

of all age groups in our town as we need to ensure we address the needs for future generations.

If you are willing to work with us on this next phase, please contact the parish council clerk@marketbosworth-pc.gov.uk

Members of the Bosworth Vision Planning group work very closely with the Parish Council on planning matters and consider all planning applications submitted in relation to our parish. These have grown in frequency, from individual residents wishing to make small extensions, tree maintenance or felling, to the large scale developments that seem to land in our inbox on a regular basis.

Together with the Parish Council we try to comment on every planning application submitted either in support, to object if the application is in breach of local policies or sometimes to offer a neutral response to show we have seen it but have no specific concerns.

Once we have our evidence base from the community and stakeholders events, we will need to validate the findings from these events and other feedback by means of a questionnaire. Questionnaires will be made available to every member of our community and will be available to complete online or traditionally on paper. This is likely to take place late summer.



Market Bosworth Parish Council

Bosworth Vision Planning Group

(A Working Group of the Parish Council)



A very big thank you to the several hundred residents who turned out on October 8th and 9th to the Community engagement event.

The Rural Community Council are still collating and analysing the feedback that you provided on your 'post-it' notes. The RCC provide a key role by independently monitoring our activities and ensuring all feedback is accounted for and registered correctly for data analysis.

A similar event for stakeholder—businesses, schools, doctors and other services, shops, tourist facilities etc provided their perspectives on the future planning of our community. As a small key rural settlement we are the centre for many other smaller neighbouring villages and hamlets but also we are a growing visitor and tourist destination. The views of those who work in these sectors are crucial in shaping our town for the next generations.

As well as working with these groups we look to hearing from our younger community those who live in Market Bosworth and attend our local schools. By the time this next plan expires in 2039 some of these youngsters in their mid to late teens may well be the next generation of potential residents and work force. How do they perceive a future for this town as the emphasis potentially shifts to a cleaner, greener environment. With the focus on climate change and recognition that the 'world view' will need to change if our planet is to remain sustainable their thoughts and ideas are imperative in helping to shape our place now and their future place in the future.

We are also pleased that our MP Dr Luke Evans has been very supportive and although unable to attend the Community Stakeholder event sent along a representative who was impressed both by the quality of the presentation, the turnout and especially the level of engagement by the community.

Dr Luke Evans also sent a video presentation for the stakeholder event as he had duties in Westminster on that date.

Parish Council activities: a snapshot

The Parish Council meet on the first Tuesday of each month. All parishioners are welcome to attend the meeting. Agendas and relevant information appertaining to the meeting are published on the Parish Council notice board in the Market Place and on the Parish Council website—www.marketbosworth-pc.gov.uk the previous week.

Most of the Parish Councillors are actively involved on working groups and meet on a regular basis. These include:

- Cemetery working group
- Public toilets working group
- Memorial gardens working group
- Neighbourhood Plan working group
- Town centre redevelopment working group
- Finance working group
- Rectory Lane car park working group
- Play Areas and Open spaces

With regular ad hoc groups being created to deal with urgent issues or to liaise with other authorities. Recently representatives have attended meetings with the Hinckley Tourism Association, the local police, the Country Park management team.

Working groups often involve volunteers from our community especially when there are major projects involved. The Bosworth Vision Planning Group updating the Neighbourhood Plan has 5 councillors but considerably more non council members. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to get involved and offer your expertise, knowledge or simply be hands on with one of the these or other aspects of Parish Council work please do not hesitate to contact us.

As a small council, currently we employ Cathy as our part time clerk. Cathy is both the Responsible officer and Responsible Finance Officer and ensures we meet the highest standards in our public sector duties. The work load has grown considerably in recent years and we may soon be looking to potentially employ a deputy to support Cathy and the council as we face new and ever increasing challenges.

Hinckley and Bosworth draft Local Plan Too much for Market Bosworth?

At the full council meeting of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) on Tuesday 25th January 2021 councillors voted to accept that the revised version of the 2020-2039 Local Plan should be submitted for independent inspection.

The Plan revisions include positive rhetoric that HBBC support Neighbourhood Plans, with a section devoted to neighbourhood planning and its key role in decision making. Para 1.18 states:

Overall, the Borough Council will champion neighbourhood planning, empower local communities to make decisions on sustainable and meaningful development within their area, and provide support to ensure neighbourhood plans are deliverable, achievable and sustainable.

Whilst the rhetoric appears positive, the rest of the document which focuses mainly on development appears to ignore and disregard all efforts of the community of Market Bosworth. We were not consulted about the proposals so our efforts to ensure provision of sustainable development whilst retaining a position as a tourist attraction and key driver for the growing economic tourism business within the Hinckley Borough region, do not appear to be considered.

In percentage terms, the revised Local Plan has targeted housing development in Market Bosworth far in excess of that in any other settlement identified for new housing development. Our analysis, using the comparator of proposed new development to current size (existing housing stock) in each settlement, demonstrates this.

Whilst the existing settlement figures will fluctuate as new houses come on stream, the baseline housing numbers in Table 1 (page 6) are based on data provided through an FOI request with the response stating 'Data correct as of 23.04.2021'

Table 1 (p6/7) includes all settlements identified for new housing development in the revised draft Local Plan period to 2039. The data in the table shows both commitments i.e. planning applications already approved and expected to be developed in this period from 2020 – 2039. It also identifies sites allocated for new growth that will be required to ensure HBBC meet their target figures. The table shows that Market Bosworth has already committed to exceed its Neighbourhood Plan target with 205 houses which equates to a 21% growth in

Market Bosworth Country Park

A number of parish councillors and members of the Bosworth Vision Planning Group recently met with Richard Hunt, Head of Country Parks and Estates and David Luther, Senior Park Ranger to walk the Country Park and hear proposals for the new 5 year Management Plan for the area.

Whilst most of us know that the Country Park has appeared much busier since the pandemic started, we were interested to hear that the increase in number of visitors to Market Bosworth was proportionately 5 times greater than the increase to other Country Parks and the data to the end of October this year has not seen a decline.



The management plan states that 'The park is well used by local residents, day trippers, and holiday makers for a variety of recreational activities throughout the year. In 2020/21 there were nearly 47,000 visits to the park by car, estimated at 112,800 visitors. Given the location of the park near a town, we know that many regular visitors walk to the park from the surrounding area and so estimate that the same number of visitors again visit the park on foot. This gives a total number of visitors as around 225,000 per annum.'

The main purposes of the management plan are to:

- Give detailed background information on the site of Market Bosworth Country park (MBCP)
- Record the up to date condition and current management of the site
- Give a detailed action plan of future management for the period 2021-26

Although there are no major changes proposed for this plan period it is evident that continued tree and landscape management is required to ensure the biodiversity continues to flourish amidst the growing number of people who value the park for recreation. The growing interest in natural history and the environment will likely be reflected in new information boards and activities for children later in the programme of works.

The Parish Council are funding an avenue of 18 trees for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The story does not however stop there – as most of you are aware speculators have also been busy submitting plans for their own developments in areas not approved by the Neighbourhood Plan or identified by HBBC. These include:

Ainscough	105
Gladman site 1	90
Gladman site 2	125
Total	320

We cannot assume any of these will be permitted but if they are it will bring the total new housing figures up to 769 an 78.2% increase in our current housing. See Table 2 on the previous page.

We accept the need for and support sustainable housing in Market Bosworth. However, we believe that our Neighbourhood Plan commitments (see page 5) would provide an increase of 21% on our existing housing stock. This would give Market Bosworth with a similar increase to the other key rural centres.

The additional growth proposed by Hinckley and Bosworth for 243 additional bringing a total of 449 new homes (46% increase) will add pressure to our infrastructure and services, if you add in the speculative proposals bringing the total to 769 new homes it is simply not sustainable. It will destroy not only the fabric and rural nature of the town but the community itself which has given so much to ensuring that Market Bosworth is such a beautiful place to live, work and visit.

If you support our view that the proposed housing numbers are too excessive for Market Bosworth please support us:

Respond to the H&BBC Local Plan before 5.00pm on 23rd March 2022. Copies of the Local Plan and response forms can be downloaded from www.bosworthvision.org.uk/news or the Hinckley & Bosworth website.

Printed copies are available in the community library.

If you are willing to share your comments with us, please copy clerk@marketbosworth-pc.gov.uk when you submit your response form.

housing stock. The Local Plan has however proposed an additional 243 houses bringing the total to 449 new homes, a 46% increase.

Based on the data in Table 1 the following charts illustrate the proposed growth in Market Bosworth compared to other settlements identified for growth.

Chart 1 shows the total proposed percentage increase in housing stock for each settlement identified for new housing. Data is ranked in order of % increase.

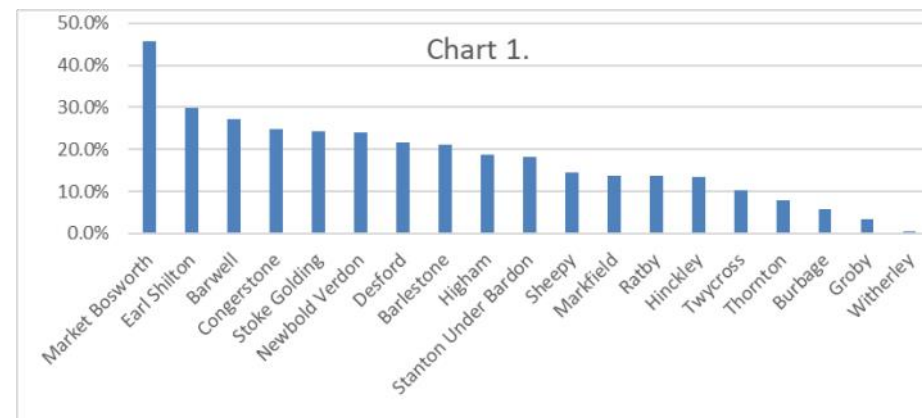


Chart 2 shows the key rural centres in order of current size with the line overlay shows proposed housing and potential population % increase

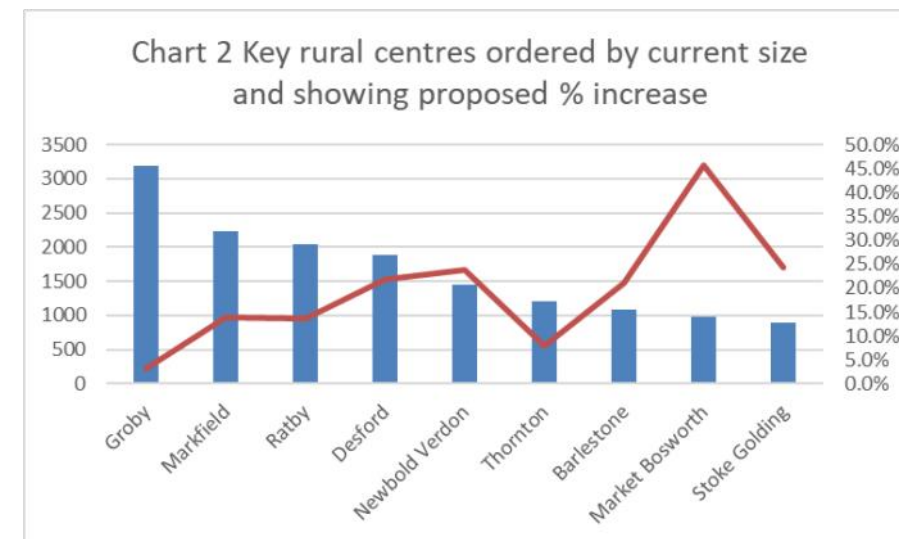


Table 1

Parish	Total Houses	Net Completions 2020/2021	Commitments as at April 2021		Local Plan Allocations		Total completions, commitments and allocations	
			number	% increase	number	% increase	Number	% increase
Market Bosworth	984	1	205	20.8%	243	24.7%	449	45.6%
Earl Shilton	4781	64	362	7.6%	1000	20.9%	1426	29.8%
Barwell	4190	3	144	3.4%	990	23.6%	1137	27.1%
Congerstone	153	0	3	2.0%	35	22.9%	38	24.8%
Stoke Golding	893	0	193	21.6%	25	2.8%	218	24.4%
Newbold Verdon	1452	3	123	8.5%	221	15.2%	347	23.9%
Desford	1892	7	405	21.4%	0	0.0%	412	21.8%
Barlestone	1086	1	123	11.3%	105	9.7%	229	21.1%
Higham	353	3	2	0.6%	61	17.3%	66	18.7%
Stanton Under Bardon	367	5	6	1.6%	56	15.3%	67	18.3%
Sheepy	548	-1	4	0.7%	77	14.1%	80	14.6%
Markfield	2229	14	294	13.2%	0	0.0%	308	13.8%
Ratby	2037	2	275	13.5%	0	0.0%	277	13.6%
Hinckley	15472	69	1403	9.1%	600	3.9%	2072	13.4%
Twycross	356	0	21	5.9%	16	4.5%	37	10.4%
Thornton	1202	0	5	0.4%	91	7.6%	96	8.0%
Burbage	7348	31	206	2.8%	180	2.4%	417	5.7%
Groby	3188	34	26	0.8%	45	1.4%	105	3.3%
Witherley	317	2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%

Table 2

Parish	Total Houses	Net Completions 2020/2021	Commitments as at April 2021		HBBC Local Plan Allocations		Total commitments and allocations		Current speculative development plans already submitted		Total commitment, HBBC allocation and speculative	
			number	% increase	number	% increase	Number	% increase	Number	% increase	Number	% increase
Market Bosworth	984	1	205	20.8%	243	24.7%	449	45.6%	320	32.5%	769	78.2%