

## Meeting of Treswell with Cottam Parish Council

Minutes of **Treswell with Cottam Parish Council Meeting** held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2022 at Treswell Village Hall, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

<b>Council Members &amp; Officer Present:</b>	Cllr Nicola Slater	Chairman
	Cllr Ray Fox	Vice-Chair
	Cllr Matthew Bendall	Cllr Fred Tomlinson
	Cllr Lynn Mockridge	Cllr Alan Mockridge
	Cllr Helen Cope	
	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
<b>Also, Present</b>	2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Members	
	County Councillor	John Ogle
	District Councillor	Ant Coultate
	0 Members of the Public	

**Queen Elizabeth II** - Following the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, protocol and Section 243 of the Local Govt Act 1972 prevented the calling of a September meeting. A Book of Condolence was arranged at with the cooperation of the Hall Committee at Treswell Village Hall. The flag was flown at half-mast during the required mourning period. A copy of the Proclamation of King Charles III was displayed in all the noticeboards in the parishes and a copy has been included as an appendix to this month's minutes.

### ➤ Adjournment – 10 Minute Public Forum

The Steering Group Members explained the proposals from a developer at Manor Farm, which included replacing the existing burnt-out property with a total of 4 dwellings, making 2 additional homes to the existing Neighbourhood Plan stipulations. Bassetlaw Planning Dept have approved planning for 2 properties at the rear. Should the Parish Council approve the request to review the Neighbourhood Plan, as part of this process the original 'call for sites' landowners would have to be consulted.

### 41/22 To Approve the Reviewed Treswell & Cottam Neighbourhood Plan for submission to Bassetlaw District Council

As a result of the steering group meeting held with the agent dealing with the Manor Farm and the recent approval of the Manor Farm Barns planning application, they are recommending that the Steering Group, and Parish Council, agree to engage an independent Consultant to assist with the necessary revisions required. The BDC Neighbourhood Plan advisor has said to the Steering Group, that as the situation has now changed, more detailed work will need to be undertaken with regards to some elements of the Plan. This work is quite technical, so the group would benefit from appointing a planning consultant to help review the Plan and work with external. BDC recommend Helen Metcalfe as the Consultant who has helped the Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan. BDC will assist the PC with the grant funding for this.

Regards the clerical admin support for the review of the neighbourhood plan. The current person has advised they wishes to continue in the role but be paid for their time as admin support, unfortunately, the grant provider, 'Locality' will not fund this via the grant scheme for clerical support, and it would be at the expense of the Parish Council. However, a proportion of the current account balance is remaining funds from the National Lottery Neighbourhood Plan grant and there has been a VAT rebate.

After discussion, the Council **resolved** that nothing could proceed at this stage until the Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Lead Planner can fully explain to the Council why the Plan needs reviewing to incorporate the proposals for the site. A Steering Group member agreed to ask the Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Lead Planner to send an email explaining the rationale around the matter.

### 42/22 To Approve Apologies for Absence

After discussion, Cllr Slater **Proposed**, and the Council unanimously **resolved** to **accept** the apologies of Cllr Bowden

### 43/22 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

After discussion, Cllr A Mockridge **Proposed**, Cllr L Mockridge **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

### 44/22 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None.

### 45/22 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

**County Cllr Ogle:** provided an update to the Council, which included the STEP Nuclear Fusion Project and the Devolution Deal, following receipt of these reports:

- West Burton Site for Nuclear Fusion STEP: “STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production) is an ambitious Government Led programme to design and construct a prototype fusion power plant. The first example of its kind in the world.

Fusion power will provide a reliable and virtually limitless source of low carbon energy to meet expected increases in future energy demand.

Fusion power differs significantly from nuclear fission as it does not produce the same type of highly challenging wastes. The process is also safe. If any disturbance occurs, the plasma cools and within seconds the reaction stops. It’s important to note that fusion energy will sit alongside renewable energy sources - such as wind and solar to create a diverse energy portfolio to serve the country’s needs.

The process of building and operating the plant will be led by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA). As a result, the UKAEA launched a nation-wide search to find a suitable site to build its new prototype STEP fusion power plant at the end of 2020.

A bid document for the West Burton A power station site was prepared by the County Council and its partners, due to the imminent closure of the coal fired power station. This is now expected to be after this winter, and will not affect the Fusion plans.

The West Burton bid focused on the site’s central location in the country and its close proximity to a wide range of complementary research and development and manufacturing facilities along with high-quality academic institutes. The West Burton site also provides a large amount of land which could be developed further to act as a wider campus for not only the fusion energy plant but training facilities and a range of complementary uses. The site has a direct rail connection and river access to enable people and goods to be moved to the site sustainably. The UKAEA made their final site recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy over the summer of 2022. The decision to select West Burton as the home of STEP was formally announced on 3rd October.

**Benefits of STEP**

The decision to make West Burton the home of STEP will bring massive long term economic benefits not only to the local area but to the region as a whole. This will be in the construction of the power plant, research and development activities and the supply chain as a whole. Training opportunities in high skilled areas will also be significantly boosted.

- The construction and operation of the fusion power plant will employ a significant number of people. Nuclear power plants (of a similar scale) employ between 500 to 100 people and during the construction process can swell to 3500 workers or more at the peak.
- Research into fusion energy shows it is creating 4000 jobs annually (direct employment and related activities)
- Supply chain – the UK already has a thriving private sector fusion industry and a significant proportion of this is in our region. The STEP project will reinforce and expand on this.
- The UKAEA are planning to build and invest in training facilities in the local area which will give local people the opportunity to gain training and, ultimately, highly skilled jobs.

**Process Going Forward**

Given the recent announcement, the timescales/process going forward is still being developed. However, it is important to note that the UKAEA are placing a great deal of importance on working with and consulting with the local communities.

An initial public event will be taking place at West Burton power station on Thursday 6th October. However further public events will be taking place over the coming weeks at a variety of locations across Bassetlaw. The purpose of these events will enable the UKAEA to introduce themselves and provide information to local communities.

The UKAEA will still be required to undertake detailed site assessment work and the preparation of a full planning application as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project along with gaining all the necessary consents prior to any construction work taking place on the site.

- Expected future timescale

<b>October 3rd 2022</b>	<b>Location of STEP site announced</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>STEP concept design approved</b>
<b>2032</b>	<b>Detailed engineering design and all relevant permissions and consents to build the plant sought</b>
<b>2040</b>	<b>Fusion plant to begin operating</b>

All questions from the public should be directed to [communications@step.ukaea.uk](mailto:communications@step.ukaea.uk)

**Devolution Deal for Nottinghamshire**

Cllr Ogle then discussed the Devolution Deal for Nottinghamshire the Government confirmed that a £1.14 billion devolution deal is on offer for Nottinghamshire, Nottingham, Derby, and Derbyshire: £1.14 billion devolution deal for

the East Midlands. More details about the deal are available on the website here:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution-a-brighter-future-for-the-east-midlands](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution-a-brighter-future-for-the-east-midlands) :

### **Devolution: summary of the deal**

The Government has confirmed that a £1.14 billion devolution deal is available for the East Midlands over the next 30 years. The deal covers Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire. All four city and county council leaders have signed up to the deal.

The four councils will continue working together to develop details of the deal. Each council will take a report through their respective council meetings. There will also be a public consultation later this year to ensure that the voice of residents, businesses and partners is fully heard.

After the deal is confirmed there will be opportunities to build and enhance on it over time. There is a lot still to be agreed, and this is the beginning of the journey, not the end. We're determined to build on this deal over time, as other areas have done. The new mayoral combined county authority (MCCA) will be considered at future national government spending reviews.

### **Governance**

- The two city and two county councils would be constituent authorities, who would each appoint two members to the combined authority – 8 members in total, plus the elected mayor.
- There would also be up to 8 non-constituent members, including up to 4 representatives from district and borough councils. The government requires the two city and two county councils and the mayor to have a majority on the governing group.
- The government expects emergency services, health, and business to be represented.
- The mayoral county combined authority (MCCA) could create committees which can include representatives from city, county, district, and borough councils, and other stakeholders.
- Audit and Scrutiny Committees will be set up.
- Some of the powers held by the MCCA and/or the mayor would be national government powers. Some would be powers already held by the city and county councils. There are no plans to give the MCCA/mayor any District or Borough Council powers.
- The four councils and other partners are working with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to identify the best way to integrate the work of the LEP into the new combined authority.

### **Resources**

- East Midlands Fund, including capital and revenue each year over a 30-year period.
- Capacity Funding in 2023-4 and 2024-5 to support the MCCA in early stages.
- Devolved Capital Funding in 2024/5 to support the building of new homes.
- Capacity funding to support the pipeline of housing sites.
- Further capital to support the delivery of shorter-term housing and net zero priorities.
- Capacity funding to support the preparation of Local Transport Plan.
- Responsible for devolved funding for projects within the Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) and Levelling Up Fund (LUF) major capital programmes.
- Fully devolved Adult Education Budget.
- Power to borrow up to an agreed cap for non-transport functions.

### **New devolved functions and powers of the mayor and MCCA**

- Designation of a Mayoral Development Area, with consent of relevant District and Borough Councils.
- Housing and land acquisition powers, housing supply, land development and regeneration, commercial space, and infrastructure, working closely with Homes England. Relevant District and Borough Council consent also needed where Homes England compulsory purchase powers are being exercised.
- Business rate supplement and option of a Council Tax precept to fund Mayoral functions are part of the framework, but no plans to use the precept as can be avoided by capacity funding.
- Power to draw up a local integrated transport plan and strategies, as well as bus franchising.
- Transport functions, including setting up and coordinating a Key Route Network, smart integrated ticketing, may run enhanced concessionary fares schemes.
- Work with national government and Great British Railways to ensure Integrated Rail Plan, including HS2, Midland Main Line electrification etc. maximise regeneration impacts.
- Economic development and regeneration.
- Adult education and skills. Supporting development of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP).
- Retrofit measures, clean heat coordination, and local energy plan, generating new jobs.
- Duty to take action to improve public health given to MCCA as well as constituent authorities.
- Work closely with Police and Crime Commissioners on public safety.
- Work with local partners on long-term governance model for fire and rescue services.

- Working with national government to explore initiatives to address homelessness, domestic abuse, community safety, social mobility, and support for young people.

#### **Frequently asked questions and answers**

##### **Q) What is devolution?**

A) Devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national government to local government.

##### **Q) What sort of devolution deal are we looking at in the East Midlands?**

A) We are looking at a devolution deal to set up a combined authority. If the deal is approved by central government, it would create a new East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority. This is known as a 'level deal'. Level 1 and level 2 deals offer considerably fewer transfers of powers and budget from central government.

A combined authority is a legal body created through national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.

A combined authority is more than an informal partnership or even a joint committee. It empowers member councils to be more ambitious in their joint working, taking advantage of powers and resources devolved to them from national government.

##### **Q) Why are we doing this?**

A) We are doing this:

- to address underfunding in the East Midlands
- to focus spending on local priorities
- to work together across services and use local knowledge to get better value for money
- to bring in new investment, better training, and job opportunities, and upgraded and more connected public transport to the area
- to be more self-sufficient and have more responsibility for the future of the local area
- so that more major decisions can be taken by locally elected politicians who better understand local issues, and can be held to account more easily
- Ultimately, the reason we are doing this is to make sure that services across the region are the best they can be, for the benefit of our residents.

##### **Q) What would happen to existing local councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire? Will they be merged, so they no longer exist?**

A) We are not talking about merging councils together. If the devolution deal is successful, all local councils in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire - including Nottingham City and Derby City – will continue to exist, as they do now.

##### **Q) What powers would councils lose if they became part of a combined authority?**

A) None. This is about central government devolving powers to the region, not individual councils giving up power to the region. Local councils will continue to make the decisions over local issues.

##### **Q) What would happen to local council services?**

A) There will be no immediate changes to local council services if the devolution deal is agreed. In the longer term, some services might be delivered on a regional rather than local basis, if this is deemed more efficient or better value for money.

##### **Q) Why would more local decision making be better?**

A) Local decision making tends to result in better local economic performance, as policies are tailored to the needs of specific areas.

Local leaders often know and understand the areas much better than politicians and civil servants based in the capital, and their knowledge and experience can deliver what is appropriate and what will work for their region, especially when they work with nearby public and private sector partners.

##### **Q) Why do we need an elected regional mayor?**

A) One of the conditions for a level 3 deal, which offers the most local powers and funding, is having an elected mayor. The role of an elected regional mayor would be to look at major issues which affect our whole area, a prominent, accountable person who can look at the big picture and give the region more of a voice.

A mayor with a clear and direct mandate, strong accountability, and the power to make change happen, could be a powerful driving force for the East Midlands.

If approved, the mayor would work together with leaders of local councils to create a strategy for the wider area. This is a critical role, and it is essential that this person should be democratically accountable.

Local councils would still be responsible for most public services, such as waste management, schools, recreational facilities, and so forth. The mayor would focus on wider issues that span across the area, like transport, regeneration, and employment.

##### **Q) What powers are you asking for in the devolution bid?**

A) We are focussing on key areas including transport and infrastructure, business growth, inward investment, strategic regeneration, employment, employment skills, supporting young people's journey into adulthood, and community safety.

We believe that these are areas the entire region would benefit from, in terms of greater investment and more decision making at a local level.

**Q) Isn't this just adding another layer of bureaucracy?**

A) This isn't about adding a layer of unnecessary bureaucracy but moving resources and decision-making powers which already exist from London to the East Midlands and making all of this democratically accountable to the people who live here.

Devolution is mainly about strengthening regional arrangements. If a combined authority deal was approved, it would come with new wide scale powers not currently available at a local level.

These new powers would be exercised across the whole region, with the consent of local councils in our area. This is because they would add value by addressing issues like transport that benefit from being planned on a wider geographical basis.

**Q) If devolution is about getting access to more funding, why couldn't we have that in the first place?**

A) The East Midlands has long been overlooked, in comparison to other areas like the West Midlands and Greater Manchester in terms of government investment. Public spending per person is lowest in the East Midlands at £12,113 – 10% below the UK average.

The government has made it clear through their Levelling Up White Paper that they believe more local decision-making leads to better outcomes for communities, and so the greatest benefits are attached to devolution deals which include more local accountability.

**Q) Will this mean a rise in Council Tax? Haven't the four main councils involved in this asked for powers to raise money through more Council Tax in their bid?**

A) In our bid to the government, we have asked for everything that is potentially on offer, as we don't want to rule anything out at this early stage. We have included the power to raise money through Council Tax because it might be used at some point in the future.

Of the nine existing mayoral combined authorities, eight have this power, but only two have ever actually used it. So, this is a possible option, not a foregone conclusion.

**Q) What happens if we don't have devolution?**

A) It would be a major missed opportunity. We'd miss out on the chance of getting more funding for services in our region, and the efficiency of working at scale.

We could potentially get left behind compared to other areas who are part of devolution deals, giving them a bigger voice, as well as being able to make more major decisions locally, near the people they affect.

It's likely we would have less influence over future government investment priorities, less financial certainty, would have to compete more for national funding, and we could lose the chance for a guaranteed funding stream.

Ultimately, we'd lose a big chance to improve public transport, get more investment for business growth, bring in more jobs, skills, and training, and improve the places where we live and work, as well as potentially much more.

Devolution is all about getting a better deal for our area, and we don't want to miss out.

**Q) Which areas have devolution arrangements like the one planned for the East Midlands? Which other areas are looking at setting this up?**

A) Nine combined authorities with elected mayors currently exist in England:

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Greater Manchester
- Liverpool City Region
- North of Tyne
- South Yorkshire
- Tees Valley
- West Midlands
- West of England
- West Yorkshire

Other areas were invited by the government in February 2022 to start formal negotiations to agree new devolution deals, with the aim of agreeing a number of these deals by autumn 2022:

- Cornwall
- Derbyshire and Derby
- Devon
- Durham
- Hull and East Yorkshire
- Leicestershire
- Norfolk
- Nottinghamshire and Nottingham
- Plymouth and Torbay
- Suffolk

Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council have sent the government initial proposals to negotiate a combined devolution deal.

Cllr Ogle also advised at the meeting:

- The Devolution Deal Sign was officially signed off at the end of August for the Combined County Authority. Mayoral Elections are planned for May 2024 and the 8-week public consultation has now begun by the online survey which is available here: [www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk/have-your-say](http://www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk/have-your-say)  
Paper copies of the survey, and copies in other formats and languages, can be requested by emailing [eastmidlandsdevolution@ipsos.com](mailto:eastmidlandsdevolution@ipsos.com) or calling 0800 260 0536.
- More information about devolution and the proposals for our area can be found at [www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk)
- Doncaster Sheffield Airport – it is believed that only a compulsory purchase order would save it.
- Cllr Ogle has put a request in for the duelling of the Trent Bridge at Gainsborough.
- Cllr Ogle is attempting to reactivate the Bassetlaw Police Priorities Setting meeting.

**Dist Cllr Coultate:** provided an update to the Council, which included:

- The MP constituency boundary is proposed to change to include Clayworth into the Newark & Sherwood MP's area.
- The STEP project's first jobs are now being advertised on the Job Centre website and an open event was held this week for local councils to attend.
- A future of Cottam Power Station meeting has been formed by Cllr Coultate, which all parishes in the local area, on both sides of the Trent are invited to attend. The next meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023.

46/22 To receive an update on Highways Matters Raised with Notts County Council/Bassetlaw District Council and to escalate a list of outstanding items with Notts County Council via the County Cllr where necessary

Please note – in the 1st instance, cllrs and members of the public should report all new highways matters (street lights, overgrown hedges/trees, pavement/road problems/drainage etc) on the on-line Notts County Council website or MyNotts App, themselves, then, should no action have been taken NCC, bring it to the Parish Council meeting for escalation. The following outstanding items have been chased by the Clerk with no response and Cllr Ogle was asked if he can assist with escalating these issues with the appropriate departments:

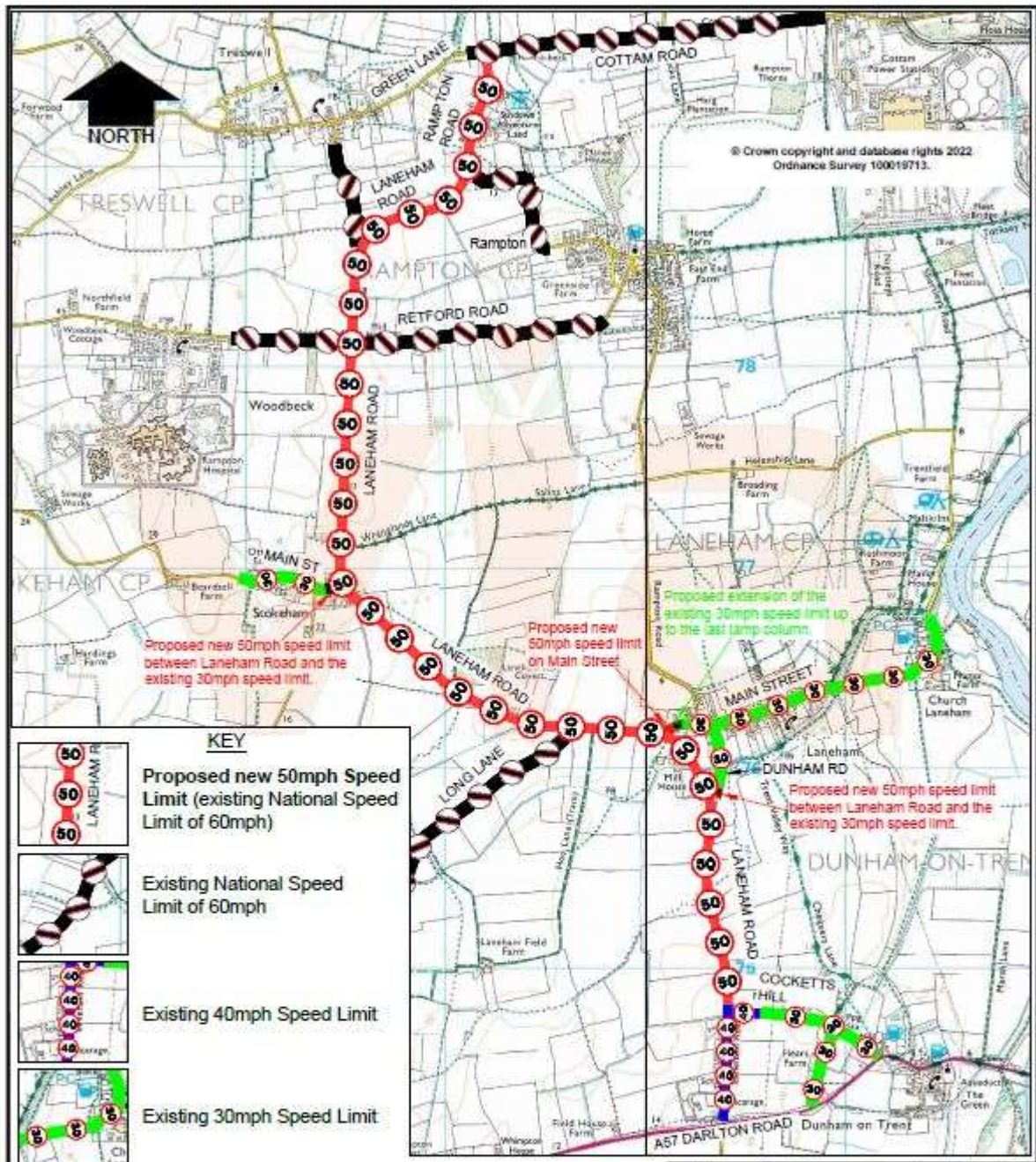
- **CSC437477503 Traffic sign damage Cocking Lane 2 Giveway signs near to 3 words location**  
**///spouting.dunes.houseboat** – The Clerk reported these to the County Council on 18.07.2022 and are currently awaiting repair.
- **CSC462413086 - Damaged/Collapsed Signs - Junction Rampton Road/Cottam Rd/Green Lane**  
These were reported in April 2022 and the system still shows as 'awaiting repair' 2 vehicles in recent months have come off the road where the signs are not in place. The Clerk reported it again on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and chased the Highways Manager for an update.
- **Cocking Lane 2 Giveway signs - CSC437477503** What3Words location **///spouting.dunes.houseboat** reported by the Clerk in July 2022, the system still shows them as 'awaiting repair' a 2 vehicle collision occurred here in October, one ended upturned on its roof. The Clerk chased the Highways Manager on 1<sup>st</sup> November for an update.

**New Items to Escalate:**

None.

- **County Council Laneham Road, Dunham on Trent, Laneham, Rampton and Stokeham and Rampton Road, Treswell) (50 M.P.H. Speed Limit) Order 2022 (1277)** - The Council **noted** and **resolved** to support the following alterations by Notts County Council to the speed limits. The following lengths of road shall have a speed limit of 50mph: -
  - (i) Dunham Road, Laneham  
from its junction with Laneham Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 69 metres.
  - (ii) Laneham Road in Dunham on Trent, Laneham, Rampton and Stokeham from a point 579 metres north of its junction with A57 Darlton Road in a northerly, north-westerly, northerly and then north-easterly direction to its junction with Rampton Road, Treswell (an approximate distance of 5744 metres).
  - (iii) Main Street, Laneham  
from its junction with Laneham Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 25 metres.
  - (iv) Main Street, Stokeham  
from its junction with Laneham Road in a westerly direction for a distance of 22 metres.
  - (v) Rampton Road in Treswell  
from its junction with Laneham Road in northerly direction to its junction with Cottam Road.The proposed 50mph speed limit is part of a scheme to reduce the number of injury accidents on Laneham Road. The speed limit would replace the existing National Speed Limit of 60mph. The County Council have advised that

the lower speed limit is being introduced as part of an accident reduction scheme. In a period between 2018 and 2021 there were 5 injury accidents recorded on Laneham Road. As well as lowering the speed limit there will be other works to ensure that the verge marker posts are replaced, where necessary, on all bends along Laneham Road. The following Map shows the alterations proposed by the County Council Highway Improvements Co-ordinator:



Rev	Description	Drawn	Chk'd	Auth	Date
		J.A.B.			Sep 22
		M.N.			Sep 22

 in partnership with  www.viamidlands.co.uk Tel 0115 804 2100 Bliothorpe Depot, Bliothorpe Business Park, Bliothorpe, Nottinghamshire, NG22 8ST		Project Rampton Road, Treswell and Laneham Road, Rampton, Stokeham, Laneham and Dunham on Trent	Date Sep 22
Project No TRO 1277	Date Sep 22	Drawn By M.N.	Auth J.A.B.
Drawing Title Proposed 50mph Speed Limit Consultation Plan	Date 06/12/22	Scale N.T.S.	Rev 0
Drawing No H/JAB/4066/01	Date 06/12/22	Scale N.T.S.	Rev 0

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Council **resolved** to send the following to the consultation: “The Council supports the proposals because since the road was first opened in the 1960s (to accommodate traffic to and from the A57 to Cottam Power Stn) there have been several deaths at junctions and crossroads along its length, with countless other less serious accidents. However, the Council wish to point out that whilst some of the accidents along the road from Dunham to Treswell have occurred at junctions/crossroads so anti-skid/hi-friction surfacing there won’t make much difference at those locations, but is it worthwhile your proposals considering the high friction surfacing for any of the bends along the road and ensuring there’s enough arrow chevron signs and reflectors in these positions.

At the junction of Cocking Lane leaving Treswell when it joins the Laneham Road and at Woodbeck/Rampton Crossroads, either side of the crossroads on Retford Road there are currently ‘Give Way’ Signs, the Council knows that to change these to ‘Stop’ signs that needs the County Council to get permission from the Secretary of State Dept to allow you to swap the signage over. All the deaths at these crossroads have occurred when the ‘Give Way’ motorists have pulled out into oncoming traffic which has hit them. Drivers know that for give way, you don’t have to stop fully but for Stop, you’re supposed to always ‘stop’ and then go, so could this simple change of Give Way signage to Stop signage be a worthwhile investment as part of your project? Surely you can get permission from the Secretary of State and include this within your proposals.

Whilst the Council welcomes the new speed limit proposals, it believes that a 50-mph limit won’t be adhered to by some drivers who have no consideration for 30, 40 or National Speed Limits, could average speed cameras along Laneham Road enforcing the maximum limit along the length be considered? If they are too expensive for your budget, would your budget allow the consideration of singular speed cameras somewhere in the vicinity of Woodbeck Crossroads?

At Woodbeck Crossroads and at the Junction with Cocking Lane, the accidents mentioned above happened when those motorists approaching the Give Way signs pulled out into Laneham Road. At the moment, motorists know Laneham Road is a National Speed limit road, therefore, logical thinking is that they take care pulling out as they know traffic is coming fast. However, by making Laneham Road 50mph could this have the opposite effect and lead to more deaths and accidents at both the crossroads and Cocking Lane junction. Will people pulling out ‘chance it’ thinking “it’s safer now as they are only doing no more than 50mph” and misjudge it, because there will still be people speeding, but the drivers pulling out don’t expect it.

Lastly, is this an opportunity for you to look at reducing the National Speed Limit from leaving the 30mph zone in Treswell to Laneham Road so that this section of Cocking Lane is reduced to 50mph at the same time? The same with the road from the Crossroads down into Rampton Village which approaches the Primary School, there’s a voluntary 20mph zone right at the school when the lights flash at school time but would it benefit from the whole stretch of Retford Road being made 50mph at this time, it is worth noting that the winter salting of roads route does cover this section of road so is icy whereas the Laneham Road and Retford Road from Woodbeck to the Crossroads are salted as a matter of course, so the section from the crossroads in winter past the school is icier and may benefit from being included in your 50mph reduction zone scheme all at the same time.”

The Notts County Council Highway Improvements Co-ordinator in charge of this scheme replied to the Council’s comments as follows: “*The Department of Transport recommend that stop signs are only used at junctions where there is poor visibility. The sign will be well respected only if drivers can see the need for it. The junctions mentioned in your response have good visibility and so would not meet the criteria for a stop sign. The proposed 50mph speed limit does not extend beyond Laneham Road as the aim of the scheme is to help reduce the number of accidents on this road only. Speed cameras have not been considered as part of this scheme.*”

**All public questions, comments, suggestions or complaints about these changes should be sent to**

[TMconsultation@viaem.co.uk](mailto:TMconsultation@viaem.co.uk) phone 0115 9772505 or in writing to Highway Improvements Co-ordinator, Bilsthorpe Depot, Bilsthorpe Business Park, Bilsthorpe, Newark, NG22 8ST.

47/22 Finance:

Monthly Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the Financial Information circulated by email before the meeting, the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record. Cllr Slater signed the bank statement and bank reconciliation.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Glasdon UK Ltd	2x Dog Poo Bins	£369.55
Clerk	Post Office Ltd Parcelforce - Minutes to Binders	£8.95
Clerk	Wilco – Folder & Card for Minute Binding	£8.00



Zurich Municipal Plc	Insurance Amendment	£51.65
Village Lengthsman	Expenses B&Q Post Crete for Dog Poo Bins	£25.60
Freddie Allen Landscapes	2022 Grass Cutting at Cottom Playing field	£720.00
Helix Binders Ltd	Binding of Minutes 1988-2009 & 2013-2022	£88.12
Clerk	Post Office Ltd – Parcelforce – Minutes to Notts Archives	£9.95
Village Lengthsman	Lengthsman Services Apr to Oct	£1296.00
RBLI	Poppy Wreath for War Memorial	£20.00
Cllr Bendell RBLI	Lamppost Poppies x 50	£250.00
North Notts 1 <sup>st</sup> Responders	S.137 Grant Support	£250.00
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b><u>£3,097.82</u></b>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bassetlaw District Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ Concurrent Grant	£5.50
Bassetlaw District Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ Precept	£2,500
Notts Police	Community Grant for Interactive Speed Sign	£2,347.00
HMRC	VAT Rebate 2019 to 2022	£2,101.53
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>£6,954.03</u></b>

Bank Balance

The Current Account Balance **£16,435.02#**  
 Direct Debits, and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE, already **approved** unanimously. # **£2,347 ring fenced for the purchase of the Interactive Speedsign which is currently on order.**

48/22 To discuss any new planning applications received and to pass a resolution to approve the scheme of delegation

The Clerk advised that when a planning application comes from Bassetlaw either in a month with no meeting or soon after a council meeting, the Council cannot send in a potential response (Parish Councils don't have to respond but may do if they wish to) as the decision for the response has to be made at a meeting or via a scheme of delegation. At present no scheme of delegation is in place. Delegation cannot be to an individual Councillor only to an Officer (Clerk or RFO) of the Council. After discussion, Cllr Slater **Proposed** and it was unanimously **resolved** that the scheme of delegation as follows:

*“Any planning applications received to the Council from Bassetlaw will be emailed around the Council, should 3 or more Cllrs wish to make a response based upon Material Considerations, after consultation with a minimum of 3 councillors, a summary response will be drafted by the Councillors, checked by the Clerk and circulated to all councillors for comment prior to submission to Bassetlaw District Council by the Clerk before the deadline date. At the next Parish Council meeting, an item will be placed on the agenda to note the contents of the submission to Bassetlaw Council Planning authority for the minutes.*

*If a very contentious planning application was submitted it may be necessary to call a full Council meeting. Should it be felt that a site visit, by a Cllr is required in determining the response, a Cllr will volunteer to go.”*

**22\01045\FUL - Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings into Two Dwellings with Associated Building Operations (Re-submission of P.A 21/01255/FUL), Forwood Farm, Wood Lane, Treswell – The Council resolved** that the following response sent to Bassetlaw Planning Dept:

“Whilst the Parish Council has no objections to these plans it does understand that it is not in alignment with the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) because it is outside of the ‘village envelope’.”

There are 2 planning applications, which arrived since July for Cottam parish which haven't been notified to the Clerk. The Clerk will check with Bassetlaw to see if these were within Cottam Parish, if they were just outside this will be the reason, they might not have registered Cottam on their system to the new email address.

49/22 To pass a resolution to sign up to the NALC civility and respect pledge, adopt the new Dignity at Work Policy & a Civility & Respect Statement

NALC, SLCC and One Voice Wales request that all Parish Councils consider signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge demonstrating a commitment to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector. Even Councils who currently abide by the principles of Civility and Respect, it may not always be the case, you don't know who might join the Council in the future and try to use bullying and harassment to achieve their goals – having considered this now and put in place the recommended policies and procedures, Councils are well prepared to nip such behaviours in the bud.

Council's signing the pledge must update their policies and procedures by adopting the NALC Dignity and Work Policy. It is approved for use by both SLCC and NALC and focuses on challenging all inappropriate behaviour, rather than just bullying and harassment, having a zero-tolerance approach and the aim of dealing with concerns before they escalate.

There is no place for bullying, harassment, and intimidation within our sector and signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge is one of the ways a council can demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector, and to demonstrating positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

By signing the Pledge, the council is agreeing that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles, and that it:

- has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
- has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a Dignity at Work policy
- will seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme
- supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the civility and respect, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

NALC & the SLCC have also issued a Civility and Respect Statement to all parish councils recently, recommending that they resolve to adopt the following statement:

*“We treat everyone with courtesy and respect and ask for the same in return. We ask that you treat your councillors and council staff courteously without violence, abuse or harassment.*

*Councillors and council staff have the right to carry out their civic duties and work without fear of being attacked or abused. Any behaviour whether that be verbal, physical or in writing, which causes either councillors or council staff to feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, or threatened, is totally unacceptable.*

*The zero-tolerance policy includes abuse, aggression or threats made in person, over the telephone or in written communication, including on social media.*

*The council considers threatening behaviour to be:*

- *Attempted or actual aggressive, or physical actions made towards any councillor or member of staff.*
- *The use of aggressive, or abusive language, (including raising of the voice, swearing, shouting or in writing) which threatens or intimidates councillors or council staff.*

*This policy applies throughout all council meetings, but it also applies to any councillor or council staff away from council meetings.”*

After discussion Cllr Slater **Proposed** and the Council unanimously **resolved** to sign the pledge, adopt the Dignity at Work Policy and Civility & Respect Statement with immediate effect. A signed copy is included as an Appendix to these minutes.

#### 49/22 To Adopt/Update Various NALC Formal Documents

The Clerk has reviewed the existing formal documents of the Council and worked through the list provided by the previous Clerk of missing documents/policies and those which need up dating. After discussion, Council unanimously **resolved** to adopt the following policies and procedures with immediate effect:

- Expenses Policy
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure
- Sickness Absence Procedure
- Training & Development Policy
- Annual Leave HR Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Flexible Working Policy
- Maternity Leave & Pay Policy
- Paternity Leave & Pay Policy
- Homeworking Policy
- Performance Improvement Policy & Procedure
- Emergency, Dependants & Bereavement Leave Policy
- Sickness Absence Policy
- Grievance & Disciplinary Procedure
- Financial Regulations
- FOI Publication Scheme
- Code of Conduct
- Standing Orders
- Health & Safety Policy
- Petitions Policy

- Risk Assessment
- Public Participation Policy

50/22 To Progress a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The Council has previously advertised for volunteers and none came forward. After Discussion Cllr Slater **Proposed** and the Council **resolved** not to form a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

51/22 To progress the future of Treswell Red Phone Box

At the July meeting it was decided to either run a book exchange in it or sell the phone box. After discussion, the Council **resolved** to clean, refurbish and repaint the phone box, then arrange for shelving to be installed and advertise it as a book exchange. The Clerk agreed to ask the Lengthsman to undertake the work and Cllr Bendall offered to help the Lengthsman.

52/22 To agree that the Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility (two thirds elected members and CiLCA qualified Clerk) & to agree to adopt the General Power of Competence

Sections 1 to 8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides statutory power to local councils the general power of competence (GPC) 'to do anything that individuals generally may do', described as a 'power of first resort'. The generality of the power is not limited by the existence of any other powers of the authority, as long as it does not break other laws. Once adopted GPC, council cannot also incur section 137 Local Government Act 1972 expenditure.

The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 lays down the criteria for eligibility:

- When a resolution is passed that the council meets the criteria, the number of councillors declared elected at the last ordinary election or subsequent by-election, must equal to or be greater than two-thirds of the total number of members of the council.
- The clerk must hold either CiLCA 2012 or a higher education (Level 4) qualification in Local Council Administration More than 2 thirds (8) seats on the Parish Council were elected in 2019 and the Clerk obtained the CiLCA qualification in 2020. Therefore, after discussion, Cllr Slater **Proposed**, calling for a vote and the Council unanimously resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence with immediate effect.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda item was closed the members of the public due so that the Council can discuss information which is relating to an individual for example Contracts of employment, salaries, financial or personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

53/22 To sign the Clerk's Contract of Employment

The Council **approved** the Clerk's Contract of employment in accordance with the Confidential Appendix Report and the Clerk and Chairman signed the Contract.

54/22 To Discuss the Village Lengthsman Scheme & Contract

The Council **noted** the contents of the County Council Lengthsman Scheme which included the agreement that the Council will receive £1,850 per year, for an initial 3-year period, on the provision of an invoice from the Council to the County Council, in January each year together with the previous 12 months reports of the Lengthsman activities (with before and after photos where possible) to the County Council. Activities can be carried out on land which is under the ownership or responsibility of either the County Council or Parish/Town Council, the work can be undertaken by a Parish Council employed Lengthsman or by a contractor (or mixture of both) including but not limited to:

**Minor Highways works:**

- Additional Grass cutting
- Bus shelter cleaning
- Siding up; cutting out encroaching grass from footways with a spade
- Rights of way (communicating with landowners)
- Removal of soil/detritus dropped or washed onto road
- Cutting of vegetation overhanging the road or pavement (or liaising with landowners as appropriate)
- Removing growth from parapets or fences and minor repairs
- Reporting safety defects e.g., Potholes etc
- Maintenance of landscaping features

**Signs (including reflector posts):**

- Cleaning (with cold soapy water and a brush)
- Painting of heritage cast iron direction signs
- Minor repairs such as retightening the bracket where signs have slipped

**Drainage:**

- Grips; (cleaning existing with a spade)- a grip is a hand dug drainage channel from the edge of the road to a ditch, used where water collects.
- Outfalls; keeping the end of a drainage pipe or culvert clear of obstruction
- Localised ditching, digging out existing ditches where silted up, or digging short stretches of new ditch in the highway verge if needed.
- Cleaning leaves from on top of gully grates
- Rodding of pipes (often leading from a gully into a nearby ditch)

**Rights of Way Maintenance**

- Extra grass cuts on gritty paths (where landownership is not usually an issue and paths are similar to adopted footpaths already maintained by the County Council)
- Clearing around overgrown public footpath signs, stiles or gates
- Minor repairs to gates, stiles and bridges (e.g., replacing broken rails)

**Referral of work to Countryside Access Team including:**

- Bridge, stile or gate replacement or installation
- Obstructions where the landowner is not contactable or amenable
- Queries about path location
- Request for new signs and way marks

**Winter Weather: (same responsibilities as the existing snow wardens)**

- Minor snow clearing
- Gritting on footpaths and minor residential roads
- Reporting major problems

It is worth noting that the above works is only item which 'may' be done, and the Lengthsman (or contractor(s) can be instructed to undertake work from this list. The Clerk has challenged the amount with the County Council who have agreed that the Council can operate as a cluster of 2 parishes, meaning an adjusted annual grant of £1,850, the Clerk has also successfully applied for. Together with the annual litter picking street cleaning grant from Bassetlaw Council of £274, the total of £2,124 can be used towards paying for a 4hr a week Lengthsman.

The Lengthsman is currently on a self-employed basis however after discussion of the 'pros and cons' of employed Vs self-employed, Cllr Fox **Proposed**, Cllr Slater **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** to offer the Lengthsman an annual self-employed contract, based on 47 weeks of the year, at an average of 4 hrs a week at £14ph, paid in equal monthly instalments. The Lengthsman would need to continue to send in a monthly report as usual. meaning this would cost the Parish Council £508 a year, previously the parish council had to totally fund the role.

55/22 To note Contractual National Cost of Living Pay Rises for staff members

After discussion, the Council **noted** the contents of the private & confidential appendix report detailing the contractual pay rises applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2022.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9pm.