

Matter 9

- 1.1 The Melton Country Park (MCP) is under pressure from developers wishing to build as part of the MNSN (e.g. Taylor Wimpey - 14/00808/OUT) and who want access from their various phases of development onto the MCP. Without this access such sites will not be able to sustain the argument that they have an environmentally friendly access to Brownlow Primary School, John Ferneley Secondary School, or the town's facilities including Latham House Medical Practice. However the MCP enjoys "QE2 Fields in Trust" status as a country park. By adding yet more entrances to the MCP particularly towards its northern boundary which is more sensitive when it comes to flora and fauna, the biodiversity of the MCP is put in jeopardy.
- 1.2 MNAG recommends a substantial buffer zone between proposed developments on either side of the MCP and no development at all across the northern edge of the Park. MNAG also recommends that no further entrances should be allowed onto the MCP from any proposed new developments.
- 1.3 MNAG further proposes that the section of the MMDR which runs adjacent to the northern boundary of the MCP should be bridged in order to maintain the wildlife corridor to the countryside beyond and hence maintain the Park's status as a 'Country Park' and not let it become a 'Town Park'.
- 1.4 Wildlife corridors are to be encouraged, but often they are of insufficient substance to be of any real benefit to local wildlife. A narrow strip of land between one phase of development and another is not enough. Bearing in mind that many wildlife corridors follow water courses including ditches, MNAG would suggest that should the MNSN go ahead, then a wide wildlife corridor between existing housing either side of the MCP be created. This could and should where possible, follow the line of existing ditches and other water courses. The corridor could provide sufficient room to enable maintenance of the ditches/water courses. It should also be wide enough to encompass a line of allotments, the vehicular access to which could be shared with the track required to maintain ditches/water courses. There could also be a recreational pathway, trees, shrubs and ponds at the low points. The resultant wildlife corridor would be of some considerable width and would need to be maintained. However it would be of major benefit to wildlife by providing a sizeable corridor to other habitats; if properly designed it would help with flood risk management through the maintenance of ditches, the creation of ponds etc; provide allotments for new and existing residents thus encouraging a healthier lifestyle and community spirit; provide an attractive recreational pathway; and establish a more acceptable division between the existing boundary of properties in the north of the town and the proposed MNSN which otherwise could be very overwhelming due to its sheer size and the fact that it will be built on land which is higher than the current building line across the north.

Response: 795126321 Melton North Action Group

Matter 9

- 1.5 According to the *MBC/FR1b MBC Level 1 and 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment* produced by JBA Consulting in 2015, land adjacent to the A607 Grantham Road between Melton Spinney Road and the Thorpe End junction in the town is graded as 'Flood Zone 3b' i.e. it may flood 1 in 20 years. It is a fact that Melton Spinney Road itself floods regularly along its narrowest part next to the barn area beyond Thorpe Park heading towards Twinlakes Park. The fields adjoining the road flood, Thorpe Brook which follows the A607 into the town floods into the fields either side of it so that a huge stretch of land from the Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club (itself often flooding) to the Tesco store is often under water - the last time being over the Christmas period 2017. The A607 at Thorpe End regularly floods reducing traffic to a single lane heading into town - the last time being 2nd January 2018. Poor drainage and the lack of a flood alleviation scheme along this mile-long stretch of road and fields has ensured that every year local residents have to negotiate flooded roads, fields and gardens in this area. It is therefore very frustrating to see that according to the Environment Agency and reports such as the aforementioned, Melton apparently does not flood. The inaccuracy of such data makes a mockery of the local authority and national agency set ups. MNAG members can come up with photographic evidence of flooding in this area if required, although this has already been supplied to MBC.