Looking at all four approaches set out in attachment M1-2 (especially approach 3 which MBC appear to be in favour of) it appears to only work if it is in agreement with Local Planning policy. This is the problem with villages like Somerby, regardless of local knowledge and experience of many years living in the village overall Local Planning tends to overrule local opinion rendering Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) pointless. Also regardless of NDP and LP, overall there is no appetite for this type of build in Somerby born out by public responses to the Local Plan.

With regard to attachment M1-3 (Melton Borough Council List of Suggested Main Modifications post Hearings. Page 6, 1.9.3)

MBC suggest providing advice and assistance with regard content of NPPF and NPPG, I would suggest they get fully conversant with NPPF/G policies before preaching to other people. For example

The NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) also makes it clear in section 11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (para.110), 'Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value'.

Therefore with regard to Somerby and respecting above NPPF Policy Som2 should take precedence over SOM1/3 as having most environmental and amenity value and therefore be taken out of allocation.

The idea of the Melton plan was to engage public opinion to make sound judgement but sadly overall this is not to be. Also I noticed at the meeting on Feb 6th 2018 MBC planning appeared to come over very nonchalant. I think this was very evident when at times the Inspector had to press MBC to respond to questions, and with regard to SOM2, MBC, appeared to be unable to give definitive answer to my challenge that this site is within Primary Green Infrastructure.

Just to re-iterate Sites such as SOM2 should be taken out due to the sensitivity of its position not only in the village being very close and partly within the conservation area but also the fact the whole site is within the primary green infrastructure corridor. These corridors run throughout the UK and with the amount of build being proposed by central government it is more important than ever to respect green infrastructure otherwise we will end up with the UK being an ugly concrete jungle with no quality of life for the general public.

Set out below is an extract from Chairman of Melton local plan.

“Quote”
“Welcome from the Chairman of the Melton Borough Local Plan Working Group “

“So as well as identifying much needed new housing land, the plan identifies sites for industry, commerce and shops, and supports the rural economy. As importantly, the plan also makes sure our most valuable and cherished environmental and cultural assets, which make the Borough such an attractive place to live and work, are protected”

Councillor Pru Chandler
“Un-Quote”

Therefore allowing land trusts such as Ernest Cook Trust (Which among other things was set up to protect land and the environment) to put forward sites such as SOM2 for the type of residential build proposed goes against comments above highlighted in orange.