

Chapter 7 – Melton’s Environment – Protected and Enhanced – Overall Comments

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Name	User ID	Issue or comment	Officer Response	Proposed Amendment
Robert Lockey	Ian ANON-BHRP-4H3G-2	NO proposals for renewable energy, with the exception of fracking, should be entertained.	Applications for fracking are dealt with by Leicestershire County Council not Melton Borough Council and therefore the Local Plan does not have a policy on fracking.	
Angus Smith	ANON-BHRP-4HZK-D	Key for me is to add the area of separation - Melton Mowbray and Kirby Bellars, also Melton Mowbray with Ab Kettleby , Melton and Scalford - all other local villages to Melton have been given a separation agreement	The Issues and Options consultation put forward the Melton Mowbray-Scalford AoS and the Melton Mowbray-Kirby Bellars AoS. These were assessed by Influence Consultants in the Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study 2015. This concluded that neither AoS was required. Between Melton Mowbray and Scalford the presence of an expansive rural landscape and considerable sense of separation negates the need for an AoS. The study concluded that an AoS should extend to the north of Kirby Bellars to protect the historic landscape setting from expansion of Asfordby Hill and Asfordby Valley rather than Melton Mowbray. An AoS between Melton Mowbray and Ab Kettleby was not put forward at the Issues and Options stage and was therefore not assessed as part of the Areas of Separation Study. However it is considered that the separation distance between the two settlements is sufficient to negate the requirement for an AoS at this location. In addition Policy EN4 sets the general principle of avoiding the coalescence of settlements.	
John David Smith	ANON-BHRP-4H4X-M	Very interesting and informative.	Note	
Mr John Brown	ANON-BHRP-4H4Z-P	The existing boundaries of villages within the Borough should be protected also. The environment will be affected if they are not safeguarded. Once the boundaries start spreading there will be no end to it and villages will be changed beyond all recognition. Wildlife will also be adversely affected.	The decision not to take village envelopes forward into the new Local Plan was made in order to reduce the development pressure on open areas within villages and allow sustainable growth. Outside of new allocations in villages, Policy SS3 allows for additional development subject to it meeting criteria which promote sustainability.	
Lesley Judith Twigg	ANON-BHRP-4HEH-N	Couldn’t agree more—That’s why you shouldn’t build near it.	Noted	

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Mark Colin Marlow	ANON-BHRP-4HEJ-Q	To protect the environment it is vitally important not to have any large developments in rural areas.	The policies in the Local Plan seek to allow development in rural areas which protects and enhances the natural environment. Sustainability Appraisal, which is carried out alongside Local Plan formulation, identifies mitigation measures to reduce any significant negative effects identified. Where mitigation is not possible, compensation is required to offset any harm new development would cause to environmental assets.	
Brian Kirkup	ANON-BHRP-4HE9-6	I agree with most of this chapter which has obviously been developed with a great deal of thought. 2 comments 1 We risk falling further down the countryside tranquillity table with increased housing in the villages and the increased traffic that will involve, and I think 38 out of 88 is low enough already. 2 You would better tackle carbon targets by reducing housing to the 195 per year level and focussing housing away from the villages towards Melton. I think this latter point is a really big one that is more important than your going for economic growth which I think could be approached better in a stepwise fashion with my initially lower target being increased gradually if the economy seemed to demand it. If you choose the 6000+ housing target I would assume that as most housing sites have been already highlighted the delivery is likely to be more in the first 5 years than the latter 15. I think you risk spoiling the middle of Melton and making travel around Melton more difficult unless the ring road is delivered early and I feel infrastructure to Melton itself will be the key to economic growth. So my advice would be build more in and near Melton where most of the economic development will be, and will also best reduce CO2 emissions and do it gradually.	<p>A housing target of 195 dwellings per year would solely meet the demographic requirement set out in population and household projections and does not support economic growth which requires sufficient people of working age to live in the Borough. As well as the town expanding, the villages need to grow in order to support the services and facilities they require to be sustainable places to live in.</p> <p>Where it is found that existing facilities and services, such as schools, have capacity for only limited growth at the beginning of the Plan period, the Local Plan will make phasing arrangements to allow development to take place later when capacity becomes available later on. This stepwise approach will enable further growth to take place sustainably.</p> <p>The smaller sites in the village are likely to be delivered in the first 5 years of the Plan, whereas the Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhoods will be delivered later due to the requirement for new infrastructure such as power and sewerage to be installed. These new neighbourhoods to the North and South of the town will be delivered alongside sections of the proposed Melton Mowbray Outer Relief Route.</p>	

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<p>Anthony Thomas</p>	<p>ANON-BHRP-4HFX-6</p>	<p>Wind Turbines greater than 15M in overall height should not be permitted in The Vale of Belvoir, on The Belvoir escarpment, anywhere they may be seen from 500 metres away or within 3 kilometres of a dwelling. All new planning permissions and where possible alterations to existing properties should have a condition that Solar PV panes and Solar Thermal panels must be installed.</p>	<p>Policy EN10: Energy Generation from Renewable Sources, seeks to manage wind energy development in the Borough. The Melton and Rushcliffe Landscape Sensitivity Study 2014 provides the evidence to support those areas identified as suitable for wind energy development in Policy EN10. This considered that the Vale of Belvoir is of low-moderate sensitivity to small clusters of turbines of up to 25m. This does not mean that <i>any</i> such proposal would be permitted as the policy requires that cumulative effects and other criteria such as the effect on townscape and heritage assets and residential amenity are taken into account. In addition, the supporting text to the policy requires that the layout and design of proposals should be informed by detailed guidance contained in the Melton and Rushcliffe Landscape Sensitivity Study 2014.</p> <p>The Belvoir Escarpment in not identified as an area suitable for wind energy development in Policy EN10.</p> <p>Planning regulations and guidance do not permit the Council to insist on the installation of solar PV or solar thermal to new or existing properties. Policy EN10 supports solar micro-generation and indeed much of this type of development is now covered by Permitted Development Rights contained in the General Permitted Development Order 2015.</p>	
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Susan Love	ANON-BHRP-4H2P-J	7.1.3 Protect the unique settings of the villages in the Vale of Belvoir - e.g. I support the area of separation which prevents Bottesford from expanding south and east into the Vale. Include the wooded area between 46 Belvoir Rd and Winterbeck Manor Farm / Stud as an area of separation. It is one of the few wooded areas in the village and should be protected. 7.8.3 and 7.13 Protect Bottesford's allotment areas and open spaces including school playing fields. 7.16 Climate change - embrace every opportunity to stall it - and avoid building in flood zones and interfering with the natural drainage of the area to prevent further flood risk. 7.16.5 Build in Melton as far as possible to limit car journeys. 7.18 - I support sustainable construction methods. EN8 9 Space for recycling and composting is ESSENTIAL. Give new homes larger gardens. Avoid planning which restricts garden sizes in favour of large areas of mono-culture (grassland) which is supposed to mimic a village green.. People must have the opportunity to grow food as part of Melton's green strategy. 7.20.8 Vale of Belvoir and its castle is a significant tourist attraction and should not be ruined by turbines.	<p>Manor Farm is within the proposed AoS.</p> <p>Allotments, open spaces and playing fields are afforded protection from Policies EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network; EN5: Local Green Space; EN6: Settlement Character; and EN7: Open Space, Sport and Recreation.</p> <p>Policy EN11: Minimising the Risk of Flooding seeks a sequential approach to development such that development is located in areas with the lowest risk of flooding. Policy EN12: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems requires proposals to demonstrate that properties will not be at risk of surface water flooding allowing for climate change effects.</p> <p>65% of the Borough’s housing requirement is distributed in Melton Mowbray.</p> <p>Policy EN7 seeks the provision of new allotment space as part of new development in Melton Mowbray, Bottesford and Waltham on the Wolds.</p> <p>The Belvoir Escarpment is not identified as an area suitable for wind energy development in Policy EN10.</p>	
John A Herlihy	ANON-BHRP-4HU3-G	It’s only words. Well intended. you got to start somewhere	Noted	
Deborah Caroline Adams	ANON-BHRP-4H38-K	No new development can "enhance" the countryside! That is a physical impossibility - the countryside is the countryside. Depending on how it is planned, it can have less of an adverse effect on the countryside. Will EN1 (page 111 of Draft Local Plan) be remembered and adhered to when planning the developments around the Melton Country Park? In recent years the Town has lost a lot of allotments to developers. Admittedly these allotments were privately owned but if MBC really wanted to protect and enhance the environment, surely they could have purchased some of the allotments to rent out themselves to the town residents. What chance do we have of protecting the grade 3A/B agricultural land in the north and the Melton Country Park when Leicestershire County Council own a lot of that land and want to sell it?	<p>In addition to Policy EN1, Policy SS5: Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood requires a protection zone between Melton Country Park and any future development.</p> <p>Policy EN7 seeks the provision of new allotment space as part of new development in Melton Mowbray, Bottesford and Waltham on the Wolds.</p> <p>Soil surveys will be required to accompany planning applications for the Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood and it will need to be demonstrated that best and most versatile agricultural land has been avoided in design proposals where possible. Grades 1, 2 and 3a constitute High Grade Agricultural Land, NOT 3b.</p>	Policy SS5: Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood to include wording that masterplanning should seek to avoid areas of high grade agricultural land.

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Anthony Paphiti	ANON-BHRP-4HBV-Z	<p>There should be an area of separation between Melton Mowbray and Great Dalby, for the same reasons as applicable to villages currently benefiting from this, to prevent the village being adsorbed by the town and losing its character. In general I have no issue with the principles stated. My concern is, noble principles as they are, whether they are properly implemented in tune with the sentiment expressed. For example, what "contributes positively to the character of a settlement" can be the subject of a wide number of views. The section on Climate Change should recognise that the science is disputed [not the fact of climate change (the earth has witnessed that regularly for the last 4.5 billion years), but the allegations that it is man-made and that it is irreversible]. There are genuine scientific arguments about the benefits of higher CO2 levels, for example (increased plant growth). This section of the Plan is purporting to state fact, when much of what is said is speculative and probably represents the views of a biased draftsman. Like the BBC, there is nothing impartial about it. Are we sure that the policy reflects the most up-to-date government stance? Rather than getting into specifics, and bearing in mind how those specifics can change - we have radically seen this over the past 12 months - should the plan not just focus on broader aspirations than set out specific numerical data and targets? Having said that, it is right that we should do what we can to protect our environment. Which is why building more houses and increasing the use of cars on the roads are serious contributors to pollution. We should revise downwards our suggested new build of houses, encourage the use of energy efficiency in construction and design, in warm-air pumps in housing, in solar panels - including large scale solar farms - a great use for the Melton airfield, which does not destroy the land, damage the heritage or cause a ground water/flooding problem for Melton South and Great Dalby.</p>	<p>The Issues and Options consultation put forward the Melton Mowbray-Great Dalby AoS which was assessed by Influence Consultants in the Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study 2015. This concluded that the AoS was not required due to fact that the prominent topography and level of visual prominence would mean that the area would be inappropriate for development which would lead to coalescence.</p> <p>The justification to Policy EN8: Climate Change will be reviewed in light of any changes to government targets which take place before publication of the Plan in Autumn 2016.</p> <p>Policy EN9: Ensuring Energy Efficient and Low Carbon Development seeks energy efficiency in construction and Policy EN10: Energy Generation from Renewable Sources supports large scale solar development.</p>	
Shelagh Woollard	ANON-BHRP-4HB5-Y	<p>Insisting on solar panels on all new dwellings would negate any need for inefficient wind turbines.</p>	<p>Planning regulations and guidance do not permit the Council to insist on the installation of solar PV or solar thermal to new or existing properties. Policy EN10 supports solar micro-generation and indeed much of this type of development is now covered by Permitted Development Rights contained in the General Permitted Development Order 2015.</p>	
Clair Ingham	ANON-BHRP-4HMZ-F	<p>Seems sensible and it is important to incorporate climate change and a reduction in energy in these plans</p>	<p>Noted</p>	
Richard Simon	ANON-BHRP-4HZC-5	<p>The picture of the Grantham Canal appears to have been taken near Woolsthorpe, that is, at a location outside the borough.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>This photo will be amended in the Publication Version of the Plan.</p>

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Sharon Gustard	ANON-BHRP-4H6K-9	Paragraph 7.16.3 states the seasonal distribution of precipitation will change significantly, with winters becoming wetter. Building on Rectory Farm next the River Devon is likely to increase the risk of flooding during the winter months and therefore in accordance with 7.16.6, The Local Plan needs to ensure the use of and development of land will contribute to climate change mitigation. What guarantees will the Borough Council give to residents of Bottesford that building on Rectory Farm will not result in flooding to the properties already present. Bottesford has previously experienced flooding and all preventative steps should be taken to prevent further incidents not placing the village at increased risk. I strongly oppose the intention to investigate shale gas fracking in the borough as per 7.20.3. 7.22.1 - 7.22.3 specifies the reasons why Rectory Farm is unsuitable for large scale housing development.	Any planning application for development at Rectory Farm will need to be accompanied by a site specific flood risk assessment and surface water management plan to demonstrate that flood risk is not increased and that run-off rates will be restricted to greenfield rates. Applications for fracking are dealt with by Leicestershire County Council not Melton Borough Council and therefore the Local Plan does not have a policy on fracking.	
Barkestone Plungar & Redmile Parish Council	ANON-BHRP-4H1P-9	While the principles of the policies EN1 – EN6 are supported by us, it appears that most of the protections of the landscape and settlement character of our villages which existed in previous Local Plans have been removed, in particular Village Envelopes and Protected Open Areas. However the open spaces within and around our villages remain of great importance. Conservation Area status or the development of a Neighbourhood Plan appear to be the only way of introducing some of these protections. While two of our three villages which do not currently have CA status were recognised to be suitable for this, and indeed some progress had been made in designating them, resource at Melton Borough Council meant that this could not proceed. On the other hand, for many small villages the human resources needed to produce a Neighbourhood Plan makes them inappropriately cumbersome. We are therefore concerned that however worthy the sentiments of the policies EN1-EN6 may be, there is likely to be insufficient definition of the areas and character which need to be protected in specific locations.	Policy EN5: Local Green Space affords protection to open spaces which meet the criteria necessary for LGS designation. In addition Policy EN6: Settlement Character affords protection to other open areas which do not benefit from a LGS designation but which make an important contribution to settlement character. This policy does not require either an adopted Neighbourhood Plan to be in place or a Conservation Area designation in order to have weight in planning decisions.	
Mick Jones	ANON-BHRP-4H6N-C	I have no issue in general with the overview but feel that wind turbines should be restricted to developed industrial areas and should not impact on the vista of rural areas where they can be easily picked out against the landscape. I would like to see the use of bio-mas, solar pv and biogas digesters and ground source heat pumps emphasised more with some being specified for the new build areas.	Policy EN10 seeks to limit any adverse impacts on the rural landscape of wind energy development. Policy EN8 supports biomass and solar PV proposals. Ground source heat pumps are now covered by Permitted Development Rights contained in the General Permitted Development Order 2015.	

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<p>David Conner</p>	<p>ANON-BHRP-4H1M-6</p>	<p>One valuable aspect of the rich, natural environment of the borough is its dark skies - there are two astronomical societies located within the borough (Melton and District Astronomical Society based in Gaddesby , of which I am a member, and The Old Brickyard Star Club in Scalford). I would suggest that specific measures to control light pollution and obtrusive light should be included in the plan in order to protect this important character of the area. It is a valuable asset for many people. Reasons include, among others, the following; Tranquil environments are free not only from intrusive sounds but also intrusive sights. These include excessive lighting, and the effects of badly designed and poorly installed lighting. Lighting installations should take due regard of the visual amenity of the area in which they are located, as well as areas at a greater distance from them potentially affected by skyglow from upwards light emissions. Astronomy is an increasingly popular recreational activity and, as such, it needs to be considered equally with any other activities taking place within the borough. Where there is a conflict of interest, eg with sports floodlighting, a curfew on the operational hours of the lighting should be imposed (thankfully it already is in many cases), together with the requirement that the lighting complies with the Institution of Lighting Engineers 'Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light'. The control of obtrusive light will have benefits for wild-life and energy conservation. There are no benefits to be gained from wasting light and generating needless CO2 by lighting up the sky when we need light here on the ground for safety and security. A couple of examples where the control of obtrusive light might have been of benefit; Poor quality floodlighting on churches and public houses affects a number of villages in the borough. This is sometimes installed retrospectively, evidently with little or no regard for light spill or light intrusion onto neighbouring properties. 'Skybeams' have been defined as advertisements irrespective of any claims made to the contrary by the user. [TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007 para 155 http://tinyurl.com/zbkzybe] One single, annual skybeam display plays in the skies over much of the borough (including Somerby, more than 10 kilometers away from where it is located). The council seems unmotivated to do anything about it. Perhaps if the control of light pollution were included in the local plan then this sort of problem might be alleviated. Although some planning applications already include conditions relating to outdoor lighting, these are on an ad hoc basis, and a more explicit consideration of light pollution in the local plan might help to preserve the dark skies we currently have. The specific inclusion of measures for the control of light pollution in the appropriate sections of the plan would be a major step towards preserving the night-time environment for everyone, not just astronomers, to enjoy. There are no obvious reasons not to do so, and the additional benefits can only strengthen the case for doing so.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Amendments to policy EN1: Landscape will be made such that new developments will be supported where they do not adversely affect the tranquillity of an area afforded by dark skies. Policy will require well designed and installed appropriate levels of artificial lighting in all new proposals. In addition amendments will be made to the justification of Policy D1: Design at 9.3.17 such that the protection of amenity specifically relates to the appropriate use and design of artificial lighting.</p> <p>This is in conformity with NPPF Para 125:</p> <p>“By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.”</p>
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Waltham on the Wolds & Thorpe Arnold Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planning Group	ANON-BHRP-4HBZ-4	Generally very good providing the comments made are incorporated.	Noted.	
Nicholas John Walker	ANON-BHRP-4HGC-J	In order to protect the Melton "Brand", the Melton Urban Area should be improved by new infrastructure to attract more housing than has been allocated in the plan thus attracting more business and companies. The rural secondary settlements can then be asked to provide smaller numbers of housing and developments this will enhance the "brand"	Leicestershire County Council supports the delivery of a Melton Mowbray Eastern Outer Relief Route which will enable delivery of the North and South Sustainable Neighbourhoods.	
Ros Freeman	ANON-BHRP-4HF2-Z	You identified High Leicestershire as a notable character landscape and.....	Noted.	
Mike Plumb	ANON-BHRP-4HH2-2	While the principles of the policies EN1 – EN6 are supported, it appears that most of the protections of the landscape and settlement character of our villages which existed in previous Local Plans have been removed, in particular Village Envelopes and Protected Open Areas. However the open spaces within and around our village remain of great importance. Conservation Area status or the development of a Neighbourhood Plan appear to be the only way of introducing some of these protections. Whilst our village doesn't currently have Conservation Area status it was recognised to be suitable for this, and indeed some progress had been made in designating it, however, resource at Melton Borough Council meant that this could not proceed. For many small villages the human resources needed to produce a Neighbourhood Plan makes them inappropriately cumbersome. I am therefore concerned that however worthy the sentiments of the policies EN1- EN6 may be, there is likely to be insufficient definition of the areas and character which need to be protected in specific locations.	Policy EN5: Local Green Space affords protection to open spaces which meet the criteria necessary for LGS designation. In addition Policy EN6: Settlement Character affords protection to other open areas which do not benefit from a LGS designation but which make an important contribution to settlement character. This policy does not require either an adopted Neighbourhood Plan to be in place or a Conservation Area designation in order to have weight in planning decisions.	
HOBY WITH ROTHERBY PARISH COUNCIL	BHLF-BHRP-4HDH-M	Support all policies	Noted.	

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Alan Pearson	BHLF-BHRP-4HDZ-6	What is the policy to determine local important landscape areas, important heritage sites and outstanding local beauty spots? How is this done?	<p>Policy EN1: Landscape ensures new development is sensitive to its landscape setting and character as defined in the Melton Borough Landscape and Historic Urban Character Assessment Report 2011. In addition it requires that development is guided by recommendations in the Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study 2015 which divides the landscape around settlements into Landscape Character Zones and makes an assessment of sensitivity for each one.</p> <p>Policy EN13: Heritage Assets seeks the protection of important historic and heritage assets in the Borough.</p>	
The Coal Authority	BHLF-BHRP-4H8R-J	As you will be aware, the Melton Borough Council area contains deep coal resources, but has no surface coal resources which are capable of extraction by surface mining operations. Consequently there are no potential issues relating to mineral sterilisation of coal resources within the District. The Melton Borough Council area has been subjected to limited coal mining which will have left a legacy. There are however only 2 mine entries in the Borough.	Noted.	
Natural England	BHLF-BHRP-4HA7-Z	We very much welcome the inclusion of this section and its content.	Noted.	

