

Final Brattleby's Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2036





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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Neighbourhood Plans are a new type of statutory plan brought into force through the Localism Act (2012). Not only are they intended to be produced by local people for their own areas, they also have to be approved by a referendum of the people living in that area. Unlike national planning policy, which is approved by Parliament, or local planning policy, which is approved by the local authority, a Neighbourhood Plan can only be brought into force following a majority vote by residents of the Neighbourhood Area.

1.2 Neighbourhood Plans are part of the statutory planning system. This means that when decisions are made on planning applications the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan must be taken into account by the local planning authority, West Lindsey District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan process enables communities to inform future planning applications and better shape their environment to determine where development takes place. It can also help to influence the type and quality of that development and to ensure that the change brings with it local benefit.

1.3 This Plan has been prepared by Brattleby Neighbourhood Plan group on behalf of the Brattleby Parish Council. It covers the Brattleby parish area and sets out planning policies for this area for 20 years and covers the period 2016-2036. The Parish Council intends to monitor the progress of development over this period and review the Neighbourhood Plan against actual developments to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is delivering what is intended.



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2.1 Whilst the purpose of Neighbourhood Plans is to allow local people to have a greater	
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2.4The development of the Neighbourhood Plan involved a very lengthy and highly inclusive consultation process. The key events are summarised below. The issues that the community expressed at the consultation events and through the community questionnaire have formed the vision and objectives for the plan. Policies have been formulated in order to achieve the objectives.

Event	Date	Purpose	Outcome	
Questionnaire	November 2015	To gain the views and identify the issues from the community	34.4% of questionnaires were returned.	
Exhibition at the village Hall	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2016			
Cheese & Wine Night	the draft NP di		16 local residents attended to discuss the policies and suggested some amendments to the policies.	
Village Hall	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	To discuss draft NDP	10 people attended	

2.5 Table 1: Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Events

## Why are we doing a Neighbourhood Plan?

2.6 Brattleby is classified as a 'Small Village in the Submission Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2016) which is expected to provide small scale development of a limited nature. Proposals will be considered on their merits and according to preferences stated in the Plan. Brattleby is expected to deliver 10% housing growth up to 2036 (which equates to 4.5 dwellings).

2.7 Consultation for this Neighbourhood Plan has revealed the following key community issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to address:

- The location of new development
- The type of new housing
- The design of new housing to reflect existing building character
- Broadband connectivity
- The protection and enhancement of Brattleby's environmental assets
- Agricultural Heritage

2.8 The Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit intends to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). In

anticipation of the CIL charging schedule being implemented in Lincolnshire this Neighbourhood Plan sets out community projects in **Appendix A.** This shows where any resulting investment (levied on the developer) will be spent.



## 3. Community Vision

#### Our Vision

Brattleby would accept high quality new housing to the village in suitable locations, whilst retaining its old historic core, preserving the rural character and protecting and enhancing its highly valued open spaces. Brattleby Parish will preserve its quintessential rural English village character for current and future generations to live, work and visit the area.

#### **Community Objective 1**

To ensure that any new development is sited where it does not detract from the historic and rural character of the area.

#### **Community Objective 2**

To ensure that all new development relates positively in its form and function, with respect to materials, type, style, and its connection to the village in particular, where it's within the existing built boundary and conservation area of the settlement.

#### **Community Objective 3**

To encourage broadband providers to improve broadband connectivity and speed to existing properties as well as new development.

#### **Community Objective 4**

To protect and enhance the best of Brattleby's environmental assets to:

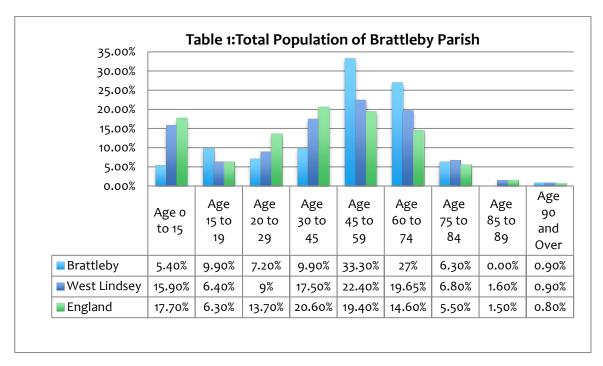
- a) promote biodiversity and protect and enhance wildlife habitats
- b) protect and enhance existing highly valued open spaces
- c) enable people to access the countryside for leisure and recreation
- d) retain the rural, open character of the area
- e) retain the visual connections with the countryside from within the settlement



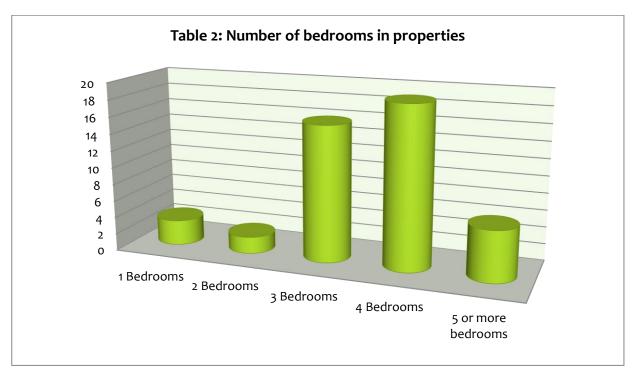
# 4. Brattleby - Key Facts

4.1 Brattleby, has an overall average house price of £396,500 which is more expensive than nearby Saxilby (£174,460), Sturton By Stow (£144,714) and Ingham (£208,445).

4.2 The total population of Brattleby Parish is approximately 111 according to the 2011 census. The table below shows the breakdown of the age profile in Brattleby compared with the West Lindsey District, East Midlands and Nationally. The table shows that the Parish has an ageing population with the largest age range in the parish being that of age 45 – 59 with 33.3 % of the residents being in this age range.



4.3 There are currently 46 dwellings in the Parish and more than half of the properties in the Parish are detached (73.9%). Table 2 shows that the majority of properties in the Parish are 3 or 4 bedroomed properties.



# 5. Character of the Area



5.1 The village of Brattleby is enveloped by trees and as a result appears both enclosed and compact giving the village an attractive natural charm. The village has a well-defined perimeter, with its winding lanes, hedges, stone walls and grass verges.



5.2 The moss covered limestone dry walling fronting a number of houses is an important feature, as are similar walls fronting the Village Green on School Lane and the rear of houses on Back Lane.

5.3 The stone wall to the west of the B1398 extends north-south and varies between 1 metre and 2.3 metres high. Behind this, mature woodland, grass paddocks and fields of Willow and Miscanthus spread to the western horizon.

5.4 A predominant feature of Brattleby village is both its internal and surrounding 'Green Spaces', provided by open countryside, paddocks, orchards, hedgerows and woodland, which – in many cases - abuts directly onto resident's gardens, providing a pleasant and much valued feeling of 'openness'.



5.5 The traditional and quintessential character of the village is created by these small 'open frontages' between properties, which retain the village's agricultural identity. Most of the

meadows surrounding the village are historically and environmentally important and are currently used as horse paddocks, or for sheep grazing which characterise the features of this small rural village.



5.6 Because of the existing character of the village as described above the design and materials of any new development in the village needs to be carefully considered and should in its form, function, colour and texture be in harmony with the traditional buildings and character of the existing settlement.

## 6. Housing

6.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPFF) highlights the fact that the housing needs of a settlement should be clearly understood and should provide a mix of housing types and tenures based on the current and future local demographics, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community

6.2 The local demographics of Brattleby show that the current housing stock is predominantly large detached properties (with 73.9% being detached) with 3 or more bedrooms. The settlement has a population of which 67.5% are over the age of 45. Throughout the consultation the older residents in the parish raised the issue of wanting more, smaller properties to down size into and also the need for smaller, lower value properties for younger families to stay in the village or new families to locate to the village. Local residents suggested that they would like to see a mix of property types built in the village and not just large detached properties. 6.3 The local demographics along with the consultation results indicate that the local housing need in the area is for smaller 2/3 bedroomed properties

6.4 The amount of housing to be provided in the Parish will be set through the Central Lincolnshire Joint Local Plan. Currently, the submission draft proposes that the settlement can take 10 % growth up to 2036. Therefore this Neighbourhood Plan shows a preference for small scale new housing development on infill plots in accordance with the proposed submission Central Lincolnshire Plan 2016.

6.5 It is intended that any growth of the settlement should appear as natural and organic as possible which would be expected in a small rural village to have occurred over time. The Neighbourhood Plan policy supports new housing development of a small scale in locations that do not compromise the character and appearance of the area.

6.6 New developments in the Parish should make a positive contribution to Brattleby. The Neighbourhood Plan encourages the design of new development to reflect and reinforce the historic character and landscape character of the Parish so as to deliver the Plan's objectives. There will be a requirement to demonstrate through Design and Access Statements how the local vernacular has been taken into account in preparing the design and layout of the new development and how the proposed scheme will reinforce the distinctive character of Brattleby.

6.7 A questionnaire was sent out to all 96 adults in Brattleby in November 2015 and local residents were asked the following:

Characteristics	Number Responses	of
Conservation Area	28	
Open / green spaces inside and around the village	26	
Mature Trees and Hedgerows	31	
Agricultural Heritage	20	
Varied building styles throughout the village	16	
Working farms in and around the village	19	
Separation from other villages by surrounding countryside	26	

Which of the following describe the essential characteristics of our Village?

6.8 When local residents were asked if they would be happy to see more housing in Brattleby, respondents were split almost 50/50 with 17 respondents saying a few more were needed and 16 respondents stating that the village already had about the right amount of housing.

6.9 When local residents were asked what kind of development they would prefer to see in Brattleby, the majority of respondents said single new dwellings on garden infill or brownfield sites would be preferred.

	0 Local residents were asked table or unsuitable sites for de	velopment in	the village. Th	e map below sl	nows the sites t	hat
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#### Policy 1: Design of New Developments

New development should deliver good quality design. In order to achieve this all new development should:

- a) Respect the existing patterns of development;
- b) Where possible reinforce existing connections and take opportunities to create new connections;
- c) Create a place with a locally inspired or distinctive character;
- d) Take advantage of the local topography, landscape and water features, trees and plants, wildlife habitats, existing buildings and site orientation;
- e) Take advantage of views from the site;
- f) Integrate car parking within landscaping so that it does not dominate the street;
- g) Be of an appropriate scale and density in relation to its setting;
- h) Use materials appropriate to the development's context; and
- i) Preserve or enhance the conservation area, listed buildings and other heritage assets

Applicants must explain, in a Design and Access Statement or otherwise in writing, how the design of the proposed development responds to the above criteria.

#### Policy 2: Extension and remodelling to Existing Properties

Planning permission will be supported for extensions and remodelling to dwellings in the Parish where these accord with the following:

- a) The overall design, size, appearance, scale, height and mass of the extension remains visually and functionally subservient to the main dwelling;
- b) The external facing materials used in the construction match or complement the materials used in the main dwelling;
- c) No significant and adverse impact arises from the development on the amenity of neighbouring residents; and
- d) The cumulative effects of such extensions with regards to the relationship between the built form of the village and the surrounding countryside are acceptable.

#### Policy 3: Housing Mix & Type

1. Where appropriate planning permission will be supported where an application reflects the need of local people particularly in terms of smaller dwellings for older people and for young families.



# 7. The Historic Environment

7.1 The village name Brattleby derives from its origins as a Danish settlement. The early settlement of Brattleby was to be found in the parklands to the West of the Hall and is indicated by the earthworks now grassed over in the fields. The only built remains from this time are parts of the Church tower which date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. A Conservation Area Appraisal for Brattleby in 1981 by West Lindsey District Council.

7.2 The shift of the village to its present location is believed to have taken place in 1780 with the building of the original Hall and its grounds. Most of the buildings in the existing settlement date from early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and it is known that in 1809 Middle Street (now the B1398) was constructed on its present line through Brattleby that is seen today. Once this had taken place the landscape we see today was created. Sporadic development within the village took place from this date up until 1990's.

7.3 For generations, Brattleby has been a working agricultural village. A continuing visual link with its agricultural past is provided by the 'coursed stone and rubble' estate cottages and farms, several carrying inscriptions to the Wright family, estate owners since the early 19th century. The 'single track' winding lanes within the Conservation Area remain a key feature and a constant reminder of the heritage of the village.

7.4 The majority of the built area of Brattleby is within the designated Conservation Area, which was established by the District Council in September 1981. The Conservation Area is shown on Proposal Map 1. Conservation Areas seek to protect an area of special architectural and historic interest. Brattleby Parish also contains a non designated Historic Park and Garden that can be seen on Proposal map 3.



7.5 Brattleby is rich in historical charm and beauty and has a number of significant historic buildings. There are eight Listed Buildings in Brattleby and three listed structures (such as the Saxon Cross in St Cuthbert's churchyard). If a building is considered by the Secretary of State (for Culture, Media and Sport) to be of special architectural or historic interest it will be included in a list of such buildings. The Listed Buildings in the Parish are shown on Proposal Map 1.

7.6 Brattleby also has nine Heritage Assets. Heritage Assets are buildings and sites in an area that make a positive contribution to its local character and sense of place because of their heritage value. Although heritage assets are not nationally designated, they are afforded some level of protection by the local planning authority by their formal identification and adoption. The heritage assets in Brattleby are shown on Proposal Map 1.

7.7 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have identified one building, the Grade 2\* church, that is important to the local character of the area and have designated this as a Local Listed Heritage Asset as it is locally significant and is of value to the village. Proposal Map 1 shows the Local Listed Heritage Asset.



7.8 Throughout the consultation local residents have expressed a strong concern that the local heritage of the area needs to be protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy. In responses to the questionnaires 18 out of the 33 respondents said that 'what they liked about living in Brattleby was the local heritage

'.

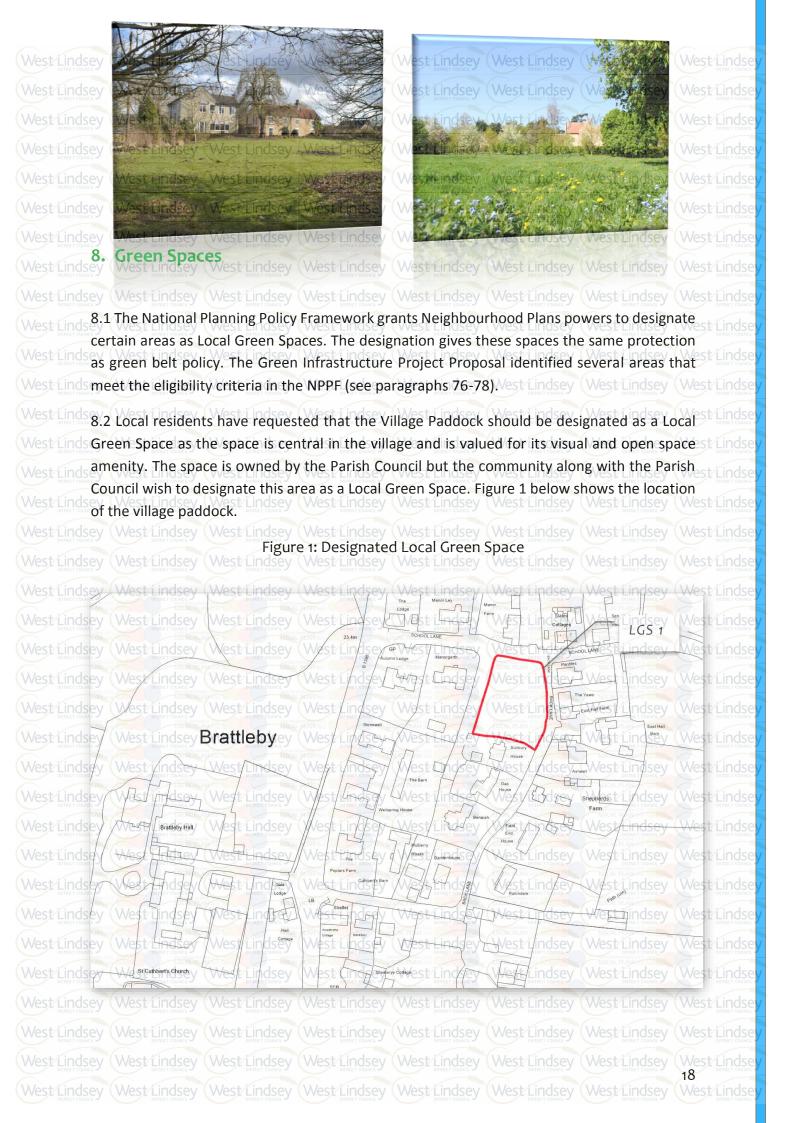
#### Policy 4: The Historic Environment

1. The Heritage Assets as shown in Proposals Map 1 within the Plan area will be protected, conserved and enhanced as part of development proposals.

Development will be resisted where it would include or involve any of the following:

- a) The demolition or partial demolition of a listed building or a building or structure on the local list; or
- b) An inappropriate alteration or extension to a listed building or a building or structure on the local list; or
- c) Any detrimental impact on the setting or context of a listed building or a building or structure on the local list.
- 2. Proposals for the change of use of a building or structure on the Local List will be required to demonstrate how this would contribute to its conservation whilst preserving or enhancing its architectural or historic interest.
- 3. Any applications proposing demolition of buildings or structures will be required to demonstrate that the viability of continued beneficial use, restoration or conversion has been fully investigated and that there are no reasonable alternatives. Where demolition is unavoidable, it must be ensured that provision is made for an appropriate level of archaeological buildings recording to take place prior to demolition.





8.3 When local residents were asked what their greatest concerns would be should further development take place in Brattleby, respondents said that the loss of views and green spaces was their biggest concern, followed by a change to the village atmosphere and the effect on traffic.

#### Policy 5: Local Green Space

- The area identified as The Village Paddock (LGS1) is considered to be a designated Local Green Space. It will be protected from development due to its particular local significance and community value.
- 2. Development on the land designated as Local Green Space will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will not conflict with the purpose of the designation.
- 3. Proposals for built development that support the formal recreation uses that take place on The Village Paddock will be considered on their merits taking into account the scale of the individual proposal and the contribution that it makes to the existing or proposed new use of the Local Green Space.



## 9. Countryside and the Environment

9.1 During the summer, the village nestles into its surrounding woodland and becomes invisible from the cliff top, with the exception of the leaded spire of St Cuthbert's Church, protruding through the leafy canopy.

9.2 A number of the tracks across the farm (Brattleby House Farm) and woodland surrounding the village are 'permissive footpaths' to walkers, with thanks to the generosity of the Wright family who are the local landowners and keen conservationists. The Wright family has

entered into a Stewardship Scheme in conjunction with Natural England. Of particular note is the walk past the reservoir to the top of the escarpment, providing magnificent panoramic views west across the Trent Valley into Nottinghamshire. The Stewardship scheme is for a ten year period and it is hoped by all local residents that this access to the countryside will continue.



9.3 In the village there are many spectacular trees that have been planted individually and in groups. The important trees in the village as identified by local residents are shown on Proposal Map 1. The trees are a mixture of indigenous species and are important in several ways; they are attractive, give shade and shelter and are havens for wildlife and biodiversity.

9.4 At present there are five trees in Brattleby with Tree Preservation Orders but equally all trees within the Conservation Area do have some protection. The Conservation Area affords protection to these trees as the land owners have to seek permission from the District Council before carrying out any work on the trees.

9.5 Brattleby has a number of important environmental assets that need protecting and preserving. These include Sites of local Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) that are not legally protected. Sites are usually selected by the Wildlife Trust, along with representatives of West Lindsey District Council and other local wildlife conservation groups. There are two SINC within the NP area, namely Popular Wood, Brattleby Thorns and Whinhills Gorse. The environmental assets are shown on Proposal Maps 1 and 2 as areas offering safe sanctuaries for local wildlife and biodiversity.

9.6 Whichever way you choose to enter Brattleby, the first and over-riding impression is that of trees, hedgerows, 'green open spaces' and stone walls. So much so, that during the summer months, many of the dwellings and buildings vanish into the tree-scape, giving the impression of a village from a bygone era. It is therefore important that these environmental features are retained, enhanced and replicated where possible.

9.7 Through the public consultation local residents expressed a strong concern that the views into and out of the village should remained unaffected and should be maintained and if possible enhanced. The views A-D identified on Proposal Map 1 are regarded by local residents to be locally significant and important to the character of the village.

9.8 Brattleby has an area of great landscape value along the cliff edge and this adds to the picturesque views and vistas when entering and exiting the village. These views and vista should be respected and retained to preserve the rural character of the area. Please see proposal map 4 for the Area of Great Landscape Value.



# Locally important views and vistas

Area A – Shown on the Proposal Map 1 on page 30



The eastern approach to Brattleby, is again, by a single track lane across the cliff top from the A15. The steep 'Brattleby Hill' descends through a 'tunnel' of overhanging trees forming part of 'Pitts Wood', framing a view over the previously mentioned lanes and roads. On a clear summer's day, it can be quite breath-taking. With most of the village enveloped by trees and only the spire of St Cuthbert's church visible through the leaf canopy, the village becomes almost invisible.



When entering the village from the south along the B1398 from Lincoln, the gentle curve of the road ensures the viewer will only be aware of parts of the village at any given time. The copse of trees and grassed wild flower area to the left, catch the eye. A fine view over open farmland towards the cliff and its wooded tree line, can be seen above the thorn hedge to the right.



Venturing further into the village the charm of the stone walls, cottages and farms, provide evidence of the village's agricultural heritage and that of being part of an 'old' country estate.

#### Area C – Shown on the Proposal Map 1 on page 30

Entering the village along the B1398 from the north, agriculture dominates the views on both sides of the road. To the east, the ever present 'cliff' can be glimpsed through a belt of Lombardy poplars, behind which, fields of rape, cereals and 'coppice willow' blanket the hillside.



Also to the west of the settlement is, the 'Fish Pond' belt of mature trees, planted in the nineteenth century by the current landowners grandfather, almost fill the now redundant 'millpond', leaving the stream to meander unencumbered towards the River Till.

A short walk along the 'Natural England Permissive Trail' to the west, which follows the Fish Pond belt, fields of 'coppice willow' and miscanthus, reach out across the Trent Valley towards Nottinghamshire. This stretch of woodland and 'wet area' has been left undisturbed for several generations. It provides an invaluable wildlife corridor for many species including, deer and badger. The horse paddocks adjacent to the main road also provide much valued 'green spaces' in terms of its visual amenity.



Approaching Brattleby from a westerly direction from Sturton By Stow and Thorpe Le Fallows, along the 'single track' road that is 'Thorpe Lane', the full extent of Lincolnshire's agricultural heritage becomes apparent. Open fields to the south, provide uninterrupted views towards Roman, 'Till Bridge Lane', with the towers of Lincoln Cathedral, dominating the sky- line some six miles distant. Thorpe Lane is renowned for its green woodpeckers and lapwings, which, after many years of absence, have returned to nest amongst the 'coppiced willow.'

Prior to entering the centre of the village, the wooded 'parkland' to the north precedes St Cuthbert's grade 2\* church. Surrounded by stone walls, the church nestles amongst trees of, oak, beech, lime and sycamore. In the churchyard, the lofty 'cedars of lebanon' are particularly striking. During the summer months, it's quite possible for visitors to be unaware of the church's existence, until the sound of the bells striking the time of day, betray its whereabouts.

Refer to the map on page 30 to see the locations

9.9 When local residents were asked what they enjoyed about living in Brattleby, respondents said that they enjoyed the 'trees and hedgerows' along with the 'rural atmosphere' as the joint most popular choice. 'Easy access to the countryside' was the second most popular choice and 'quiet village' was third. In joint fourth position were 'village identity / feeling part of a community' and 'local heritage' followed by 'village activities / community groups.

9.10 Local residents expressed the view that the paddocks around the village are very important to the ambience of the village and should be protected to keep the rural feel.



#### Policy 6: Countryside & the Environment

- Any new housing developments in the Parish should address and take account of the following criteria through the submission of a green space and landscaping strategy with application for the development of the site:
- a) existing and proposed hard and soft landscaping which includes sensitively designed boundary treatments;
- b) the condition of all existing trees and hedgerows;
- c) an outline of the measures to be taken to protect any existing trees and hedgerows during construction and their replacement if removed; and
- consideration of both near and distant views in particular those shown on proposal map 1 to and from the development and the principal public advantage points showing existing landscaping and that proposed that will be established after 10 years;
- 2) Any proposal must demonstrate how it will have no detrimental impact on the sites of local importance for nature conservation the Historic Park and Gardens and the area of Great Landscape Value.

## 10. Broadband Connectivity

10.1 A recent study undertaken by the Office of National Statistics showed that in the UK 13.9% of the population work from home. Significantly for Brattleby, this study showed that growing numbers of home workers tend to be self-employed, older, live in rural areas and earn more than the rest of the population.

10.2 The internet is driving business innovation and growth, helping people access services, and opening up new opportunities for learning. Brattleby residents and businesses are unable to take advantage of these opportunities, as local internet connection speeds are currently around 6 to 7mbps despite recent improvement. Local people think that current connection speeds are unacceptable.

10.3 The National Planning Policy Framework encourages policies to promote good broadband connections as part of a wider benefit including 'enhancing local community services and facilities' (paragraph 42 of the NPPF). Support for broadband reduces the need to travel and promotes economic development by enabling more people to set up business from home. As such it is part of sustainable planning.

10.4 When local residents were asked what amenities participants would like to see more of in the village, better broadband was the most popular response.

#### Policy 7: Improving Digital Connectivity

**1.** Proposals that provide access to a superfast broadband network will be supported.

## 11. Monitoring & Implementation

11.1 The policies in this Plan will be implemented by West Lindsey District Council as part of their development management process. Whilst West Lindsey District Council will be responsible for development management, Brattleby Parish Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to frame its representations on any future planning applications submitted in the Parish.

11.2 The use of section 106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy and other planning conditions required by West Lindsey District Council will be expected to assist in delivering the objectives of this Plan.

11.3 The Parish Council will use this and other funds as leverage to secure funding from other programmes, for example the Lottery and other Government initiatives as they become available.

11.4 As the Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of a hierarchy of planning documents the Parish Council will also look to District and County Council investment programmes where a policy and/or project can be shown to be delivering District and County objectives.

11.5 The impact of the Neighbourhood Plan policies on influencing the shape and direction of development across the Plan area will be monitored by the Parish Council. If it is apparent that any policy in this Plan has unintended consequences or is ineffective it will be reviewed accordingly.

11.6 Any amendments to the Plan will only be made following consultation with West Lindsey District Council, local residents and other statutory stakeholders as required by legislation.

## 12. Appendix A: Community Aspirations

The Neighbourhood Plan Group and Parish Council intend to pursue the following in addition to the policies contained in the Plan:

## **Transport and traffic**

Encourage the use of public transport by seeking an increase in service provision and improve the waiting facilities for villagers.

Aim to reduce the volume and speed of traffic through the village on the B1398 by a range of measures including speed limit changes, traffic calming measures and support for the dualing of the A15.

## Footpaths

Ensure public and permissive footpaths are maintained and retained. Re-instate the historic (lost) footpath connecting East Lane to Back Lane thus linking two parts of the village.

## Working with neighbouring communities

Work with neighbouring communities to achieve mutual benefits e.g. regularise speed limits along the B1398, frequency of public transport, improve broadband speeds, grass cutting contracts etc.

Work with landowners and neighbouring communities to build and maintain wildlife corridors and habitats.

## **Facilities for community activities**

Encourage the ongoing upgrading and future use of the local village hall and church for community activities.

## Small industrial/rural craft facilities

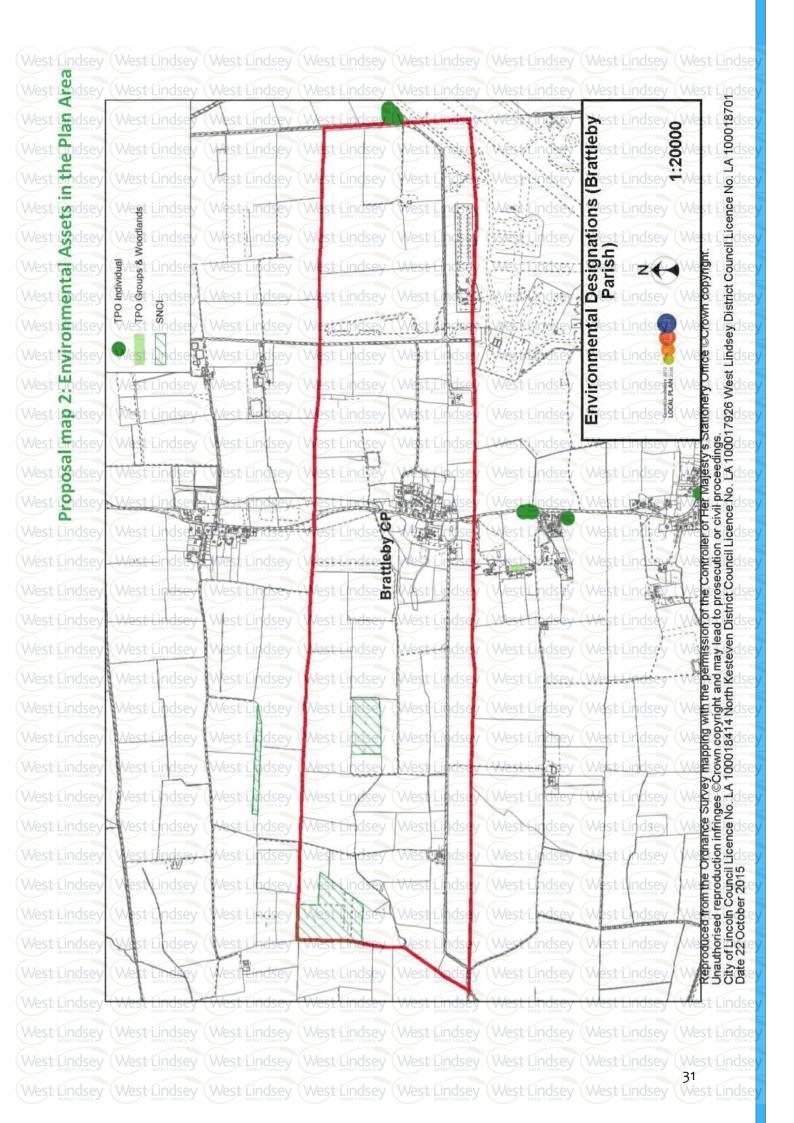
Encourage small scale commercial/craft developments which:

- support local agriculture
- promote traditional rural skills
- promote the countryside and nature

## **Conservation Area**

Seek to expand the conservation area to further protect the built environment.

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