

A Message from the Barrowby Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Barrowby Neighbourhood Plan is an important planning document which will shape the future of our community over the next decade and beyond. It is relevant to all parishioners and those who value our long history, heritage and sense of community.

The Localism Act of 2011 provided parish councils with the ability to have a vital say in shaping the future of their communities through a Neighbourhood Plan. To take advantage of this opportunity your Parish Council set up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in 2017, which comprised volunteers from the local community and Parish Council Representatives.

Unfortunately, early in the process, one of the developers with an interest in the land to the south of Hurst Crescent and the east of Low Road submitted a planning application for phase one of the current development. The Steering Group was then distracted by the need to make representations to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to ensure that this would become a quality development. We were then further distracted by the Planning Inspectorate's Examination of the SKDC Local Plan. On several occasions, the Steering Group attended the Examination hearings and made representations on behalf of the Parish Council in order to preserve the character of our village. We also insisted on a Master Plan for the whole development, and we are pleased to say that SKDC agreed with us.

A change in Steering Group personnel and the outbreak of Covid19 led to further delays in the progress of our plan. Nevertheless, we are now in a position to offer our first draft of the plan for consultation with the residents of Barrowby.

By preparing the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council is taking the opportunity to influence the type, scale and design of development that takes place within our parish. After much hard work and public consultation by the Steering Committee, and taking into consideration feedback received from both the community and external consultees, our visions for the Parish are summarised as follows:

- To ensure that Barrowby remains a thriving village which can meet the future needs of its residents, in terms of housing, economic growth and communal facilities.
- To protect the architectural heritage, community assets and rural setting of the village, such that it provides an attractive, healthy and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit.
- To ensure that Barrowby maintains its village identity and is not subsumed into "Greater Grantham" due to unplanned coalescence by external forces.

With these visions in mind, this Neighbourhood Plan presents a series of planning policies which have local context and cover a range of elements that are relevant to our village, including the design and location of new buildings, the preservation of our traditional heritage (buildings and community spaces), the conservation of our landscape and countryside, our community facilities, and so on. Our village will inevitably have to grow, and we are about to see substantial new developments both within the village curtilage and on the periphery of the village but within our parish.

It is intended that this Neighbourhood Plan will ensure developers create a sympathetic blend between traditional and more modern building styles, through promoting robust design standards and the use of sensitive infilling within the existing village. Whilst our Neighbourhood Plan gives us an opportunity to shape the future of our village, it is important

to understand that it has to be consistent with overarching planning frameworks and is primarily concerned with the built environment.

On a community level, Barrowby has a number of community assets that could be used to promote the sporting, cultural and educational requirements of our residents. Furthermore, we aim to protect and enhance the areas of open space that the Parish currently enjoys and to maximise the benefits of potential community assets through future acquisition and development funded, in part, through funds provided by developers.

Our goal in producing this Neighbourhood Plan has been to ensure that Barrowby remains a pleasant, inclusive community to live in, with good built facilities, as well as access to the protected countryside that surrounds the Parish.

We thank all the residents as well as external stakeholders who have helped us towards this goal by providing their comments and feedback as we have progressed the Plan.

Barrowby Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - February 2025