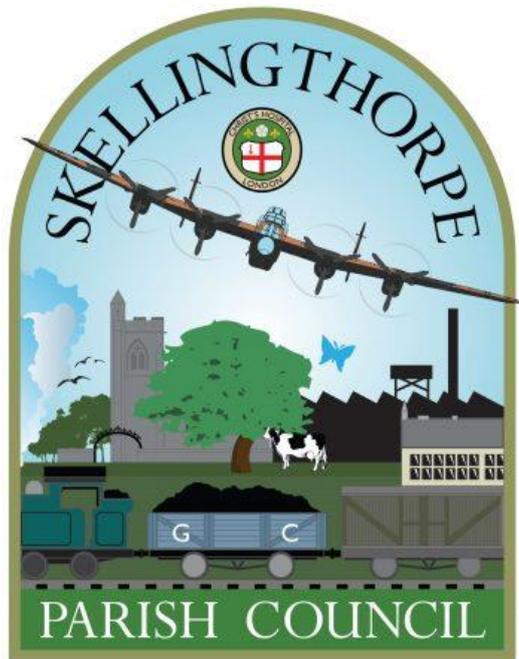


# Designation of Neighbourhood Planning Area Request



**Skellingthorpe Parish Council**

**April 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to inform you that Skellingthorpe Parish Council has recently agreed on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to seek permission from North Kesteven District Council to designate the Parish of Skellingthorpe, as identified on Map 1, a Neighbourhood Planning Area.

If agreed, the boundary will be used for the purpose of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. It will form a legislative boundary for policy making by the relevant development group or committee and decision making by North Kesteven District Council, once the plan is made.

The plan will be prepared according to the relevant Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) and in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework, National Planning Practice Guidance and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. We hope the District Council will support and guide the community in preparing the Plan where appropriate.

The Parish Council debated the proposed boundary for the Neighbourhood and decided that the existing Parish boundary was the most representative boundary for the community. The Council considered joint working with neighbouring Parishes, particularly as some issues are cross-boundary. However, due to the already large area and likely complex issues, it seemed sensible to remain with the Parish boundary.

The Parish Council are keen for the local community to lead the Neighbourhood Plan and are currently establishing a group of residents and councillors to proceed with process. No consultation has yet commenced within the community with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan due to Covid-19 and the current Government restrictions, but once achievable, consultation on local issues will commence.

The Parish Council believe it is important for the community to have a greater say in local plan-making. Skellingthorpe is considered a 'large village' within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy LP2 and has several allocated development sites. The parish is located adjacent to the City of Lincoln and the A46 bypass leading to pressure from speculative development.

Since the development of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, Skellingthorpe has continued to see an increase in planning applications for both housing development and for local employment and industry. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan set a requirement of 651 homes to be delivered within the village up until 2037 on five residential allocations.

This is a significant number of dwellings and due to additional growth being supported through Policy LP2 (on sites of 1 hectare or 25 units), it is important that the community have a say where these homes and sites could be going forward.

Although the community are not opposed to growth, there is concern about the quantum of growth and the lack of investment in local infrastructure. Over the past few years, the Parish Council have received several planning related feedback either through comments on planning applications or via local events and consultation. These include:

- Additional growth is putting extra pressure on local service and facilities such as the primary school and the road network;
- Increase traffic congestion through the community;
- Poor Air quality within the area, particularly in areas closer to the A46;
- Increased waiting lists for doctor appointments;
- Issues with flooding and drainage within parts of the community;
- Concern over the environmental impact from growth such as loss of habitat and wildlife;
- Too much focus of development on greenfield land;
- Issues with current Industrial development in terms of noise, smell and operating hours;
- A lack of choice in terms of the type of housing available to people such as affordable housing for younger people and sheltered housing for older people;
- Lack of local jobs or industry within the community;
- Lack of regular public transport connections into Lincoln or other communities;
- Lack of community facilities – especially for young people.

The Parish Council recognises that several other communities with the District have undertaken or are current in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan such as North Hykeham, Branston, Leasingham, Dunston, Coleby, Bracebridge Heath and Welbourne. It is important that the residents of Skellingthorpe also get the opportunity to create local planning policy to help shape their area in the future, especially through the on-going review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

The Parish Council are seeking support with preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and have appointed a planning consultant to help prepare local policy and guide the community through the process. In addition, the Council will be applying for the Government grant to help fund the Neighbourhood Plan and take advantage of the technical-support packages offered by the grant body.

The Parish Council are keen to work with North Kesteven District Council through the process and would encourage your support moving forward.

Yours Faithfully,

**Map 1: Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Boundary**

