

FAO The Clerk Stathern Parish Council

Thank you for consulting our farming business, and requesting our comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan to 2036.

Stathern is a desirable village in which to live and work and as such the plan must facilitate increasing future development. The Main Street suffers from serious congestion, with a lack of parking for both residents and visitors. On occasions traffic including buses turning at Blacksmith's End and at the island towards Harby create a serious hazard.

I have detailed below my concerns relating to the draft plan;

Cl. 3.2 The Plan should enable sustainable development, and enhance and support the rural economy, which means creating new business and employment opportunities. This can not be achieved within the draft plan and needs extra land to be allocated for business and commerce. Otherwise residents of working age will all travel daily to the main local centres; Melton, Grantham and Nottingham.

Cl. 3.3.1 An Economic Role - The Plan MUST make sufficient land of the right type available, the Parish should be less restrictive. It is one thing to prevent development in the countryside and quite another to stifle enterprise!

Cl. 4.2 Limits of Development - the proposed "village envelope" is too restrictive, it mainly details development as land for "new housing" and does not consider or facilitate commercial needs, and certainly it does not provide adequately for the period to 2036.

Cl. 5.9 Flood risk is a significant issue in the "old" centre of Stathern. To create resilience it is important to ensure that any new surface water discharge is routed around the village, to established water courses such as The Washdyke.

Cl. 8.2 It is imperative to protect and strengthen the economic base within the parish - there needs to be a plan for new and startup businesses, for relocation with more space for existing expanding businesses and to create new employment within walking distance.

Possible land for re-development could be available at the bottom of Mill Hill without detriment to the village and with a good and safe access on Pasture Lane. This area could be considered as being suitable for business or amenity use and would meet all of the above criteria were it within the "village envelope".

Please see the plan attached.

Yours faithfully

Mike Shearstone

