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11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Sir or Madam

**Ref: Regulation 16 Consultation on the Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan.**

Thank you for your email dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 requesting strategic planning observations on the above neighbourhood plan. I have consulted with my colleagues across relevant divisions of the County Council and have the following comments to make.

**Transport and Travel Services**

Nottinghamshire County Council Transport and Travel Services (TTS) wish the following observations to be considered as part of the consultation in respect of the Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan submission version 2020-2036 and supporting documents including the Appendices.

**Background**

The Transport Act 1985 places a duty on local authorities to secure a “Socially necessary” bus network. Local bus operators provide services that they consider as commercial, and the Council provide revenue subsidies to provide additional services to ensure communities have access to essential services including education, work, health, shopping and leisure.

The level of revenue funding available to provide supported services is generally diminishing. Therefore, other funding sources are required to maintain a socially necessary and sustainable network.

**Current Bottesford Public Transport Network**

Map 3 illustrates the location of Bottesford Parish in the Borough of Melton in the north of the County of Leicestershire and adjoining three other districts in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire including Rushcliffe and Newark & Sherwood. Section 50 and 51 of the document refers to the current bus and rail networks. A summary of local bus services serving Bottesford are as follows:

- 23 - Melton Mowbray – Bottesford (Mondays to Saturdays)
- 6 - Grantham - Bottesford – Radcliffe (Mondays to Saturdays)
- 6A - Grantham - Bottesford – Radcliffe (Schooldays)
- 833 - Bingham - Cropwell Bishop - Orston – Bingham (Mondays to Saturdays)
- 856 - Lowdham - Bingham - Bottesford / Orston (Mondays to Fridays)
- 857 - Newark – Bottesford (Mondays to Fridays)
- X6 - Grantham - Radcliffe On Trent (Schooldays)

The range of rail and public bus services are considered to offer reasonable access to key facilities at the destinations served including Bingham, Melton Mowbray and Grantham. However, there is a lack of peak hour, evening and Sunday service provision.

## Neighbourhood Plan

TTS have reviewed the Plan, Vision Statement and Community Objectives, and have also reviewed the Appendices. The general emphasis on sustainable development and the inclusion of walking, cycling and public transport as part of the 12 considerations for developers as part as Building for a Healthy Life 52 by developers in the preparation of their planning applications is supported.

The Community Objectives don't include any reference to access to key services. This should be considered for inclusion, including reference to promoting the use of public transport. Leicestershire County Council are the transport co-ordinating authority responsible for maintaining a socially necessary public transport network. It is recommended that the Parish engage with the County Council in respect of matters relating to public transport access which could be included as a Community Objective.

Section 25 referring to developer contributions and Policy 20 is supported.

## Development Sites

Section 31 of the document states that 4 sites were allocated in the Local Plan to deliver a minimum of 345 dwellings in Bottesford village. Section 35 and 36 indicates that in the last 5 years 85 dwellings were completed in the Parish and in November 2019 97 dwellings were under construction.

The statement at Section 25 'Development Contributions' provides the opportunity for planning contributions to be considered towards public transport services and infrastructure for a site to be supported by the Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is suggested that sites/schemes that afford access to existing public transport facilities should be given priority for development.

Any planning contributions will be subject to approval by the local planning authority. It is recommended that the Parish engage with Leicestershire County Council and Melton Borough Council for negotiating developer contributions relating to the public transport requirements arising from new developments.

## Community Transport

Details of any community transport services operating in Bottesford are not known. It is suggested that reference to the role of community and voluntary transport is included within the Plan, together with the potential for Community Transport and related services i.e. taxi buses to complement the local bus network.

## Taxis

There is no reference in the document to the role of local taxis, which are licensed by Melton Borough Council and play an import role in the local economy. It is suggested that reference to the role of taxis is included in the plan.

## Consultation Questions

TTS have considered the questions in the Representation Form. This response should be considered in lieu of the form.

## **Conclusion**

It should be noted that all comments contained above could be subject to change, as a result of ongoing negotiations between the County Council, the Local Planning Authority and the applicants. These comments are based on the information supplied and are without prejudice to any comments the County Council may make on any future planning applications submitted for this site.

Should you require any further assistance in relation to any of these matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Yours faithfully

Emma Brook  
Planning Officer  
Nottinghamshire County Council

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