



BILLINGHAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2015 - 2025



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1. Introduction

1.1 Neighbourhood Planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and growth of the local area, such as by choosing where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built; have a say on what the buildings look like and what infrastructure should be provided. It was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and Billingham began the process in 2014 when it decided to take charge of its own future and develop a plan which met its own requirements and desires for the village.

The Parish Council agreed to establish a separate project management arrangement to facilitate the delivery of the plan-making function through the Neighbourhood Plan working group. The purpose of the working group was to design and oversee the process that will result in the creation of a Plan with the following vision:

Our vision statement:

To enable sustainable growth and development, preserve and enhance the quality of life for the community, and safeguard and protect environmental quality, including special historical characteristics of the neighbourhood.

2. The Planning Process

2.1 The process has been:

- Inclusive, giving everyone the opportunity to participate;
- Comprehensive, identifying all important aspects of life in Billingham for which we need to plan for the future; and
- Positive, bringing forward proposals which will improve the quality of life.

2.2 Community Engagement:

For a period of 18 months there has been extensive engagement with local residents, groups and businesses regarding the Billingham Neighbourhood Plan. This has included both paper and online surveys; holding events such as an Easter Egg Hunt, a business breakfast, curry night and a scarecrow trail; attending community events such as the village show and Christmas market; visiting groups and societies in the village, using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and creating a website.

A full list of community engagement activities can be seen in the Consultation Statement.



Fig. 1. Neighbourhood Plan, information stand at the village summer show, July 2015. Just one of several community engagement events.

2.3 Outcomes of the consultation events and surveys:

Full details and outcomes of the surveys sent out to the residents, businesses and village groups can be seen in the Consultation Document and Appendix document.

2.4 Designating the area for Billingham Neighbourhood Plan:

After consultation with residents in Billingham and the neighbouring villages of Walcott and North Kyme, it was agreed on 17th July 2015 that the Parish of Billingham would be the designated area.

2.5 Independent examination of Billingham Neighbourhood Plan:

Between May and July 2018 an independent examination of the Plan was undertaken. Modifications were made to the Plan as recommended (please see Submission Plan, July 2018), and the Plan will be the subject of a local referendum.

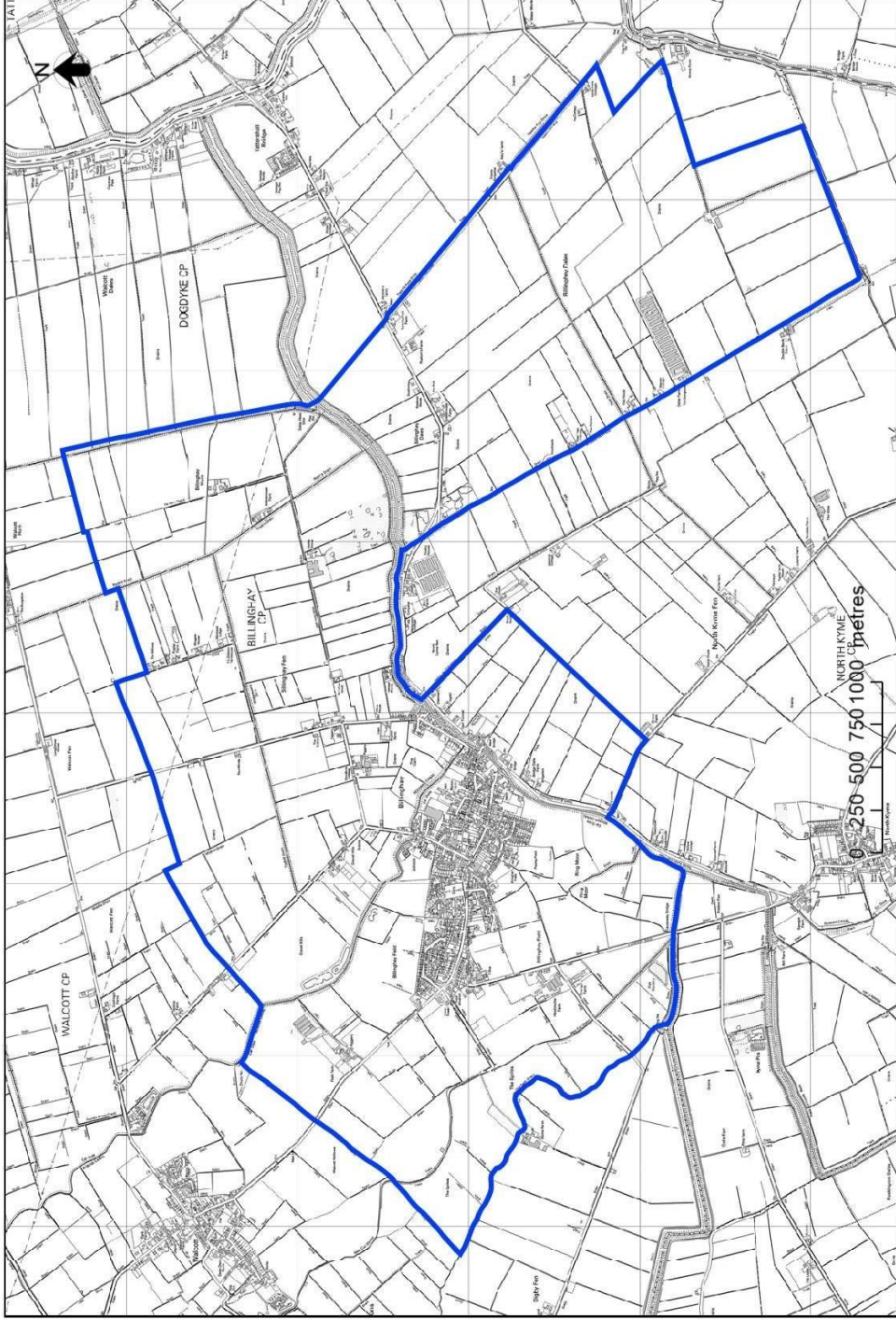


Fig. 2. A map of the designated area as agreed by residents and North Kesteven District Council on 17 July 2015.

3. About Billingham

3.1 Billingham is a rural village in central Lincolnshire situated at the junction of the A153 linking the Midlands and the towns of Grantham and Sleaford to the East Coast, and the B1189 which leads from Billingham, along the High Street and Walcott Road, to Lincoln. Both routes bypass the historic hub of the village. The A153 route leads to the tourist attractions of Tattershall Castle, the Lincolnshire Wolds, the historic market towns of Horncastle and Louth and also to the coastal towns of Skegness and Mablethorpe. The village enjoys easy road access to the river village of South Kyme, the well-known Woodhall Spa, a village attracting many tourists and golfers, and the town of Boston with its world famous Boston Stump. Billingham is also close to the main routes of the A1, A46 and A17. Located 16 miles from Lincoln and 9 miles from Sleaford, Billingham is central to the RAF bases of Coningsby, Cranwell, Digby and Waddington. Ten properties are situated at Billingham Dales, a couple of miles from the centre of the village; a few properties are located along the A153 and several farms and cottages are scattered on the fens surrounding the village.

As a large village, Billingham provides facilities to the surrounding local villages including Walcott, North Kyme, South Kyme, Anwick, Martin, Digby, Timberland, Chapel Hill and Tattershall Bridge. The village lies in Central Lincolnshire with the towns of Sleaford, Grantham, Lincoln and Boston all within 25 miles.

Our rural village in Lincolnshire Countryside is surrounded by the Fenlands and has a strong agricultural heritage. Our history dates back to Anglo Saxon times and features in the Domesday Book.

Access to the village from the east is over one of two bridges crossing the River Skirth; from the south by Causeway Road / Mill Lane, an unclassified road, and from north by the B1189 from Walcott.

The street layout and development of Billingham has been defined by geographical features and although large developments have taken place in the village over the last 50 years, very little infrastructure development has been forthcoming.

The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012 – 2036, approved on 24 April 2017, outlines proposals for over 360 houses to be built in the village. The residents, when consulted, were not opposed to housing development. However, concerns have been raised about the ability for the existing infrastructure to absorb large scale expansion.

Concerns have been expressed that further development of the village will put pressure on drainage and sewerage systems, and the medical and education facilities. Policies are included in this Plan to accommodate these issues and the Plan lays out policies for infrastructure improvement.

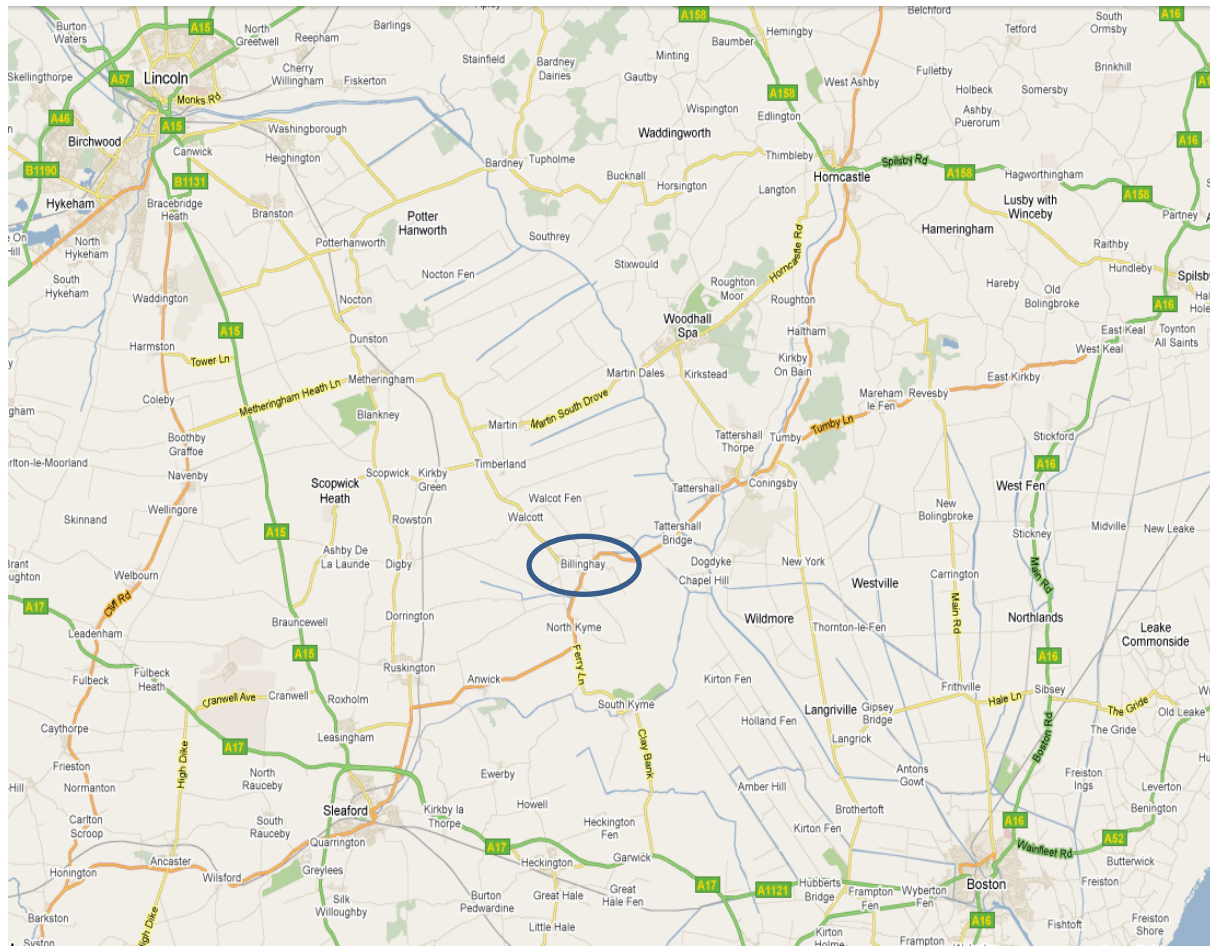


Fig. 3. Image to show the rural position of Billingham within Lincolnshire in relation to Lincoln and Boston.

3.2 Billingham Conservation Area and Historical Sites of Interest:

The current Conservation Area was designated in autumn 2006 after a period of consultation with residents, the Parish Council and other groups and organisations. The area of 34,000 square metres (3.4 hectares) covers the eastern part of the village around Church Street, Bridge Street, Church Lane, Victoria Street and the Market Place.



Fig. 4. The Market Place, Billingham.

As well as defining the area, the buildings of special architectural and historical interest are identified within the Conservation Area document.

These and other factors are taken into account by North Kesteven District Council when considering planning applications in the village to ensure the existing character of the area is maintained. Planning is impacted by the existence of the Conservation Area as:

- The threshold for development needing planning permission is lower;
- Permission is needed for the demolition of buildings; and
- Permission is needed (with certain exceptions) for the lopping, topping or felling of trees.

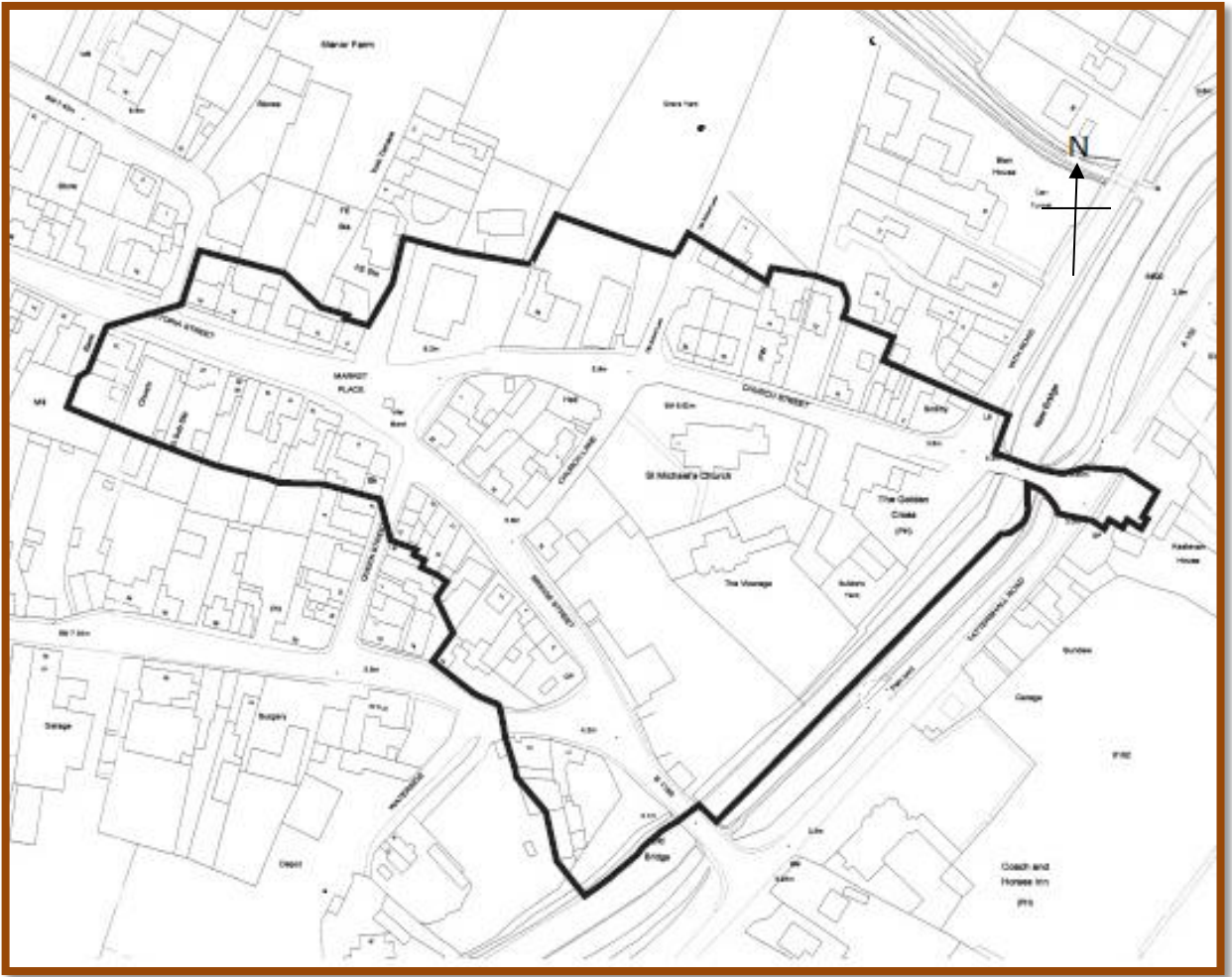


Fig. 5. Map to show the current conservation area.

3.3 The Carr Dyke

The Carr Dyke is an 85 mile-long water course which runs along the western edge of the Fens in Eastern England and passes through the village linking in with the River Skirth. The Carr Dyke connects the River Witham with Cambridgeshire to the south and is accepted as being constructed in the Roman age, indeed it is the second largest Roman feature in Great Britain. There is no overall consensus of opinion as to its use. Archaeological discoveries mean that, almost certainly, along a lot of its length it was used for trade and transport although some historians maintain that its main purpose was for drainage. It shortened the trip from Lincoln to Billinghay cutting out the need to transport goods via the longer route along the Witham.





Fig.7. The Skirth.

3.4 The Skirth

The Skirth is a cut 5 miles long joining the Witham to the Sleaford canal. It was certainly used for trade and saved goods having to be transported from the Witham at Tattershall by land. As road transport developed the commercial use of the Skirth diminished and eventually disappeared. Its main purpose is now to assist with drainage and for leisure. With the right resources, it would be possible to make the Skirth fully navigable again, albeit for leisure purposes.

Common land follows the A153 along The Skirth from North Kyme through Billinghamay towards Billinghamay Dales, with a footpath following the bank of The Skirth.

3.5 Listed Buildings

Despite the number of properties destroyed in the Great Fire of 1864, Billinghamay has 11 listed buildings, 6 of which are located within the Conservation Area.

Most of the listed buildings in Billinghamay, such as Brooklyn House and the Old Vicarage Cottage, are Grade II. The only Grade I listed building in the village is the Church of St Michael.



Fig. 8. Old Vicarage Cottage - As the former village museum.

The listed buildings in the Parish in 2018 are:

- Church of St Michael (Grade I)
- Old Vicarage Cottage & outhouse (Grade II)
- Blair House, Skirth Road (Grade II)
- Baptist Church, Church Street (Grade II)
- Gate & Gatepiers to Blair House Skirth Road (Grade II)
- 14 Victoria Street (Grade II)
- 17 Victoria Street (Grade II)
- Fields Farmhouse, Walcott Road (Grade II)
- 43 High Street (Grade II)
- 48 West Street (Grade II)
- The War Memorial on the Market Place (Grade II)

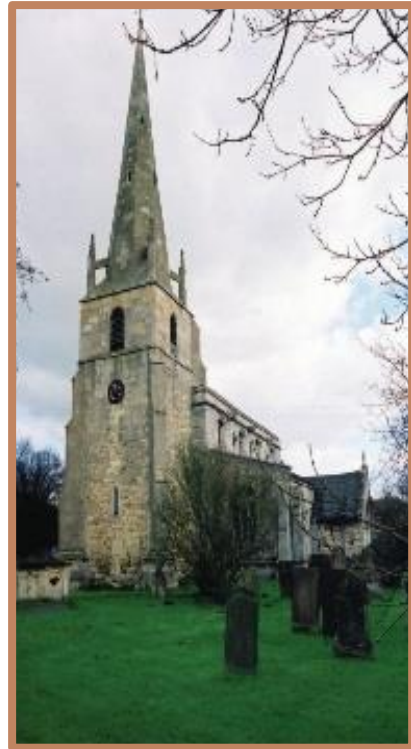


Fig. 9. Church of St Michael.

3.6 Character Assessment



Fig. 10. Swinton House, West Street.

Just one of several heritage and listed buildings in Billingham. (Photo by kind permission of Martin Knowles)

A Character and Heritage Assessment was carried out in January 2017, by AECOM.

Full details can be found in the supplementary report, *Billingham Heritage and Character Assessment*. This report recommends that the open fenland landscape around the settlement boundary should be retained wherever possible; the agricultural and heritage buildings, such as the two mills, should be retained and restored, and that CiL and Section 106 monies be used for improving recreational links and developing the existing heritage interpretation of Billingham.

3.7 Demographics

The 2011 census, according to the Office of National Statistics, shows that Billingham comprises of 977 households and is home to 2,190 residents of whom 1,054 are male (48.1%) and 1,136 are female (51.9%).

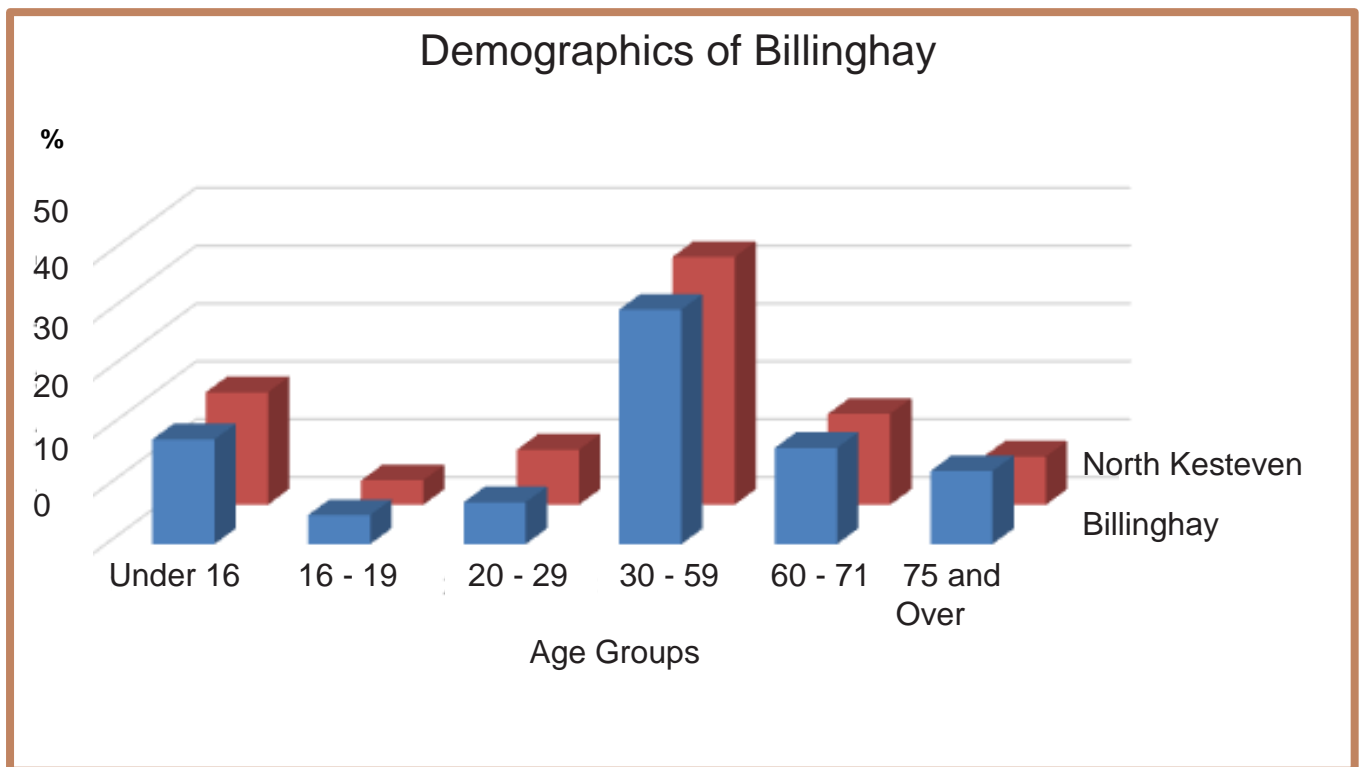


Fig.11. Graph to show the demographics of Billingham.

A male born in 2012-14 in North Kesteven (NK) is expected to live to the age of 81 years, ranking the area 45th in the country. This compares to a male born in Kensington, ranking no. 1 in England and Wales, who would be expected to live to the age 83.3 years, and to Blackpool where the lowest life expectancy of 74.7 years is found.

For females, the life expectancy in North Kesteven is 83.2 years with the highest life expectancy in England and Wales being found in Chilton with 86.7 years and the lowest in Middleborough with 79.8 years. (Source: Lincolnshire Research Observatory, July 2015.)

3.8 Employment and Industry

There are in excess of 80 businesses based in the village offering employment opportunities to residents. Many of these businesses are small enterprises, self-employed individuals, or businesses with an online presence. Census data from the National Office of Statistics, indicates that 11.6% of the village are self-employed compared to 9.5% in Lincolnshire as a whole, thus demonstrating the entrepreneurial spirit of residents. Very few of these businesses offer direct customer access, due to a lack of available premises. At its peak, Billingham had 41 public facing businesses but there has been a gradual decline, which is a national trend, leading to a lack of retail and employment opportunities. This Neighbourhood Development Plan addresses these issues.

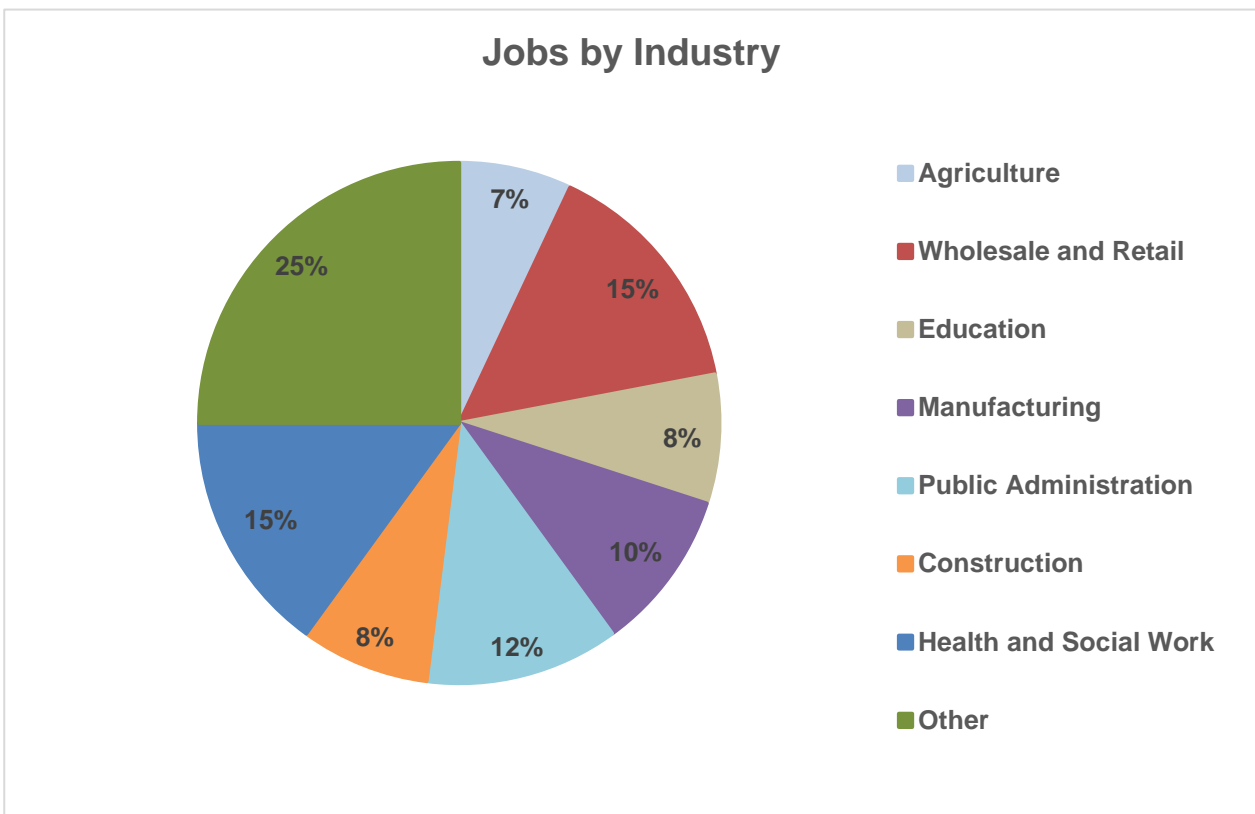


Fig.12. Chart to show jobs by industry in Billingham Parish.

Figs. 13 and 14. Photos of two of Billingham's award winning businesses, Twells of Billingham on the High Street and 1 Stop Spas based on Mill Lane.



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

3.9 Housing Stock

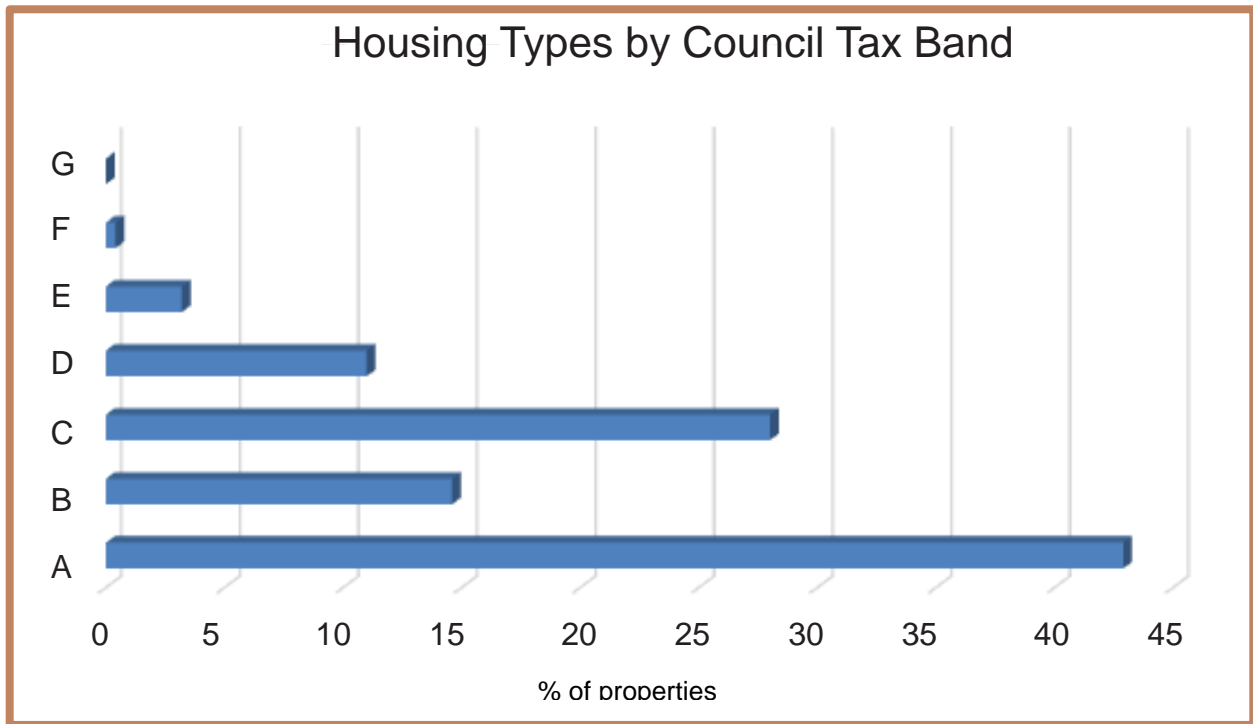


Fig. 15. Chart to show housing types by Council Tax Band.

This chart shows the majority of homes in Billingham are in Band A with a lack of higher value properties in bands D to G. This means that fewer homes are available for those with larger families or for those caring for relatives. 2011 census statistics show that proportionately there is also a relatively small number of larger 4 and 5 bedroom homes available for larger families. Furthermore, this shortage of larger homes restricts the opportunity to move up through the property ladder within the village.

Billingham Neighbourhood Plan is not focused solely on housing. We are supportive of growth and seek opportunities to enhance all areas of village life.

3.10 Facilities

Early Years' Education:

Billingham Children's Centre, offers support to families and also early years' provision for the babies and youngest residents of Billingham and the surrounding area. Preschool children have access to preschool facilities at Daisy Chain Nursery, adjacent to the Primary School. Billingham Church of England Primary School serves children from the community and surrounding villages. The three settings work together to form an Early Years' Partnership for babies and children aged 0 -11 years.



Fig. 16. Billingham Church of England Primary School. Daisy Chain Nursery is to the right of the main school building. (Photo by kind permission of Martin Knowles)

3.11 Secondary Education:

Children aged 11 – 18 years access secondary education in Horncastle, Tattershall, Sleaford or Ruskington.

3.12 Further and Higher Education:

Further education is available at Boston College, Lincoln College, Riseholme Agricultural College, and Grantham College. Local higher education is provided by Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln, and the University of Lincoln.

3.13 The Fen Road Site (formerly the Lafford High School):

The 24,000 square metre (6 acre) site of the former Lafford School, situated on Fen Road, is currently owned by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and has planning permission for residential development (granted 2/2/18). It does however, offer residents and developers an exciting opportunity within the village. Since 2015, LCC have indicated that they are awaiting community input into its future use and this is a key consideration in this Plan. The site is made up of a sports field; the footprint of the former school buildings, and the school's car parking; and lies adjacent to the Children's Centre, Primary School, Daisy Chain Nursery and the Community Swimming Pool. There are some restrictions on the use of the site. For example, part of the site is parking for staff and visitors using the Children's Centre; access for the school bus has to be maintained for safety reasons, and the playing field is bound by Sports England to remain as a playing field. It is an aspiration of the Neighbourhood Plan to see the site used for a mix of residential development and community use.



Figs. 17 and 18. Photographs showing the Fen Road site with the school bus access in the foreground. The Sure Start Children's Centre can be seen to the right in both pictures.

3.14 Medical Facilities

The Medical Centre serves a wide catchment area and is highly rated by residents as demonstrated by data from the NHS Ratings & Reviews 2016. We are aware that there are capacity and parking issues particularly in light of the forthcoming planning developments, and the policies look to address this.



Fig.19. Billingham Medical Centre, dispensary and patient car park.

3.15 Fire and Rescue

Billingham Community Fire Station:

Currently on its third site within the village, the fire station is situated on Mill Lane and is crewed by on-call fire fighters.



Fig.20. Billingham Fire Station.

3.16 Places of Worship

Billingham has 3 active places of worship, all located within the conservation area of the village. These are:

- Bethel Baptist Chapel
- Methodist Church
- Church of St Michael



Fig.21. Bethel Baptist Chapel, Church Street.
(Photo by kind permission of Martin Knowles)

3.17 Recreation and Sport

Facilities for recreation and sport is provided at the following locations within the village;

- Village hall and playing fields
- Tennis courts on Walcott Road
- Billingham and District Swimming Pool on Fen Road
- The playing fields and tennis courts on the site of the former Lafford School (Fen Road site)
- The bowling green beside the Village Hall
- Livery yards located at Ruskington Fen and Walcott Road provide stabling and ménage facilities for horse owners and riders.

3.18 Billingham Clubs, Societies and Interests

In addition to the facilities in Billingham, the village also has a thriving community scene with over 20 different types of clubs and societies available, catering for all ages and tastes, from Amateur Dramatics to Zumba, Brownies to Youth Club and from Bowls to WI.

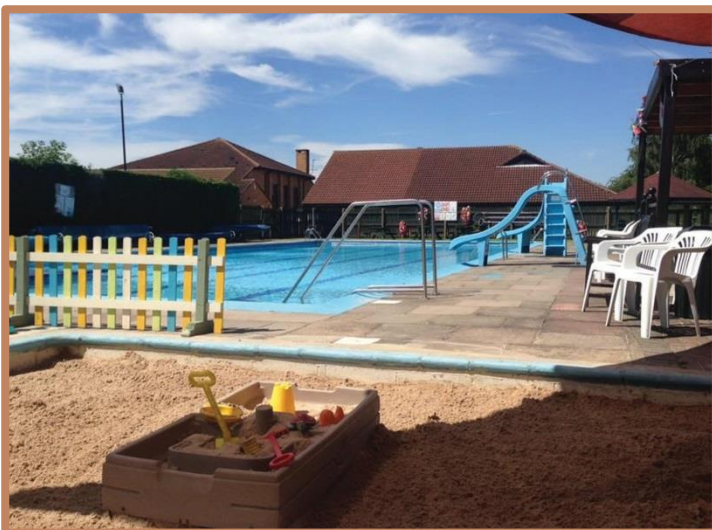


Fig. 22. Billingham and District Swimming Pool, built and run by volunteers.

Fig. 23. Billingham tennis courts on Walcott Road; the home of Billingham Tennis Club.
(Photo by kind permission of Martin Knowles)



3.19 Transport

Key transport links give residents the ability to reach London within an hour and a half via train links from Grantham, 26 miles away, or via National Express direct from the village in 5 hours.

The city of Lincoln and larger towns such as, Boston and Grantham are difficult for those without their own transport to access as there is no direct bus route. According to the 2011 Census 10.6% of households in the Ward have no car. Isolation of some residents is exacerbated by this issue and people have indicated that this is a reason for moving away from the village, particularly for employment opportunities. Furthermore, bus routes have recently been reviewed by the County Council with another route being dropped by LCC in March 2016.

4. Vision and Aims

4.1 Vision:

To enable sustainable growth and development, preserve and enhance the quality of life for the community, and safeguard and protect environmental quality, including the special historical characteristics of the neighbourhood.

4.2 Aims:

- To create a sustainable, thriving and prosperous village that supports an excellent quality of life for all its residents whilst maintaining its sense of community and welcoming newcomers and visitors;
- To ensure the area is safe from flood risk, is adaptable to climate change and has the lowest carbon dependence possible;
- To raise the perception and public profile of Billingham from popular village to desirable village to ensure its continued viability and sustainability;
- To preserve the high quality natural environment and protect nature and wildlife interests and green space; and
- To promote Billingham as a long-term living and working settlement that meets the needs of all ages of residents and to actively encourage the provision of retail units, businesses and employment opportunities.

The policies are the means to achieving the aims.

5. Growth Strategy and Land Use Policies

5.1 Growth Strategy:

As part of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012 - 2036 Billingham has been described as a large village. The Local Plan contains a proposal to build an additional 563 homes in the village but with no infrastructure to support. Three areas have been highlighted for development: West Street on the site of a former works' yard and the current feed mill; Mill Lane on a green field site; and on Waterside, off the High Street, which is currently the yard of a haulage company.

Billingham Neighbourhood Plan supports growth but evidence collated via the planning process has shown that the current facilities such as the Medical Centre and the Primary School would be unable to cope with the additional number of properties proposed and the attendant increase in resident numbers. Billingham Neighbourhood Plan therefore seeks to encourage new and expanded community facilities and infrastructure provision.

The Growth Strategy in the Neighbourhood Plan comprises:

- Site allocations for community facilities, employment and additional housing. These complement the Site Allocations proposed by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, which was adopted on 24 April 2017.
- Robust design policies within the Neighbourhood Plan to enable high quality, sustainable design;
- Housing type and tenures policy to ensure identified local housing needs are addressed; and
- Enabling policies to secure environmental quality, support heritage and tourism, secure travel and transport improvements, secure employment and economic growth, and community facilities and assets.

5.2 Land Use Policies:

Introduction and Background to Policy Areas:

Following consultation and research that provides the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan, a range of policy areas were identified to address identified issues and opportunities, and which respond to the Plan's Growth Strategy and supports the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)'s presumption in favour of sustainable development

The Plan's Growth Strategy is outlined above, and will be achieved through a series of site allocations (see Site Allocation Section), and enabling land use policies.

The identified policy areas are as follows:

- Environment;
- Heritage and tourism;
- Travel and transport;
- Employment and economic growth;
- Community Facilities and Assets; and
- Housing

5.3 Environment:

Background:

Billingham, a medium sized rural village in North Kesteven, was once a gravel island and has been continuously inhabited since Anglo-Saxon times. The designated Conservation Area is centred around the Market Place and the church. Historically, the centre of the village was the Market Place and King Street and, after the Great Fire, would mainly have consisted of a cluster of farms, such as Bridge Farm, and farm workers' cottages.

Along with the mainly agricultural heritage, Billingham also had four mills, not including the present day Feed Mill situated on West Street and Billingham Saw Mill on First Hurn Drove. Although no trace of the former Post Mill can be found beside the Skirth, the remains of Ravell's Mill on Mill Lane and South's Mill on West Street can still be seen. The High Street (B1189) bypasses the village centre and has resulted in the loss of public facing business. These premises are now in use as residential properties. Due to the environmental features of Billingham, house building has developed in a linear fashion along the High Street, Walcott Road and the higher land along Billingham Ridge heading towards Walcott. Residents are dependent on electricity, solid fuel, oil, or bottled gas and there are few properties using solar panels. Residents, whilst not against development, enjoy living in a countryside village with all the benefits that this brings with it.

The following policies are designed to protect and enhance important environmental assets, and address key environmental challenges.

5.3.1 Agricultural Land

Policy ENV1: Agricultural Land

With the exception of allocated sites, development proposals that would result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2, and 3a) will only be permitted if:

- a) there are no suitable alternative and available sites for the proposal within the parish; and
- b) the proposal is designed to minimise the loss of best and most versatile land; and
- c) there are substantial benefits to be delivered through the proposal that outweigh the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

Purpose:

Policy ENV1 is designed to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land from unnecessary development, to maintain access to agricultural land for local food production, and for ecological and flood risk management purposes.

Explanatory Text:

Billingham is a rural village enclosed by fields used for agricultural purposes. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, adopted on 24 April 2017, proposes housing development on green field sites along Mill Lane (382 dwellings) and on Waterside beside the Skirth waterway. Continuing to build on green field sites will be a loss to local farmers and to the character of the village. Billingham Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that Billingham retains its open fenland surrounding the village.

5.3.2 Energy

Policy ENV2: Energy

Proposals for renewable forms of energy generation will be supported where there is no significant unacceptable or adverse impact on local character and biodiversity.

The scale of such renewable energy generation proposals should be proportionate to the scale of the village and the energy needs of its community.

New development proposals will be encouraged to incorporate renewable alternative energy sources and energy saving technologies.

Purpose:

Policy ENV2 is designed to enable the provision of new forms of energy generation, in order to mitigate climate change and fuel poverty, whilst protecting the historic character of the village.

Explanatory Text:

In order to mitigate the effects of climate change and move towards a low carbon environment, Policy ENV2 will be applied to development proposals throughout the village.

5.3.3 Natural Environment

Policy ENV3: Natural Environment

Billingham's natural environment is a key asset, and this should be protected and enhanced by development proposals as follows:

- Development proposals should seek to retain, enhance and deliver new green spaces, hedgerows and trees, and ensure wildlife is protected and environments are created to enable it to flourish. If proposals identify that the retention of any of these assets would impact the deliverability of the site, adequate mitigation will be sought; and
- Landscaping proposals within new developments across the Neighbourhood Area will include tree planting to improve drainage, air quality and well-being. New trees will ideally be incorporated into the landscaping scheme for the site, but where the site is unsuitable for trees appropriate off site tree planting within the Parish will be supported.

Purpose:

Policy ENV3 is designed to raise awareness, encourage and develop a sense of ownership of green space by residents and visitors, and preserve the rural setting of Billingham by maintaining the green areas both in and surrounding the village.

Explanatory Text:

In order to preserve and enhance the village's rural setting and character, the approach to landscaping and environmental planning of new development proposals will be critical. Design and Access Statements that support planning applications should detail how Policy ENV3 is to be addressed.

5.3.4 Managing Flood Risk:

Parts of Billingham are located within areas at risk of flooding. Development proposals for new properties will be expected to positively address flood risk, incorporating measures such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) or other suitable measures, where appropriate, to ensure existing flood risk is not exacerbated and where possible, that surface water run-off is not increased over the existing position. Flood risk in development will be managed in accordance with CLLP Policy LP14.

5.4 Heritage and Tourism

Heritage Assets:

Billingham has a great number of historical assets (identified on page 7 - Billingham Conservation Area and Historical Sites of Interest), and they play an important role in defining the character of the village. Whilst there are currently a few initiatives to utilise these assets, they are not widely appreciated. Opportunities exist to develop existing projects and create new ones and, by doing so, improve the economic and cultural development of the village. Projects have been undertaken with surrounding villages and there is a thriving Twinning Association that has cultural links with Ballon in France which could be developed further to benefit both communities.

Billingham Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the historic character of the village within its rural setting. As the AECOM report, *Billingham Heritage and Character Assessment* (2017) recommends - the historic, architectural and archaeological features of Billingham should be maintained and restored (pages 28 and 29). Buildings to protect are also listed in the *Heritage and Character Assessment* on page 39.

Tourism Opportunities:

Billingham's location in the centre of the county within proximity to Sleaford, Woodhall Spa, Lincoln and Boston should be utilised to encourage sustainable growth and would link with Policy LP7 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2012-2036.) Tourism to our rural village would be of benefit to local businesses and facilities, and should be encouraged by re-establishing the Old Vicarage Cottage Museum; regenerating the Skirth to connect with the Lincoln to Boston waterway, creating a public right of way along the Roman canal, the Carr Dyke, and making more of the links in the village to the WW1 poet and author Bernard Gilbert.

5.4.1 Skirth Navigation

Policy HT1: Skirth Navigation

Proposals for high-quality development which will improve access to and help regenerate the Skirth Navigation will be supported, provided it does not result in any unacceptable impact.

Purpose:

Policy HT1 is designed to ensure that the Skirth Navigation plays a more prominent role in the village's life, and that access to this important waterway can be improved and enhanced.

Explanatory Text:

The Skirth Navigation is a much valued environmental asset, and the policy is intended to enable greater use of the waterway. This could be through the provision of appropriately designed structures (for example, footbridges) in order to provide pedestrian access and links.

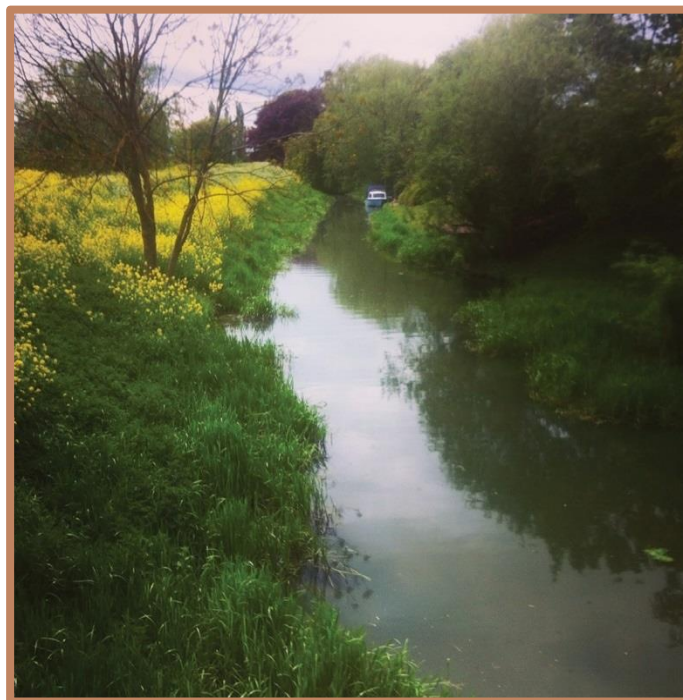


Fig. 24. The River Skirth, linking Billingham and North Kyme.

5.5 Travel and Transport

Background:

Traffic within the village derives from residents commuting to work and also visitors from nearby villages using our village for its facilities. During “rush hour” traffic builds up as RAF personnel use the B1189 for their commute to and from the nearby air bases. As an agricultural village, large tracked farm vehicles use the road network, and, in addition, two haulage companies and an animal feed mill are located near the centre of the village, bringing many larger vehicles into and through the village.

Throughout the village there are ongoing problems with car parking, both on the roads and within the limited number of car parks such as at the Co-op, medical centre, swimming pool and Children’s Centre. Within the original hub of the village limited parking spaces are available and road side parking is the norm. Parking on pavements and double parking are issues, found where the roads are narrow, such as along the High Street and Victoria Street. Parking on the double yellow lines outside the Co-op is an on-going concern, particularly for people in wheelchairs, on mobility scooters, and for those with pushchairs. Due to the age of properties in the village very few properties have driveways or garages. In addition, the location of properties abutting the pavements make it impossible to widen the roads. On the newer housing estates, such as Field Road, cars are parked on pavements, in front gardens and also doubled parked, restricting the movement of pedestrians and vehicles. This is due to the drives and parking facilities not being adequate for the number of cars required in each household.

The Parish Council consults with Lincolnshire County Council to provide better road maintenance and to discuss and agree solutions for the parking issues, within the Parish. Methods to reduce speeding through the village are being undertaken by the Parish Council and the Road Safety Partnership.

The village is served primarily by Travel Line East Midlands and Call Connect bus services but residents also have access to the National Express network to London and Hull. There are however issues for residents, especially younger people, accessing public transport outside of working hours, and there is evidence that some residents are considering leaving the village due to the lack of transport, particularly younger residents who need to travel to work and elderly residents who need to move to be nearer family members. Rural isolation is a concern, caused in part by the lack of public transport.

Billinghay Primary School has a safety zone in place, however there are parking issues at peak times in this area. The whole village sits within a 30mph zone. The centre of the village around the Market Place is bypassed with through traffic moving along the High Street (B1189).

Speeding is another issue, especially along the High Street and Walcott Road (B1189). The Parish Council, Police and Lincolnshire County Council are working in collaboration with the residents to solve these issues. Speed indicator devices are in the process of being purchased and erected.

There are no cycle routes within or around the village boundaries and no bridle paths.

In 2014 Billingham Parish Council and Lincolnshire County Council surveyed the residents of Billingham and the surrounding areas by means of a Transport Diary. The results of this can be seen in full in the separate Appendix document.

5.5.1 Access for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Policy TT1: Access for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Proposals for the development of new residential or business units should maximise the use of pedestrian and cycle routes to the village centre, including delivering new routes and not removing opportunities to enhance future connectivity;

Funding for safe pedestrian and cyclist crossings and route improvements may be sought through planning obligations, where appropriate, to ensure connectivity to the village centre and services; and proposals that will enhance pedestrian and cycle connectivity to neighbouring villages will be supported.

Purpose:

Pedestrian and cycle access across the village is in need of improvement. Policy TT1 is designed to improve road safety, encourage more sustainable modes of transport, and reduce car dependency, plus improve and enhance connectivity across the wider area.

Explanatory Text:

Traffic management and pedestrian and cycling schemes as part of development proposals would be strongly encouraged:

- Improving crossing points for both pedestrians and cyclists;
- Creating new safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Ensuring that new developments are linked to the main centre of the village and facilities by walkways and cycle routes; and
- Exploiting opportunities to ensure footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways linking Billingham with neighbouring villages are created and any existing to be improved and renovated.

5.5.2 New Development, Road Safety and Sustainable modes of transport

Policy TT2: New Development, Road Safety and Sustainable Modes of Transport

New development should positively address sustainable travel and transport, including:

Ensuring that proposals incorporate appropriate and adequate 'off street' car parking solutions, and that any 'on street' solutions are appropriate to their context;

Ensuring that proposals take advantage of access to public transport connections;

Incorporating the latest technologies such as electrical charging points where possible; and

A minimum of 2 parking spaces per property should be available, where possible.

Purpose:

Policy TT2 is designed to improve road safety, encourage more sustainable modes of transport, and reduce car dependency.

Explanatory Text:

Sustainable modes of travel should be a key consideration in new development proposals, particularly larger proposals. All large developments (80 or more dwellings) should be supported by a funded Travel Plan, and new developments will be expected to make appropriate contributions to measures to encourage more sustainable approaches to travel. Parking issues are found throughout the village such as double parking on the High Street and parking on footpaths and grass verges, such as on the Field Road estate and outside properties along Mill Lane. This problem is exacerbated due to lack of public transport in Billingham and the need for residents to travel out of the village for employment and amenities. In addition, younger residents are living at home with their parents for longer and require their own transport to access education and employment. Evidence from our public engagement activities highlights the need for one bedroom properties to have parking for two cars, a three bedroomed property may require parking for four cars and a four bedroomed property may require 5 spaces. Residents often have to park their work vehicles and caravans at their homes too.

5.5.3 Mitigation of Traffic Impacts

Policy TT3: Mitigation of Traffic Impacts

New developments must be supported by appropriate highway infrastructure, or must make adequate contributions to the provision of such infrastructure.

Purpose:

Policy TT3 is designed to improve access and road safety for both residents and visitors.

Explanatory Text:

New developments should make appropriate contributions to securing necessary highways improvements, potentially on the B1189, Mill Lane/Causeway Road and Fen Road. Lincolnshire County Council, as Highways Authority, should be engaged at the earliest opportunity in the design process to identify the specific improvements that may be necessary.

5.6 Employment and Economic Growth

Background:

Over the last three decades, Billingham has seen a loss of independent retail businesses with many former business premises having been converted into private dwellings, especially along the High Street, Queen Street, Victoria Street and around the Market Place.



Fig. 25. A former shop on Queen Street, now a private residence.

Billingham has a feed mill (although this is scheduled for closure at its present site), 2 convenience stores, post office, medical centre with dispensary, 2 public houses, a tea room, 2 bed and breakfast establishments, 3 hair salons, 3 fast food outlets, 2 garages, a Vauxhall main dealer, 2 haulage companies, 2 residential homes, a car wash, saddlery (for repairs), a hot tub business, and a wedding business; all of which provide local employment.

Billingham Church of England Primary School, Medical Centre, Children's Centre and Daisy Chain nursery also provide employment, as do the small business units on West Street and Mill Lane. Several Billingham businesses are award winning. Many of the village businesses are run from home or directly via the internet. There are also 2 successful livery businesses on the outskirts of the Billingham village, and a boarding kennels.

Responses to the Billingham Neighbourhood Plan survey of businesses 2015 showed that in Billingham there were over 80 businesses, with over 200 people employed. Several of these businesses would like to be able to expand into larger premises and employ additional staff.

Looking to the future, Billingham is centrally placed to serve the county, and beyond, by being within easy reach of major towns and cities, such as Lincoln, Boston, Grantham and Newark, just over the border in Nottinghamshire. The Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that the above average number of entrepreneurs and the growing number of businesses have their needs catered for to ensure the sustainability and viability of the businesses within Billingham and to prevent their move away from the village.

Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are designed to encourage sustainable patterns of economic growth, rural diversification, and to protect and enhance the character of the village. Policy LP5 of The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, adopted in April 2017, supports proposals to assist in the delivery of economic prosperity and job growth. Our consultation shows the entrepreneurial spirit of Billingham residents, along with a need for additional business units to allow for both the start-up of new businesses and micro-businesses, and the expansion of existing businesses. The current business units on West Street will be lost to the proposed development of 132 dwellings on this site; these will need to be re-sited within the village. Billingham looks forward to welcoming new and innovative businesses and start up businesses to the village and 2 specific sites are allocated through policies SA4 and SA5 on pages 50 to 53 of the Plan.

The 2011 census showed that 1,225 residents (aged 16 – 74 inclusive) were in full time employment; 422 were self-employed; 118 residents of Billingham were unemployed or not looking for work; 168 were looking after home or family; 784 were retired; 144 were students; and 183 were on long term sick.

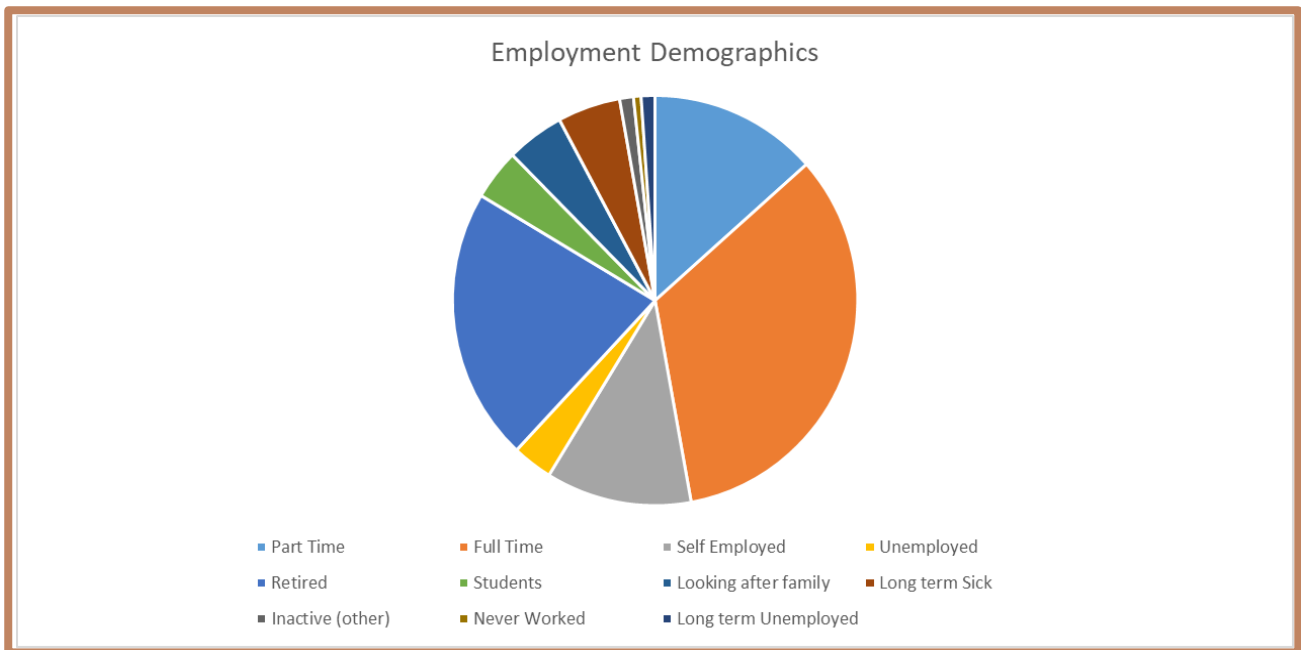


Fig. 26. Chart to show employment demographics of Billingham residents (2011 data).

5.6.1 Conversion of Residential Property to Commercial Uses

Policy EEG1: Conversion of Residential Property to Commercial Uses

Planning permission will be granted for the conversion of existing residential property to commercial uses to provide opportunities for new start-up businesses, or the expansion and diversification of existing businesses where it can be demonstrated that proposals will not have an adverse impact on residential amenity, and are supported by adequate servicing and infrastructure.

Purpose:

Policy EEG1 is designed to encourage sustainable patterns of economic growth and rural diversification, and to help enable the provision of local employment opportunities.

Explanatory Text:

Provision of smaller spaces for business will help to encourage new business start-ups, and growth of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). This will help to support other local businesses and increase the viability of the settlement. Examples of former residential properties that can be reverted back to retail use can be seen on Queen Street. The Golden Cross on Church Street, currently of multi-occupancy residential use, would

also be ideal for converting back into a public house or restaurant and would link into the regeneration of the Skirth and the tourist trade.

5.6.2 Digital and Communications Infrastructure

Policy EEG2: Digital and Communications Infrastructure

1. Proposals for new residential and economic development within the Neighbourhood Plan area of Billingham should demonstrate how they will contribute to local fibre or internet connectivity for both new, and where possible, existing residential and business properties.
2. Where no internet is currently available, and subject to viability, suitable ducting which can accept the required fibres should be installed to:
 - a) Roads and footpaths within the development site; and/or
 - b) The public highway; and/or
 - c) Another location which has been adequately justified within the connectivity statement to the Local Planning Authority's satisfaction.
3. Where possible and appropriate, the provision of ducting which will contribute to a local access network for the wider community will be supported.

Purpose:

Policy EEG2: The provision of good telecommunications is designed to encourage sustainable patterns of economic growth, rural diversification, and promote social inclusion.

Explanatory Text:

The provision of good telecommunications is increasingly important in today's world and especially so for those living and working in rural areas. In order for new development to be considered sustainable, it must be capable of servicing the needs of a modern society, and minimise adverse effects on future generations. Therefore Billingham must be served by the latest digital infrastructure and this should be the aim of all developers. This policy complies with NPPF Section 5 paragraphs 42 – 46: Advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth.

5.7 Community Facilities

Background:

Billingham is a vibrant village with many facilities. However, the surveys of the Neighbourhood Plan highlighted the following issues and explored solutions.

Parking at the medical centre is insufficient for current and future use and therefore any development around the site should include provision for expansion. Consideration must be given for expansion of this property and car park within planning permission of the Waterside development off the High Street, in order to address the health and well-being needs of the village.

Having lost the Lafford Secondary School which facilitated many of the needs of the local organisations it is felt that the village hall should now be providing for the lost facilities. The severe loss to our community of this very important asset is still being felt throughout the village. Following demolition of the Lafford School, the annual Billingham Ball has to be held outside Billingham as no premises large enough to host the event are available in the village.

The Village Hall is also not a sufficient size to service current needs, particularly for larger events such as weddings, the Billingham Ball, Twinning Association Events, and similar functions such as the Pantomime. Funding needs to be identified immediately to enable this expansion and refurbishment to take place as soon as possible. The current site is large enough to accommodate the planned expansion without encroaching on the sports field. Currently organisations within the community are being forced to seek out alternative venues to accommodate their aims. Development will also assist with local children's groups such as the Brownies and Rainbows, Scouts and Cubs and the Youth Group.

The Village Hall also has a strategic relevance in that it would be the hub for all emergency provision in our community. Billingham Emergency Plan is currently being updated by the Parish Council.

Consultation has identified a demand for leisure facilities in particular a gym, running track and multi-use games area, plus covering the swimming pool for all year round use. Potential sites for consideration are the playing field site on Fen Road, the site of the former Lafford High School, or as part of the existing Village Hall site.

Any development of community facilities should include learning centres, internet access and meeting places for the use of hot-desking and assist with those working from home.

Linking sites such as the proposed Waterside development and Mill Lane development with the existing facilities such as the Village Hall, by pathways or cycle paths, must be considered. In the same way, the Field Road estate should be linked to the public footpath running between Field Farm and Fen Road, via the Field Road ransom strip, to enable easy access to the early years' educational settings, the swimming pool and the centre of the village.

The site allocations include a location for garden allotments which are in demand from residents. Currently, approximately 50 acres of land, located outside the village curtilage at Billingham Dales, are let as farming allotments. These are totally inappropriate for local needs. A location for garden allotments has been chosen for its proximity to a water source, utilities and access for vehicles and pedestrians.

The village is very fortunate to have a heated outdoor swimming pool which was built over 40 years ago by village residents and is now part of the heritage of our community. It is an important asset which is enjoyed by several generations of residents and visitors from other Parishes. The pool promotes health and well-being for all ages and allows school children to enjoy swimming lessons. The long term aim will be to enclose the pool to enable participation throughout the year. The swimming pool has insufficient parking with 3 allocated spaces at present and urgently needs expansion of parking which could be on the Fen Road site.

5.7.1 Medical Centre Expansion

Policy CFA1: Medical Centre Expansion

Detailed proposals for housing on the Waterside Site as identified on the Policies Map should include provision of appropriate land to enable the expansion of the Medical Centre, specifically land immediately adjoining the existing medical centre site.

The expansion of the Medical Centre should include the safe expansion of car parking facilities.

Delivery of the new facilities will be secured by way of a S106 Agreement. The design of the expanded facility must accord with policies within this Plan.

In the event the development of the Waterside site cannot accommodate extension of the Medical Centre, favourable consideration will be given to new facilities on an alternative site provided the location is as accessible to the village as the existing site.

Purpose:

Policy CFA1 is designed to ensure the delivery of appropriate local services in a sustainable manner, and to enhance health and well-being across the village. This is in line with Policy LP9: Health and Wellbeing in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012 - 2036.

Explanatory Text:

Billinghay will be the focus of significant growth over the coming years, with over 560 new homes proposed. As a growing settlement, Billinghay must be supported by appropriate services and infrastructure, and the proposed expansion of the Medical Centre is a key element of this.

The Medical Centre is already full to capacity and will be unable to meet the demands of an additional 560 homes being built within the village. 200 patients have been informed that the medical centre can no longer support their medical needs. Furthermore, the car parking is inadequate for both staff and patients, and very limited road side parking is available. Expansion of the facility would also allow for a minor surgery unit and visiting professionals such as physiotherapists and chiropodists. Currently patients have to travel elsewhere to attend these services.

Waterside is currently the site of a haulage yard. Included in the 2012 - 2036 Local Plan as a site for housing. The location is adjacent to the Medical Centre and would provide an excellent opportunity for the expansion of both the Medical Centre and its car park.

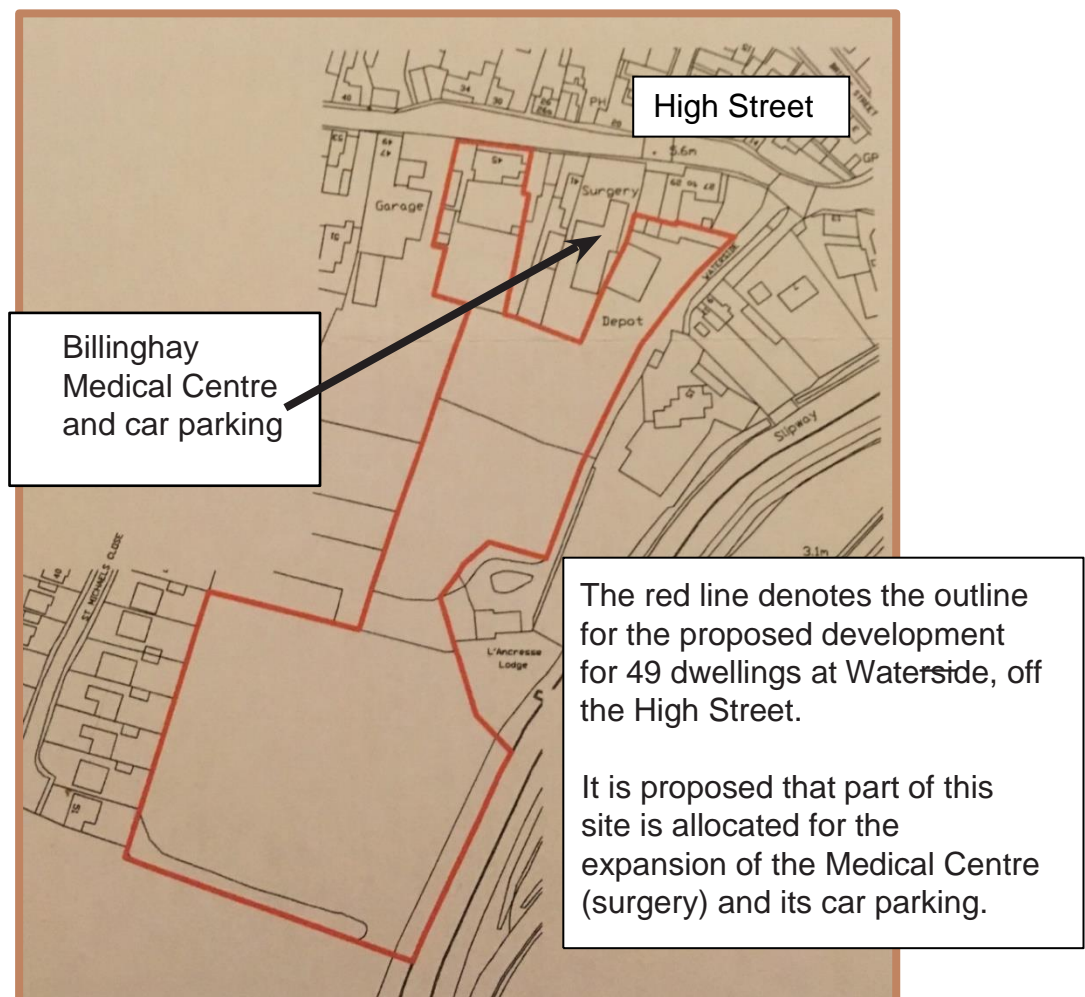


Fig 27. Map to show the planned developed at Waterside and its suitability for the expansion of Billinghay Medical Centre and its car parking.

5.7.2 Community Facilities

Policy CFA2: Community Facilities

Proposals to enhance existing community facilities or to deliver new facilities will be supported.

Development proposals that would result in the loss of an existing community facility will not be permitted unless:

- A suitable alternative location for the community facility can be delivered that is, at minimum, as accessible to residents of Billingham; or
- Evidence is submitted to demonstrate that there is no longer a demand for the existing use or any other appropriate community use.

Purpose:

Community facilities, including those for leisure, education and sport are essential for the creation of inclusive, integrated and supportive communities as well as providing employment opportunity and enhancing health and social well-being. Policy CFA2 is designed to ensure that any assets and facilities that are considered to be of value to the local community are enhanced or maintained. This also meets the criteria for Policy LP15 in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012 - 2036.

Residents considered the following to be the existing community facilities:

- The playing field on the Fen Road site
- The Café on Victoria Street
- Billingham and District Community Swimming Pool on Fen Road
- Both pubs (The Coach and Horses and The Ship Inn)
- Bowling green beside the Village Hall
- Parking site on the High Street for the mobile library van (land owned by LCC)
- Village Hall and playing fields
- Tennis courts on Walcott Road
- Community/Church Rooms on Church Lane
- Fire Station on Mill Lane
- Sure Start Children's Centre on Fen Road
- Twells garage on the High Street
- The shops including Post Office, hairdressing salon and fast food outlets
- 2 livery yards
- Cottage Museum (The Old Vicarage Cottage) on Church Street
- The Medical Centre and dispensary
- The Church and all other religious buildings
- The Feast Field (situated to the rear of the Coach and Horses on Tattershall Road)
- Scout Hut

Explanatory Text:

Paragraph 70 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- Plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and
- Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services. Policy CFA2 is designed to ensure a balanced and sustainable community, and enable social inclusion, with access to a range of services and facilities.

5.8 Housing

Background:

In 2015, to find out about the housing need in Billingham, questionnaires were sent out to every household via the Parish Newsletter, and were also placed in prominent positions around the village so that everyone had access to them. The results of this survey were used to inform the Neighbourhood Planning document and can be found in the Billingham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation and Appendix Documents. The results of the survey showed that there was a wide demand for family homes, although there was also a need for helping younger people get onto the housing ladder with "starter homes". There was also support for self-build plots. 43% of housing stock in Billingham is in Council Tax Band A, with less than 4% in bands E, F and G.

5.8.1 Housing Types

Policy H1: Housing Types

Proposals for 10 or more dwellings should incorporate a range of housing types, sizes and tenures and help in particular to meet the identified local needs in Billingham for:

- Affordable housing including starter homes;
- Smaller accessible housing to provide appropriate downsizing opportunities for the elderly;
- Family sized housing

Purpose:

Policy H1 is designed to ensure that sites identified for new residential development are developed to address identified local housing needs, and are appropriate to their context.

Explanatory Text:

To respond to the village's rural character, avoid excessive urbanisation, improve and enhance the Conservation Area, and to address identified local housing needs and provide a balanced mix of new homes.

The 2015 Billingham Housing Needs survey identified a range of local housing needs in terms of housing types and tenures. Identified needs included:

- Provision of affordable housing, including starter homes.
- Provision of family and executive housing.

5.8.2 Housing Design

Policy H2: Housing Design

New residential development in Billingham will deliver high quality design through incorporating the following criteria:

1. Respond to the existing character of the village and, where relevant the Conservation Area, by providing active frontages to streets and spaces and responding to nearby development in terms of density, enclosure, degree of set-back, and connectivity, and reflecting local scale and massing. Materials used must be of a high quality and complement those used in the surrounding area.

2. Innovative, zero carbon self-build housing will be looked upon favourably for developments outside the Conservation Area.
3. Dwellings must be integrated visually within their surroundings, whilst respecting local character and appearance, and also geographically by reinforcing existing connections and creating new ones, such as foot and cycle paths, to provide convenient access for residents to community services and amenities wherever possible.
4. Respond to local topography, landscape and water features, trees and plants, wildlife habitats, existing buildings, site orientation and microclimate.
5. Provide buildings, landscaping and planting that create attractive streets and spaces.
6. Ensure new development provides high standards of design and sustainability.
7. Promote creative and innovative design.
8. Provide streets that encourage low vehicle speeds and which can function as safe, social spaces.
9. Integrate car parking with proposed landscaping for the site so that it does not dominate the street scene, and ensure that car parking requirements are provided within the plot where possible.
10. Clearly distinguish between public and private spaces, and provide convenient, well-screened storage space for bins and recycling, and for bicycles and motor vehicles.
11. Not create unnecessary light pollution by having bright, permanently lit areas at night.

Purpose:

Policy H2 is designed to ensure the safety of residents, improve the aesthetic appearance of Billingham, enhance the rural and historic nature of the village, reduce the carbon footprint, and ensure that homes are fit for the future.

Explanatory Text:

Good design cannot be separated from good planning and achieving sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework recognises that well-designed buildings and places improve the quality of people's lives and that it is a core planning principle to achieve good design.

Good design will ensure that proposed developments are sustainable, and will enhance the character and appearance of the area of Billingham and its Conservation Area.

The Design and Access Statement accompanying relevant planning applications must explain how the proposed development addresses the above, and how the design responds to the specific site and context.

Outstanding and innovative design will be welcome.

The policies have been designed in-line with Building for Life 12 industry standards for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods designed to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework to build better homes.



Fig. 28. Photo of the “eco” houses on Walcott Road, highlighting the use of reclaimed brick. (Photo by kind permission of Martin Knowles).

5.9 Site Allocations

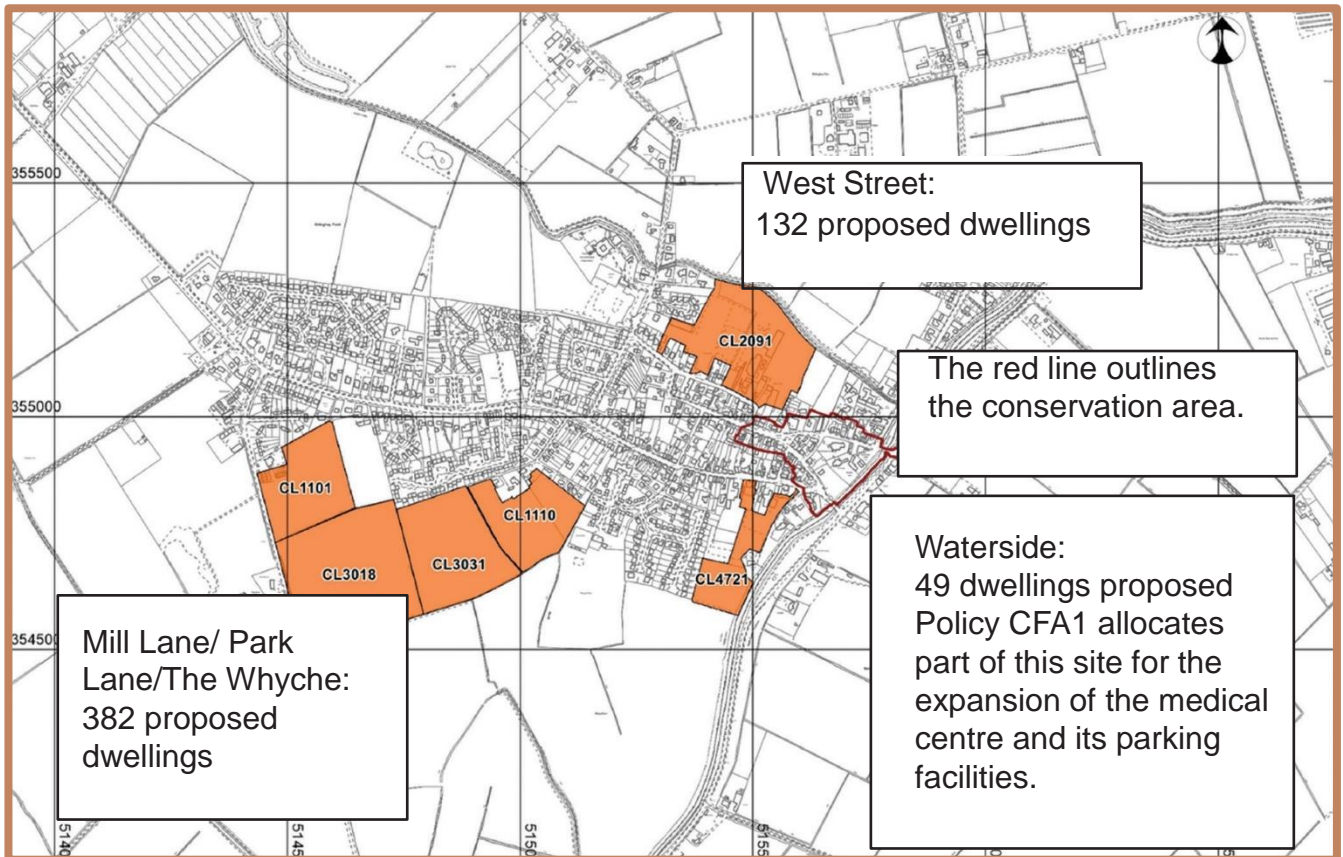
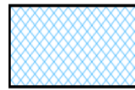


Fig. 29. Identifies the sites (shown in orange) proposed in the approved Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012- 2036 for 563 new dwellings in Billingham.

The purpose of the following site allocations is to enable growth and sustainable development across the neighbourhood area, providing a balanced range of facilities, and ensuring that new development compliments and enhances the existing village centre and its character.

Geographical features and the risk of flooding determine the siting of developments for housing and businesses within the Parish.

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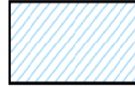
Sites allocated in the CLLP with Planning Permission



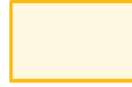
Sites allocated in the BNP with Planning Permission, not allocated in the CLLP



Billinghay Conservation Area



Sites allocated in the CLLP without Planning Permission



Sites allocated in the BNP without Planning Permission, not allocated in the CLLP

BNP = Billinghay Neighbourhood Plan
CLLP = Central Lincolnshire Local Plan



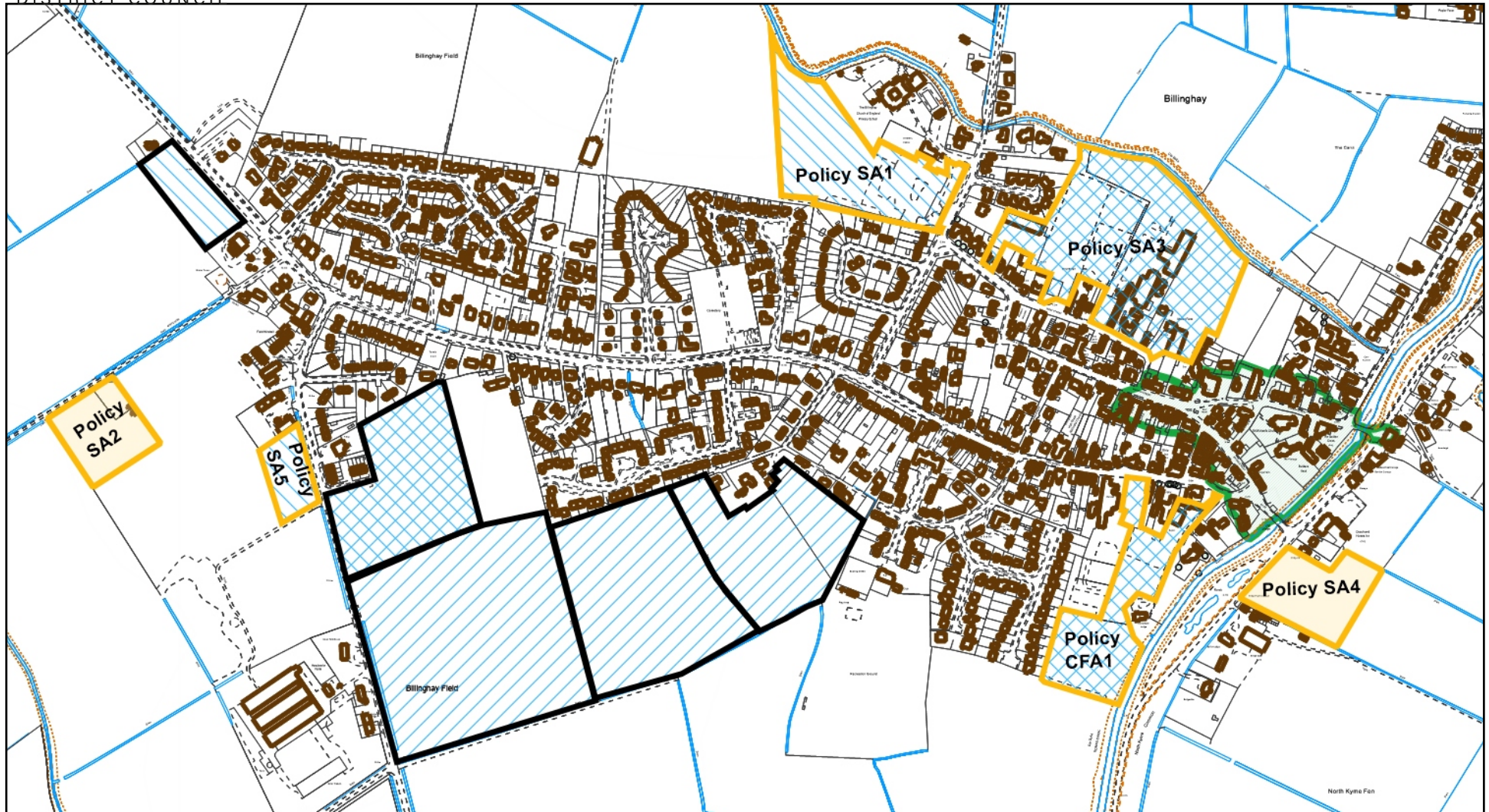
Sites with Planning Permission for development, not allocated in the CLLP



Sites allocated in the BNP with Planning Permission and also allocated in the CLLP



North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Fig. 30. Policy and Proposals Map

Former Lafford School Site, Fen Road: proposed location for community, retail, sporting and parking facilities

Why Fen Road?

Fen Road, the site of the former Lafford School, is central to the Neighbourhood Plan. Evidence from resident, group and business surveys demonstrates the need to have a larger school and Children's Centre, outdoor space for the Children's Centre and parking for the swimming pool and educational facilities. Sporting facilities, retail units and a possible relocation of the medical centre have also been suggested for this site. Car parking for the Fen Road facilities is very limited, for example, the pool has only 3 allocated spaces.

Consultation has shown that a minimum of 30 car parking spaces are required to meet the needs of staff, parents and visitors to the school, Children's Centre, nursery and district swimming pool. Although a live application is in place by Lincolnshire County Council for 16 dwellings on this site, a local architect has drawn alternative plans for the footprint of the Lafford High School site. This shows space for 16 dwellings, parking for 30 vehicles, a bus turning area, a community hub and access to the former school playing fields, which are currently fenced off and not available for public use. This drawing can be seen in the Consultation Statement.

A school safety zone is in place outside the entrance to the Fen Road site.

Fen Road brownfield site must be considered for the expansion of the Billingham C of E Primary School as an extra 563 houses are proposed in the Local Plan 2012 - 2036; this increases the pupil population by 0.19 child per household (106 extra children).

Site Context:

Fen Road, the site of the former Lafford School, is central to the Neighbourhood Plan. With the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan allocating a significant amount of growth for the village, representing approximately a 60% increase in dwellings from 2012 to 2036, improvements to the facilities on offer in the village are a vital component of securing the village's ongoing sustainability. Evidence from resident, group and business surveys demonstrates the need to enhance facilities to meet the needs arising from growth of this scale. Whilst the school, which was a central element to the community in providing a range of functions beyond education, has now gone, the site is still very much considered to be a community asset. The Fen Road site is ideally located, close to existing community infrastructure in proximity to the residents of the village and as such it represents a key opportunity not to be missed.

Site assessment:

- The former Lafford School site on Fen Road provides the only vacant site left in the village on which to build community facilities.
- AECOM have suggested the best use of the site is as a community hub.
- The site is within a 10 minute reach of the whole village.
- The total area, approx. 6 acres, is large enough to accommodate several uses.
- The area is central to the village and next door to the main village facilities: school, nursery, Children's Centre and swimming pool.
- The site has easy access by road to the rest of the village and also, by public footpath, to the Field Road estate, and the rest of the village.
- A large number of residents live nearby.
- Has a large footfall – still a meeting place for younger residents.
- The site is earmarked for community facilities – such as a multi-use sports facility and community hub. The former school was a community facility, the hub of the village for both the pupils and adults who attended adult education classes and also social and sporting functions at the school.
- Amenities are already in place and Lincolnshire County Council have recently carried out an assessment of the amenities and also a tree assessment.

5.9.1 Former Lafford School Site, Fen Road

Policy SA1: Former Lafford School Site, Fen Road

The former Lafford High School site, as identified on the Policies Map is a key element to the spatial strategy for Billingham and is allocated for mixed use development including:

Housing (permitted in outline);

D1 non-residential institutional use (for example health or educational use)

D2 assembly and leisure (for example sports or recreational facilities).

Detailed proposals for community facilities on the site should link in with the existing services on Fen Road, including the swimming pool, school and Children's Centre, to create a village hub and include:

- Adequate parking to support the existing and new community facilities (30 spaces are recommended) and
- The retention of the playing fields for sports and recreational use.

Explanatory Text:

This site offers a unique opportunity to deliver necessary infrastructure in the village to support the growing population. As such, a firm approach is needed to ensure that this essential infrastructure is not overlooked to the detriment of the community.

Land off Sprite Lane: proposed site for garden allotments

Why Sprite Lane?

Sprite Lane is an unclassified lane and public footpath leading to a farm and eventually to Walcott. Residents have been asking for garden allotments for a number of years.

Site assessment:

- Easy access
- Has a water supply
- On the edge of the village so will not look unsightly
- On Billingshay ridge - no risk of flooding

5.9.2 Land off Sprite Lane

Policy SA2: Land off Sprite Lane

The site off Sprite Lane is allocated for the provision of new garden allotments, as identified on the Policies map.

Explanatory Text:

The site's unique characteristics make it the most appropriate location to provide such a facility, and the proposal will also make a positive contribution to biodiversity across the village.

West Street: proposed site for retail facilities

Why West Street?

West Street has been allocated as the site for 132 dwellings. Several properties on West Street are empty (2 will be demolished to allow for the building of the new estate) and there are disused former farm buildings and a former chapel building on the street.

Site Assessment:

- Planning permission for change of use and outline planning for 132 dwellings has already been granted for this site.
- Other amenities already in place.
- Once the dwellings on West Street are built, West Street will become a main route through the village.
- Will visually enhance the area.
- Good footfall, linking the Fen Road facilities with the centre of the village and Market Place.

5.9.3 West Street

Policy SA3: West Street

Land to the North of West Street as identified on the Policies Map is proposed for mixed use development including:

Housing (132 units permitted in outline)

A1 retail and / or D1 or D2 community facilities

Retail or community facilities should be additional to housing allocated on the site and must be of a scale appropriate to the village setting, and must accord with the policies within this Plan, particularly in terms of the design and layout of the proposal.

Explanatory Text:

The site off West Street presents an opportunity to create links between the Fen Road site and the village centre, and deliver new retail facilities, leisure or medical facilities fit for modern purposes, in a location that already benefits from existing amenities and significant footfall.

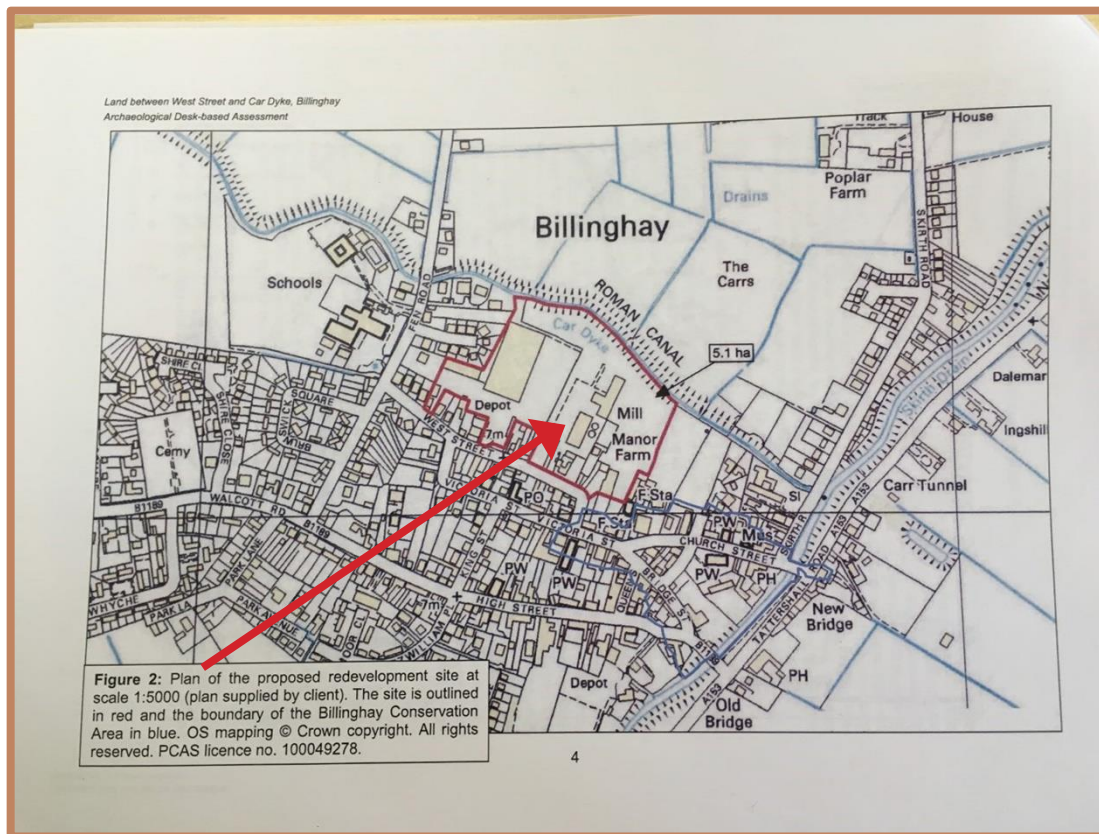


Fig.31. Map to show the outline of the proposed West Street development for 132 dwellings. This site offers an opportunity for retail, leisure and medical facilities.

Land to the East of the A153

Proposed site for business units

Why the A153?

Land to the east of the A153, as shown in Fig. 33, is allocated for employment development within use classes B1, B2 and B8, subject to proposals satisfying a sequential test and exceptions text. The A153 is the main east - west route that runs along the east of the village. The location is an appropriate site for businesses and employment uses, in terms of access and protection of residential amenity. A variety of businesses are already located along this stretch of road.

Site assessment:

- Unable to build residential properties due to being in Flood Zones 2 and 3.
- High visibility for business premises to ensure their viability and ability to employ local residents.
- Excellent location to attract passing trade.

5.9.4 Land to the east of the A153

Policy SA4: Land to the east of the A153

Development proposals for B1 uses will be supported on the land east of the A153 as identified on the Policies Map where it is demonstrated:

- Through a flood risk assessment that flood risk can be avoided or if necessary mitigated;
- That there would be no adverse impact of residential amenity and
- That adequate foul water disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development.

Explanatory Text:

B1, B2 and B8 uses would be inappropriate within the heart of the village. The A153 is the main east-west route through Billingham, and is the most appropriate road on which to locate such uses. A site along this road would be highly visible and have the opportunity to attract passing trade. This would also enable a balanced mix of uses across the village and provide local employment opportunities. The A153 is recommended as a site for business development by North Kesteven's Economic Development department.

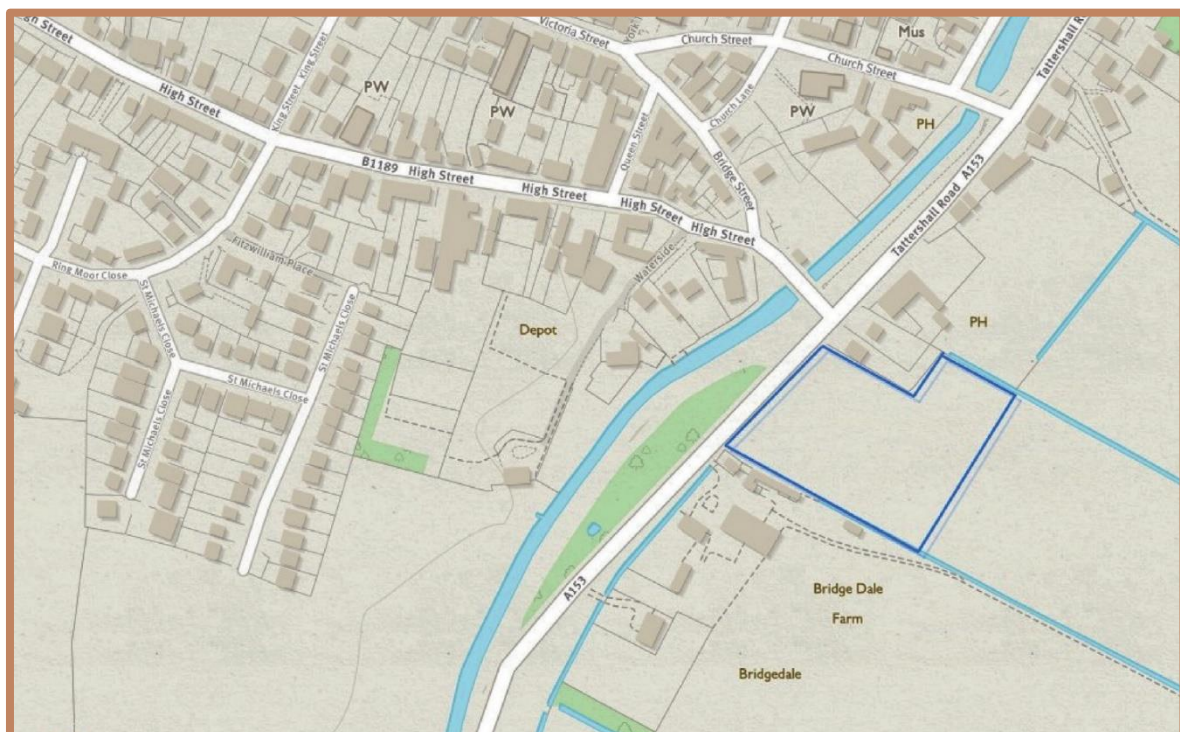


Fig. 33. The blue outline shows the approximate area for B1, B2 and B8 retail use along the A153.

Land off Mill Lane: Proposed location for innovation and business park and possible gym/fitness facility

Why Mill Lane?

Mill Lane links the north side of the village and Walcott to North Kyme and the A153. North Kesteven District Council, the Co-op and private owners already have business units on the site. New business units would allow for the creation of new businesses and the expansion of others, an identified local need as evidenced by the business surveys.

Site assessment:

- On high land - no risk of flooding.
- Outline planning already in place for business units, parking and HGV turning area.
- Would be possible to use a business unit as a gym.
- Easy access.
- Amenities already in place.

5.9.5 Environment

Policy SA5: Land off Mill Lane

Proposals for B1, B2, B8 and D2 uses will be supported on land off Mill Lane as identified on the Policies Map where it is demonstrated that:

- There would be no adverse impact on residential amenity and
- Adequate foul water disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development.

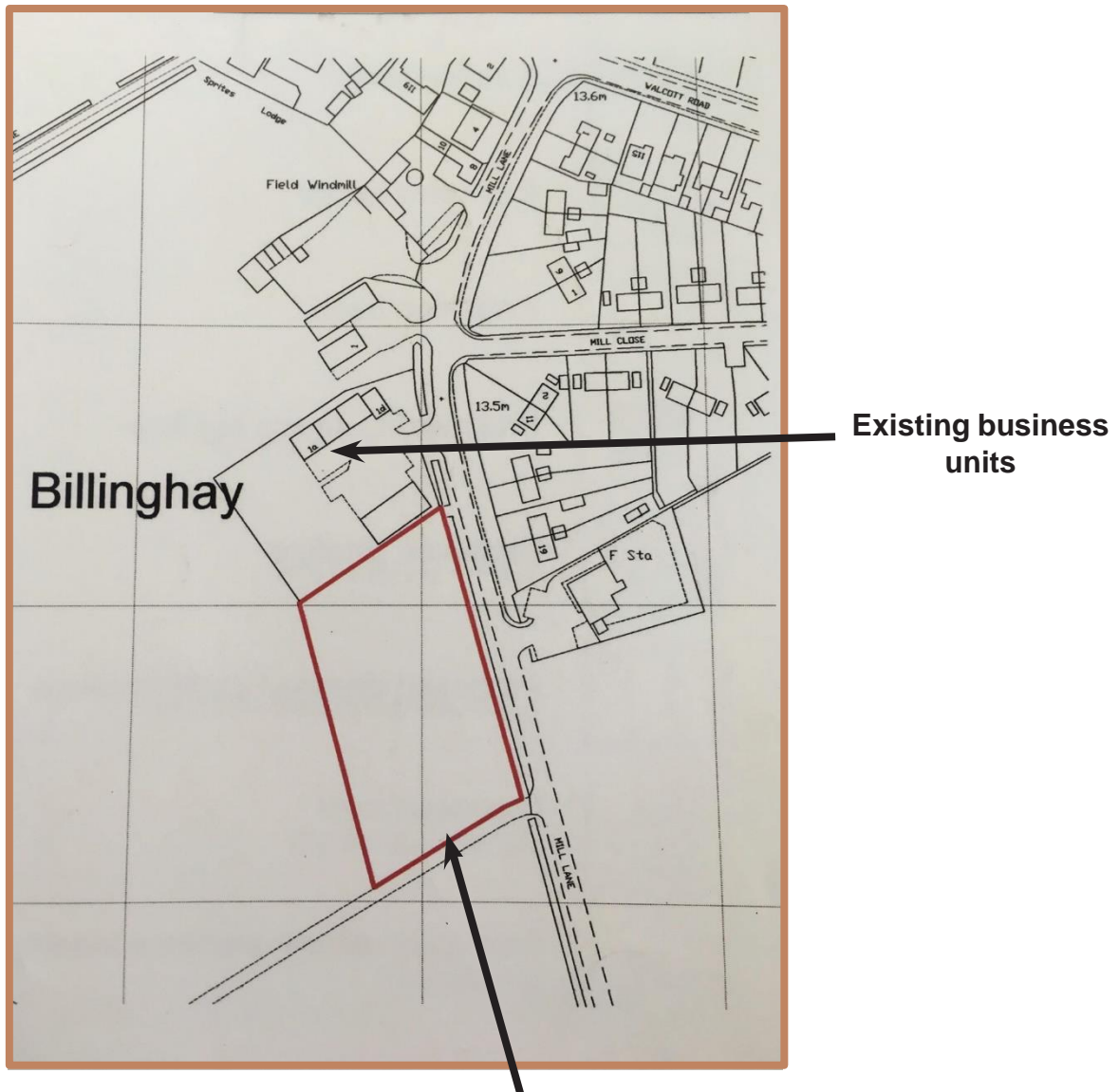


Fig. 34. The red outline shows the proposed outline for the business and enterprise park on Mill Lane. This will form a natural extension to the existing business units.

Explanatory Text:

This site already has a live planning application for business units incorporating a turning circle for HGVs; the plot is next to existing business units and opposite the fire station. With the potential loss of units on West Street for a proposed housing development space is needed for new businesses to set up and existing businesses to grow. The Economic Development department at North Kesteven District Council agree that Billingham needs more than just housing and this site provides the ideal opportunity to encourage existing businesses stay located in the village. Mill Lane links the A153 to the B1189 and removes the need for heavy goods vehicles to drive through the village centre, the High Street thus alleviating traffic congestion on the High Street and Walcott Road. This location, at the opposite end of the village to the village hall and playing fields also offers the opportunity for a gym facility which was a popular facility that residents would like to see in Billingham.



Fig. 35 Existing business units on Mill Lane.

6. Glossary

Brownfield Site - Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure. This excludes land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time. (NPPF March 2012)

Carbon Footprint - A carbon footprint has historically been defined by Championne as “the total sets of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an organisation, event, product or person”.

Community Engagement - A process of community consultation undertaken in the preparation of a statutory plan.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area. (NPPF March 2012).

Curtilage - Curtilage lines are intended to reflect the boundary between a settlement and the countryside that surrounds it. Thus, land with a ‘village’ or ‘town’ character should be shown within the curtilage, whilst that outside the developed area should be shown as countryside. Wherever possible and appropriate, curtilage lines follow clear natural or man-made boundaries on the ground.

Designated Area – The designated area is one of the statutory requirements needed to be in place for a Neighbourhood Plan to be formally adopted. This must include a statement explaining why the proposed neighbourhood area is an appropriate area.

Listed Buildings - in England and Wales there are three types of listed status for buildings:

- Grade I: buildings of exceptional interest;
- Grade II*: particularly important buildings of more than special interest; and
- Grade II: buildings that are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them.

Locality - A national network of settlements, development trusts, social action centres and community enterprises, supporting communities involved in Neighbourhood Planning.

Localism Act 2011 - New legislation which includes wide ranging changes to local government, housing and planning. Included in this new Act is the introduction of Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Local Plan – The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - Published in March 2012 the NPPF is a document setting out the national government’s main policies on planning.

Neighbourhood Plan - A community initiated process in which people get together through a local forum or parish or town council and produce a plan for their neighbourhood setting out policies and proposals for the development they wish to see in their area.

Parish Plan - A plan produced by a parish council that sets out a vision for the future of a parish community and outlines how that can be achieved in an action plan.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 - The primary piece of legislation covering listed buildings and conservation areas.

Playing Field - The whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010. (NPPF March 2012).

Policy - A concise statement of the principles that a particular kind of development proposal should satisfy in order to obtain planning permission.

Referendum – A vote by the eligible population of an electoral area may decide on a matter of public policy. Neighbourhood Plans are made by a referendum of the eligible voters within a neighbourhood area.

Rural – Areas of land which are generally not urbanised; usually with low population densities and a high proportion of land devoted to agriculture.

Section 106 and Planning Obligation – Planning Obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, secured by a local planning authority through negotiations with a developer to offset the public cost of permitting a development proposal. Sometimes developers can self - impose obligations to pre-empt objections to planning permission being granted. They cover things like highway improvements or open space provision.

Site Allocation Map - A plan accompanying a planning policy document or statement which identifies sites within the plan area on which certain kinds of development are proposed, e.g. residential or retail development.

Supplementary Planning Document - Provides detailed thematic or site-specific guidance explaining or supporting the policies in the Local Plan.

Sustainable Development - An approach to development that aims to allow economic growth without damaging the environment or natural resources. Development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Town And Country Planning Act 1990 – Currently the main planning legislation for England and Wales is consolidated in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; this is regarded as the ‘principal act’.

Travel Plan - A long-term management strategy for an organisation or site that seeks to deliver sustainable transport objectives through action, and is articulated in a document that is regularly reviewed (NPPF March 2012).

Tenure – the conditions under which land or buildings are held or occupied.

Vision Design Statement (Vision Document) – A document that identifies and defines the distinctive characteristics of a locality, and provides design guidance to influence its future development and improve the physical qualities of the area. Village Design Statements have generally been produced for rural areas, often by parish councils.



Billingham Market Place.

Part 2: Non-planning Matters and Future Projects

The projects below have arisen out of this Neighbourhood Plan. They do not form part of the statutory Neighbourhood Plan, but do help to shape the vision of Billingham for the future.

Billingham Community Group:

Established by Charitable Deed in September 2015, Billingham Community Group was established to continue the work carried out by Billingham Neighbourhood Plan to develop and promote Billingham, take a leading role in community cohesion and utilise resources available to assist Billingham groups and business, with particular regard to community facilities. Billingham community group is a signatory on the Low Carbon NK Charter.



Improve the appearance of the village and some of its buildings:

Following on from early community consultations, Billingham Neighbourhood Plan recognises that certain areas of the village are less attractive and less well maintained than others, such as the entrances to the village, and West Street, which contains a series of empty properties earmarked for demolition in preparation for the West Street housing development. A few buildings of historical and heritage importance in Billingham have been lost or are earmarked for demolition. The Heritage Character assessment, undertaken as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process seeks to identify and protect buildings, green spaces and views for the future. The Parish Council will promote the conservation area and work alongside North Kesteven District Council planning department and property owners to discuss options to encourage all improvements be sympathetically carried out.

ArtsNK recently carried out a project whereby young people visited Billingham and made notes of the buildings they felt could do with visual improvement - these included the 1st Billingham Scout Hut and the water tower on Walcott Road. Billingham Community Group Plan to work with ArtsNK and other agencies to improve the appearance of these buildings, such as adding a light installation to the water tower. The Scouts are exploring the possibility of a new Scout hut.

To encourage a sense of pride and promote community cohesion, it is planned for the Parish Council to enter Billingham into the Best Kept Village competition in the near future. It is hoped this will bring the residents together to tidy up their community and raise pride in their surroundings. Billingham in Bloom, organised by a village resident, was launched in 2016 and it is expected that this will become an annual event.

Billingham Parish Council will be working more closely with North Kesteven District Council planning department and developers, such as Waterloo Homes, to ensure the aesthetics of the growing village and that residents, such as those on Mill Lane, will have grassed areas outside their front doors, rather than parking for cars.

Protect and maintain green spaces:

Although surrounded by fields and fenland, the centre of Billingham has very little green public space. The playing fields at the former Lafford High School site on Fen Road provides an ideal opportunity to develop a green area for the benefit of all.

As of 1st April 2017, Billingham Parish Council takes over responsibility from North Kesteven District Council for the maintenance of green spaces in Billingham – this includes areas of grass verges and the entrances to some housing developments, such as Shire Close. It is hoped, that this will enhance these areas.

Health and well-being:

Encouraging health and well-being has been a feature throughout the Neighbourhood Planning Document. Projects for the future are exploring funding opportunities for an outdoor gym, a running track at the playing fields on the Fen Road site, or indoor gym facilities at a community building on the Fen Road site, or at the existing village hall.

Ways of reducing isolation are being explored by the Parish Council and Billingham Community Group, with support from other agencies, such as setting up a community IT café and organising a volunteer - led Good Neighbour Scheme.

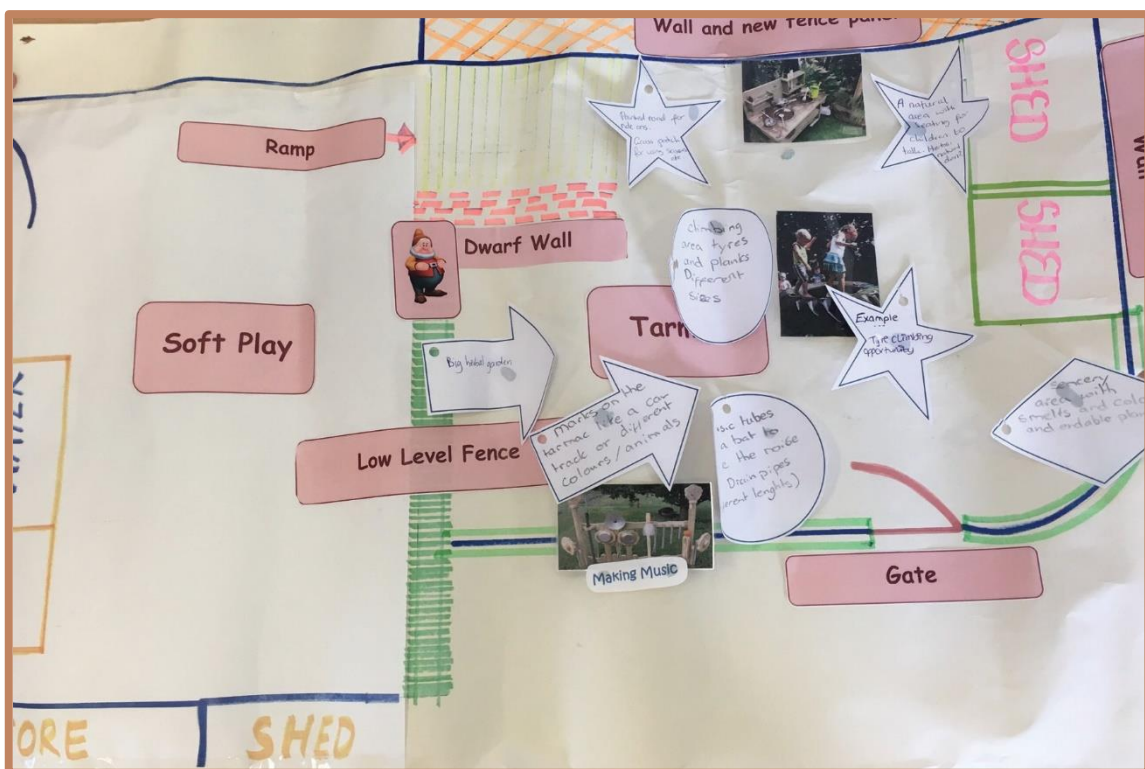


Skirth Regeneration Project:

A team of volunteers, under the leadership of Reg Johnson gained national recognition for their work in trying to making the Skirth navigable again. The Skirth could link with the Witham at the Dogdyke marina - a well used waterway linking Lincoln with Boston, the Wash and Europe beyond. Although the project has halted, a research project carried out in May 2015 shows how this continues to be a possibility. Making the Skirth navigable again would help in turning around the fortunes of the village in terms of tourism and money spent in the village amenities. The benefits may also include the re-opening of the Golden Cross as a pub and restaurant, adding to the facilities available to the local and wider community.

Billingham Children's Centre:

The Children's Centre are hoping to expand their outdoor space into the current car park space, as the current area is too small for use.



The Parents' Forum have designed a map based on the outcome of their own consultation.



Billingham Children's Centre. The curved kerb shows the extent of the proposed extension to the outdoor space. This is currently the designated disabled parking space and two storage sheds.

Billingham Medical Centre:

Although the residents of Billingham and surrounding villages consider the surgery to be "outstanding", the Medical Centre was graded "Good" throughout at its Quality Care Commission Assessment in 2017. Lack of space within the building and lack of parking for patients and staff means that facilities are limited, for instance, no minor surgeries can be carried out. At the end of 2016, 200 patients were informed that the surgery would no longer be able to support their medical needs and they would need to find alternative medical provision. Re-siting or expansion of the surgery within Billingham is crucial to ensure the medical needs of the local community are fully met.

Traffic Management:

To promote safe driving through the village, collaboration between the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, the Police, Parish Council and Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership has established the need for a speed indicator device and 30 mph signs. Sites for the SID and signs are currently being finalised.

School Travel Plan:

This is in the progress of being updated by Billingham C of E Primary School. Although encouraging children to walk to school either with a parent / carer, or as part of a “walking bus”, it has been recognised that 20 parking spaces are required for parenting parking. Any planning for the Lafford site should take safe parking and drop-off and collection of pupils a priority.

Cycle Paths and Bridleways:

To reduce the carbon footprint, increase health and well-being, and promote links with nearby communities, such as Walcott and North Kyme, the promotion of cycling and creation of cycle paths should be encouraged. With stables and livery yards in the vicinity of the village, establishing bridle paths would promote safe riding routes for both horses and riders.

Linking Communities with Public Rights of Way:

Footpaths could be created to link the communities within the village - such as linking Field Road, via the ransom strip, to the public footpath running from Field Farm to Fen Road. Carre’s Square could also be linked to this footpath thereby allowing residents easy access to the Primary School, Children’s Centre, Nursery and Swimming Pool. In addition, the footpath from Mill Lane to Park Lane could be extended to link the proposed new development with the village hall and playing fields.

Photograph above right shows the proposed footpath to link the Field Road estate with the public right of way from Fen Road to Field Farm. Access would be via the ransom strip on Field Road.

Right: The public footpath crossing the field behind the Field Road estate, linking Field Farm with Fen Road, swimming pool and the early years’ educational settings.



Sustainability and the Environment:

Both Billingham Parish Council and Billingham Community group are signatories on the NK Low Carbon Charter and will lead the way in encouraging residents, clubs and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. The inclusion of battery charging points for electric cars on public buildings in the village, and other sustainable projects, are being explored with North Kesteven District Council Sustainability Team.

Burial Matters:

The current cemetery on Walcott Road is estimated to have another 40 years of use left. Provision for suitable land for a new cemetery is therefore advisable. One possible site agreed by the Neighbourhood Planning Committee is the land owned by the church alongside the B1189, just after the water tower. This site is on high land, away from any water sources and is easily accessible. Consultation with residents regarding double depth burials for related family members is being carried out by Billingham Parish Council. Green, natural and alternative forms of burials may also be considered.

Supplementary Reading:

AECOM (2016) Billingham Vision Document
AECOM (2017) Billingham Heritage and Character Assessment
Benton, M. (1993) Fire, Flood and Fenland Folk Vilcom Books: Billingham
Billingham Parish Council (2009) Billingham Parish Plan
Burton, T. (2014) Keeping It Simple London: Locality
Burton, T. (2014) Writing Planning Policies London: Locality
Chetwyn, D. (Undated) Neighbourhood Plans Road Map Guide London: Locality
Chetwyn, D. (Undated) Quick Guide to Neighbourhood Plans London: Locality
North Kesteven District Council (Undated) Billingham Conservation Area NKDC North Kesteven District Council (Undated) Billingham Village Walk NKDC
Smith, M. (2015) Navigation Related Opportunities on the Billingham Skirth (Unpublished research paper)
North Kesteven District Council (undated) Billingham Conservation Area (NKDC)

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BILLINGHAY COMMUNITY PLAN



FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE