

To whom it may concern

I have chosen to write a letter rather than answer the online consultation as I found the consultation document didn't address my concerns with the plan.

I am opposed to the proposed increase in housing numbers.

As a resident of Bottesford for the last 8 years my main concern lies with the increased risk of flooding with the increase of new housing and the hard impermeable surfaces that come with the buildings and associated infrastructure. Bottesford, my house included, are at risk of being flooded according to the Environment Agency maps – our house might just get away with it – however if more houses were to be built this would increase the runoff to the rivers rather than soaking into the land and I would imagine if building were to be on the land that is most likely to flood this would just change the nature of the problem and flood other houses that were at a low risk or no risk of flooding before. Therefore any increase in housing must properly consider the potential impact to the flooding and appropriate measures should be put in place to mitigate the increased risk of flooding.

In addition Bottesford village has a very unique village feel to it whilst having schools and other local businesses, this must also be maintained with a sensible increase in housing numbers – it should be kept as a village and not turn into a sprawling town that is unable to cope. I know I will have to accept a certain degree of growth, but it must be proportionate and Bottesford should not be seen as a dumping ground because it does have some facilities, there are many other villages in the vale that could soak up some of the housing need, thus feeding employment in Melton, Bottesford and surrounding towns and villages and keeping those villages alive and desirable places to live.

In regards the schools, Bottesford primary school, where my children attend, is full and you will be aware that they have had to build more classrooms to accommodate the extra pupils, this school in its present form would not be able to stand the increase in numbers proposed. Indeed there are some primary schools in the vale that are struggling for numbers, why not allocate some of the housing need in those areas and keep those villages alive and therefore desirable places to live by keeping the primary schools – with schools, families will come, without, the villages will be less desirable?

Regards

Ian Rochester

