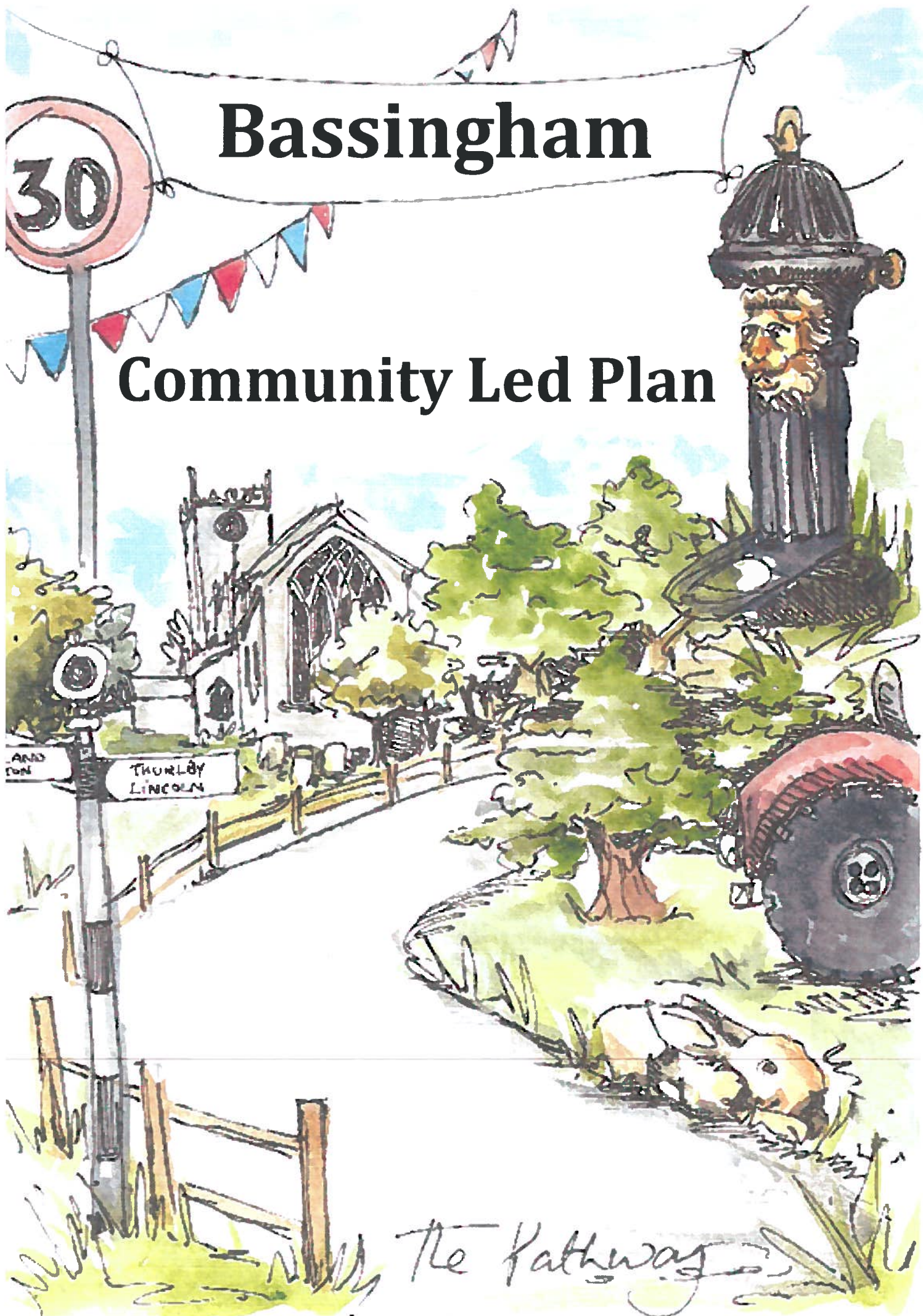


# Bassingham

## Community Led Plan



*The Pathway*

## Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Background .....	3
Purpose of a CLP .....	3
Consultation Timeline .....	3
Key Findings .....	4
Next Steps.....	4
<b>Bassingham Village History .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Brief Description .....	5
Historical Highlights.....	5
<b>Background.....</b>	<b>8</b>
Location of Bassingham .....	8
Population Demographic .....	8
Community Involvement in the Consultation Process .....	8
<b>Housing and Environment.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Highways and Traffic .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Community Life, Leisure and Village Organisations .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Services and Facilities .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Local Governance.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Business .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Youth.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Action Plans.....</b>	<b>23</b>





# BASSINGHAM COMMUNITY LED PLAN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Background

The Bassingham Community Options Group (COG) was set up, at the Annual General Meeting of the Bassingham Village Hall and Playing Fields Charity in October 2011, to review village facilities and advise on possible future requirements and issues. It was agreed that the most effective way to do this would be a Community Led Plan (CLP). This would involve a period of consultation with the community followed by an analysis of the results of this consultation and culminating in a written report and Action Plan. 2011 saw the introduction of the Localism Act, allowing more freedoms and influence in local decision making for example in relation to planning. A CLP would provide evidence to support local decision makers such as the Parish Council, as well as supporting grant applications to undertake local projects.

### Purpose of a CLP

The main purpose of a CLP is to provide a framework for how the community will develop over the next ten to fifteen years. It is an opportunity for the whole community to identify issues that are important to them to protect or to change and to describe how they wish Bassingham village to be in the future. A key part of the plan is the Action Plan which identifies issues, possible solutions, actions and key stakeholders. It reflects the ideas and views of the members of the community who have engaged in the consultation process.

A number of consultation activities have been undertaken over a period of two years in order to engage as many members of the community as possible in order to write a plan that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of the community. The consultation activities have included a launch event, members of the COG meeting with village clubs and organisations including the uniformed youth groups, school, pre-school and teenagers, brief postcard questionnaires and detailed questionnaires, each delivered to all households in Bassingham. A total of 421 full questionnaires were completed. Details of the consultation activities and the raw data from the consultation can be found in the full CLP on the Community Options website at [www.mybassingham.co.uk](http://www.mybassingham.co.uk)

### Consultation Timeline

- October 2011 – volunteers from The Bassingham Village and Playing Fields Charity formed the Community Options Group (COG) following a decision at the AGM.
- Presentation from Community Lincs explaining the process and support available to communities writing a Community Led Plan.
- Articles in Witham Staple to raise awareness of the COG and Community Led Plan process.
- August 2012 COG stall at the Village Show to raise awareness.
- November 2012 Launch Event.
- Mar-May 2013 Questions sent out on Postcards to all households and visits by COG members to village groups and organisations (including pre-school, school and youth organisations) to ask the same questions: "What is important to keep the same in Bassingham Village? What would you wish to be different? What is your vision of Bassingham in the future?"
- July / Aug 2013 – Prioritisation exercise at coffee morning and village show.
- Feb 2014 – questionnaire sent out to each household.

- Mar – July 2014 Analysis of questionnaire responses and drafting of CLP.
- First draft issued.
- Key stakeholders invited to contribute to action plans.
- Bassingham Parish Council to receive Final Report
- Final Report issued to each household in Bassingham.

## Key Findings

The consultation looked at the following seven areas: Housing and the Environment, Highways and Traffic, Community Life, Leisure and Village Organizations, Services and Facilities, Business and Youth. Overall, there was a strong indication that Bassingham retains a strong sense of community spirit and identity, that there are many events and activities to participate in and that the village is generally well served and a safe and good place to live in for most age groups. Threats were seen as significant expansion beyond the village curtilage and more large housing developments that were perceived to cause additional burden on existing facilities, to undermine the 'village feel' and to increase traffic on village roads. Speeding, inconsiderate parking and the condition of some road surfaces were also considered issues by many.

The Health Centre and villages shops were considered almost unanimously as being highly important and regularly used by residents of Bassingham. Community magazines, word of mouth and parish notice boards play an important role in village communication. Broadband and mobile phone reception were considered inadequate or inconsistent in many areas of the village, having an impact on both households and businesses. Also many residents admitted to not having the time or inclination to engage with the Parish Council and to being unaware of decisions made at this level that have affected them or the community. Full details of the findings and the data from the consultation can be found in the full CLP and annexes on the Community Options website at [www.mybassingham.co.uk](http://www.mybassingham.co.uk)

## Next Steps

Writing the CLP is only the first stage in this process and arguably what happens next is more important. In an ideal situation the plan is a working document or a 'village mindset' where the community is constantly looking to the future and striving to truly represent the community's needs. This requires a core of residents to drive the actions in the action plan forward. It also requires a commitment from the Parish Council to represent the views of the community in local decision-making and provide the authority to communicate with other key stakeholders such as local government. What will your contribution be?



## Bassingham Village History

### Brief Description

Bassingham village is a Saxon settlement. In the Domesday Book its name is written "Baseingeham". The derivation of the name appears to be "the stream of Basa's people". There has been a church on the site of the current St Michael's church since the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Today Bassingham is a medium size, compact village set in rural farmland. It is situated 8 miles south west of the City of Lincoln and falls within the Local Government area of North Kesteven District Council. The village has a population of over 1400 and has a primary school, pre-school, doctor's surgery, two shops, a post office, church, a large purpose built village hall and playing field and two public houses. The housing is a mixture of traditional buildings and more modern dwellings including high and medium priced properties together with some social and affordable housing.

### Historical Highlights

In 1870-72 John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described Bassingham as; "*A parish and a sub district, in the district of Newark and county of Lincoln. The parish lies on the river Witham, 3 miles S of Swinderby r. station, and 8 1/2 NE of Newark; and has a post office under Newark. Acres, 1,940. Real property, £6,395. Pop, 928. Houses, 191. The property is much subdivided. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Lincoln. Value, £483. Patron, Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The church was restored in 1861. There are two Methodist chapels, a national school, and charities £29. The sub district contains nine parishes. Pop, 3,852.*"

From its medieval origins Bassingham village has grown and prospered over the centuries into a flourishing community. As a predominantly farming community, a large proportion of the population in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century were farm workers until mechanisation reduced the need for so many people to work on the land. Osier beds were grown in the surrounding area and the preparation of these provided employment for a number of people working in the Osier shed on the site which is now Battersby Close. During this time a number of trades associated with farming were also to be found in Bassingham. These included blacksmiths, wheelwrights and joiners, the latter also making coffins and serving the village as undertakers. The local blacksmiths gradually diversified into working on cars and Mr Eddie Winn supplied petrol for the new era of transportation on the site of what is now No 1 High Street.

Tied cottages and small privately rented cottages provided the normal accommodation in the 1900s. These houses were scarce and in great demand. The Parish Council, which was formed in 1893, owned 3 cottages and records show that high numbers of people applied to rent these properties. As part of the drive in the 1960's, to provide affordable housing in Bassingham, the District Council built approximately 30 bungalows and 30 houses. Two Airey houses were also constructed in Water Lane and Lord Ancaster built 6 houses in the village. The former caravan site on Lincoln Road housed the wives of RAF men stationed locally. Following the Right to Buy Act in 1979 many of the houses are now privately owned.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, many small shops catered for the various needs of the villagers. These included Holmes the butcher, Wilkinson the fish shop, Franklin the electrician and a chemist. The Co-op shop on High Street was opened in 1872. When the shop closed, a variety of tenants used the premises for different retail and manufacturing purposes until finally it was changed into the current Spar shop. The oldest shop, Green's Stores, formerly Moorshead's and prior to that Enderby's, served a wide area

stocking most general items needed by families and including animal feed and drapery. At this time, the post office was also situated in Green's Stores. In 1971 the post office moved to a purpose built building constructed by Mr and Mrs Fred Knight. It finally returned in 2013 to its original home in Green's Stores. There are many older houses in the village where there is still evidence that the former use of the building was as a shop. For example at the south end of High Street a small shop selling everything from paraffin to crockery and sweets was managed by Blanche Bates until the introduction of VAT prompted the shop to close.

The village was well served in the past by the Carriers' carts and then by the local buses such as the Silver Queen. These small firms were eventually taken over by Lincolnshire Road Car who provided a full service which was well used. As more and more people obtained cars the passenger numbers decreased and the route became financially less viable.

In 1981, Bassingham Parish Council organised a Voluntary Car Service scheme to provide transport to hospitals. There was also a mini bus service provided by Mr Rusin's garage and this was well used.

Bassingham primary school currently has on roll over 200 pupils and is housed in a recently modernised building together with a separate purpose built Pre- School unit. In 1855 the National School was erected together with an attached teacher's house for the sum of £580. The school was attended by approximately 44 children. In the same year a Wesleyan School was built at a cost of £663 and this was attended by about 80 children. In 1893 a Board School was formed with the amalgamation of the Church and Chapel schools. The former Church school is now a private house situated opposite St Michael's Church. The Chapel schoolroom situated behind the main Chapel building later became the Heritage Room. This room and the Chapel were closed in 2010 and the site purchased by a developer for housing.

The village has enjoyed the services of a local medical practitioner for many years. The first was Dr. Osborne Johnson who had his practice and dispensary at Ivy House, Hall Wath. He was later succeeded by Dr Gerald Marchment who built his house and surgery on Torgate Lane. Drs David and Monica Baker then followed as the resident physicians and the current Medical Centre was opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

A resident policeman lived in the Police House which is now no 24 Water Lane until a new Police House was built on Torgate Lane. Centralisation of police resources meant that the village lost its resident policeman but in recent years PCSOs have provided additional police presence.

The growth of the village over the years has coincided with the development of public meeting places for recreational activities and servicing the needs of community groups. The Methodist schoolroom was used for a number of years by the Parish Council and as a venue for other groups to meet. Following the end of World War 1 a hut was given for the use of returned soldiers and was named the "Comrades Hall". This is now a private house No 57 Lincoln Road. This hall was used by many organisations including the W.I. and after the end of the Second World War was used for dances. The Land Army Hostel was built on the Memorial Playing Field. This field was donated by local farmers as a memorial to the fallen in the two World Wars. It was designated for the use of the parishioners of Bassingham. The Hostel was an L shaped building with a centre brick section and tower to hold the water tank. This also served as the ablutions block. One wing had a stage and the other a flat for the caretaker. The building also provided changing rooms for the various sports clubs that had grown up in the post war years. When the Land Army left the Hostel, the Parish was able to buy the building and this began to be used by the many organisations that had sprung up in the village. The Methodist school room also continued to be used as a meeting place during this time. As the number of groups and clubs grew the



Parish Council entered into a Chance to Share agreement with the Local Education Authority to share the school premises when the school was not being used by the children. This agreement worked well for many years to the benefit of both the school and the local community. The agreement was finally dissolved in 2012 by mutual agreement and the community placed all its efforts into supporting the new Hammond Hall and the new extension to the Hammond Hall, which now stands on the site of the old Land Army Hostel. The Hammond Hall complex now provides a range of modern facilities to support the continuing growth of activities and clubs that are indicators of the strong community spirit that exists within Bassingham village.

North Kesteven District Council has been instrumental over many years in instigating a number of community arts projects which have enhanced the environment and facilities of the village. In the late 1980s an artist in residence scheme led by an Israeli artist, Aric Halfon resulted in the many mosaics to be seen around the village. The Mosaic and Stained Glass Group started as a result of this initiative continues to meet today on a weekly basis. In 1991 the Bull Seat was carved by Mark Foulds and now complements the Brick Wall Sculpture on Stocks Hill. Bassingham Choir and the Bridge Club are further examples of North Kesteven District Council initiatives and both continue successfully to the present day.

*Acknowledgement: Grateful thanks to Helen Ash for her support in writing these historical highlights of Bassingham which is based on her history of the village.*



## Background

### Location of Bassingham

Bassingham is a rural village in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire. It is located approximately halfway between Newark and Lincoln.

### Population Demographic

The 2011 census cites a total population of 1425 residents and 579 households. Of these households over 75% are either owned outright or with a mortgage or loan. The age structure of the village is as follows:

Age in years	Percentage of Bassingham Population
0-17	21.8%
18-59	53.7%
60+	24.5%

The 2011 census showed 41% of the population of Bassingham to be employed full-time 15.4% employed part-time and 12% self-employed.

### Community Involvement in the Consultation Process

(All percentages have been calculated on the number of responses to the particular question as not all respondents answered all questions)

The ideal situation for a Community Led Plan would be that every resident takes part in at least one of the consultation activities. The Bassingham Community Options Group (COG) ensured the opportunity was available to all residents to take part in the consultation through advertising the events, contacting local groups and organisations and mail drops to each household. Members of the COG were also available to assist with completing questionnaires when required.

The questionnaire was written for individuals to complete and two copies of the questionnaire were delivered to each household in Bassingham. The questionnaire was also available to complete online. Four hundred and forty-one individuals answered the questionnaire either in paper form or online. Not all residents who completed the questionnaire answered all the questions and some questionnaires were completed as a household. This report also reflects feedback from other consultation activities (please see appendices for the raw data).

The first section of the questionnaire asked background information about the person answering the questions. Of those 441 individuals who completed the questionnaire, 6% were under 18 years old, 50% were between 19 and 60 years old and approximately 44% were over 60 years of age. There was a broadly even number of male and female respondents across all age groups. Compared to the census data, the young people of Bassingham appear under-represented in the questionnaire, whilst the percentage of respondents in the 19-60 age group could be considered reflective. However, aside from the questionnaire there were focus groups with the young people, uniformed youth groups, Bassingham School Council and Bassingham Pre-School, which allowed the under 18 year olds to partake in the consultation process at an appropriate level.



Of the 400 people who answered the question about the type of housing they occupy, the majority (88%) identified themselves as owner-occupiers with 11% renting properties. Over 51% of the people who responded to the survey are either employed or self employed, slightly less than one might expect when compared to the census data, however this is due to the high number of responses in the 60+ age group. 8.6 % of the residents who answered the questionnaire identified themselves as having some link to the Armed Forces, with the majority of those (27 individuals) having retired from the military (ex-serving).

When asked how long respondents had lived in Bassingham, 35% have lived in Bassingham for more than 20 years, with a further 35% having lived here for between 1 and 10 years.

Compared to census data, the response rates of individuals from different age groups, employment status and time lived in Bassingham indicate that a representative cross-section of the Bassingham community took part in the community consultation.



## Housing and Environment

(All percentages have been calculated on the number of responses to the particular question as not all respondents answered all questions)

At the launch event, half of those who took part in the housing activity expressed an opinion that there should be no more houses built in Bassingham, with the other half expressing concern that further development should complement existing housing (not in the style of newer developments) and should be limited in size. Opinions from the focus group and postcard feedback were equally split between no further development and some development that allowed Bassingham to retain its village feel and not put pressure on existing services and facilities. There was some sympathy towards building affordable housing that would allow younger members of the village to stay, rather than having to move due to the cost of housing.

Of the 391 people who responded to the question about the number of houses that should be built in Bassingham in the future, the majority (60%) would be content to see the village grow in a sympathetic way with a limited number of houses being built. There were a significant number of residents (36%) who do not want to see any further housing built. There was a more even division about extending the curtilage with 45% not wanting the curtilage extended at all and 53% willing to see a limited extension to the curtilage providing this did not spoil the overall appearance of the village.

Individual comments related to maintaining a balance in the housing stock between houses in the higher and medium price range and affordable housing. There was some support for the development of a private retirement development. The appearance of the village was a factor in the choice of Bassingham as a place to live by some people. The overall feeling was that Bassingham village should not grow too large because that would spoil its appearance and character.

The pathway between Bassingham and Carlton is considered by many to be a significant benefit to the village and some residents wish to have similar pathways connecting Bassingham with other Witham villages, such as Thurlby and Witham St Hughes. More information about walks within the local area was suggested and other residents would like to have better access to the riverbanks for walkers to enjoy.

Perceived significant problems affecting the environment were dog fouling and litter. 60% of respondents to the questionnaire were concerned about dog fouling throughout the village, particularly on footpaths, jetties and grass verges. 38% of respondents considered litter to be a significant problem, particularly beside all approach roads into Bassingham, on the High Street and the playing field. Whilst there have been incidences of graffiti and vandalism in the past, the questionnaire cited very few examples of graffiti and anti-social behaviour indicating it to be less of a problem currently.



## Highways and Traffic

(All percentages have been calculated on the number of responses to the particular question as not all respondents answered all questions)

In all the consultation activities undertaken, the main issues of concern to residents in this section were identified as inconsiderate parking, speeding and poor road surfaces. Over recent months, there have been road repairs completed on some of the roads, which were identified as being in poor condition and in April 2014 a school safety zone, with parking restrictions at school times and a recommended speed of 20mph, was introduced.

In response to the questionnaire, in addition to the specific question related to parking, there were 312 comments about inconsiderate parking. The areas of most concern were identified as Lincoln Road and Torgate Lane (at school times), the High Street on the corner by Green's Store and to a lesser extent outside the Spar Shop. Poor visibility when passing parked cars on Lincoln Road, north of Little Eastgate was also cited as a concern. Many residents who commented in the questionnaire raised their concerns about parking on pavements, double parking on roads making driving between parked cars dangerous and inconsiderate parking making crossing roads hazardous, especially for children. Of the parents of children attending Bassingham Primary School who completed the questionnaire, 27% either never or only occasionally walked their children to school. A safe road crossing, such as a lollipop person, was identified as an option that would encourage 97% of those parents, who completed the questionnaire, to walk their children to school more regularly. In the postcard and focus group feedback, provision of parking for school and Hammond Hall including access to the Hammond Hall overflow car park was mentioned as an issue.

Speeding has been identified in all of the consultation activities as an issue in Bassingham. In the questionnaire, 60% of respondents identified it as a problem. Of particular concern to residents are the speeds at which vehicles enter the village from all approach roads but particularly Carlton Road. Through traffic along Lincoln / Carlton Road and to a lesser extent along the High Street / Newark Road were also cited as a problem.

Concerning the condition of the roads and pavements in Bassingham, 51% of the 382 respondents to this question considered the roads to be in poor condition. Areas of particular concern were Little Eastgate and Croft Road junction with Thurlby Road (which have both now been resurfaced), Torgate Lane and sections of both Lincoln and Newark Roads. 82 % of respondents considered the pavements to be in an acceptable or good condition.

The bus service in Bassingham has been greatly increased in recent years following a petition to improve the service. Of the 373 respondents to the question regarding the appropriateness and adequacy of the service, the majority of respondents (53%) had no opinion and almost 90% of respondents use the service less often than weekly. 19% deemed the service either inadequate or inappropriate. Comments suggested that the buses were not at convenient times to commute to Newark or Lincoln for work and that more direct routes as well as later evening buses would be useful. In relation to the question concerning school buses, 76% of the 61 respondents did not think that the school bus service met their requirements, with over 20 comments related to the lack of bus service to Priory Academy LSST.



176 people answered the question about community mini bus and volunteer driver schemes. A community mini bus was the most popular option for transport to hospital, supermarkets, railway stations and as a means for young people to get to central points. There were also a number of comments related to such a service being an asset to the community and something that others would use if their circumstances changed and they were no longer able to drive themselves.



## Community Life, Leisure and Village Organisations

(All percentages have been calculated on the number of responses to the particular question as not all respondents answered all questions)

A very positive theme throughout all the community consultation activities has been that Bassingham has a strong sense of community spirit and is considered by many to be a safe and friendly place to live. There was a strong indication that any changes and developments in the future should seek to retain this friendly sense of community. With regards to leisure activities and village organisations, many residents consider the range on offer to be interesting and diverse, catering for most age groups in the village but with insufficient activities for some younger members of the community. St Michael's Church and the Hammond Hall were both seen as important community focal points.

This section of the questionnaire gave residents the opportunity to consider how safe they felt Bassingham to be, how suitable for different age groups as well as the range of activities and organisations. The questionnaire also sought general comments about Bassingham, as well as opinions on specific developments related to the Hammond Hall and ideas for additional activities. Specifics e.g. ideas for activities were taken from feedback from the launch event, postcards and focus groups.

The results from the questionnaire, in common with the themes from the launch event, postcard and focus groups, show the majority of Bassingham residents who took part in the questionnaire consider Bassingham to be a safe place to live. Of 387 respondents, 381 (98%) said that it was a safe village in which to live. The majority of those who answered the question related to Bassingham's suitability for families and older people agreed it was suitable (92% and 90% respectively). However, when asked a similar question about young people, of the 356 who responded, 33% had no opinion, 15% thought the village was not good for young people and 51% agreed that it was. This result was further elaborated on later in the questionnaire with comments relating to the need for more activities for teenagers, especially those in the mid to older range.

When asked about the range of activities and groups, 378 responded. The majority, 88% thought that there was a good range of activities. The survey moved on to seek to discover how important it was to residents to maintain the wide range of events in Bassingham. Examples offered were the Annual Show, Open Gardens and Carols around the Christmas Tree. There were 385 responses. Only 1% thought that village traditional events were unimportant. All the rest thought that they were important to some degree with 79% considering them to be 'very important'.

Offered the opportunity to comment generally on the village, 129 responded. Of these, 32% wished the village to remain in its present state. Typical Comments included that they would not wish to live anywhere else; it was an enjoyable and safe place to live with good facilities; people were friendly and there was a pervading community spirit.

Concern was expressed by 13%, of those who chose to comment, that Bassingham had lost some of its character owing to the design of recent housing developments. In most cases this was coupled with a strongly expressed wish that the village should not be allowed to grow, as the excellent community spirit was closely associated with Bassingham being a small village. The wording of the comments invited the inference that the respondents believed Bassingham to be in a state of balance and that this balance should not be disturbed. Nevertheless, there may be undercurrents of dissatisfaction. While lauding the community spirit of the village, one comment bemoaned the difficulty in finding helpers for events. Another made mention of a generally good community spirit but qualified

the remark by adding that there were some very “snobby” groups of people that looked down on residents of a certain area. Doubts of these kinds cropped up or were repeated later in the survey.

Other comments related to specific ideas for activities. These ranged from establishing groups for dementia sufferers and their carers to proposals for events linked to the calendar such as celebration of St George’s Day and a Harvest Supper. An underlying theme seemed to be a wish for more activities to provide opportunities for families that were new to the village to find their place in the community.

Nine respondents sought better access for walkers to footpaths and to the River Witham. In particular, they wanted to be able to walk the west bank of the river, which is in the civil parish of Norton Disney and not much under the influence of Bassingham.

In the next question residents were invited to give their views on development of a stage and a gymnasium at the Hammond Hall. Of the 378 respondents, 71% were in favour of incorporating a stage for local groups and visiting performers. With regard to the gymnasium, 252 respondents were in favour and 26, (7%) were against while 18, (5%) had no opinion.

Invited to comment or make suggestions about the Hammond Hall, 76 responded. Six, (8%), responses called for more activities for teenagers based at the Hammond Hall. The tone of the responses seemed to indicate that provision of such activities may limit the opportunities for teenagers to gather elsewhere where they could create a nuisance unobserved.

Other comments voiced concern about parking at busy times at the Hammond Hall. Eight responses commented on the desirability of retaining flexible use of the Hall, including one criticism of the use of the Hall as a village hall rather than as a sports facility. Others stressed the need to maintain the bare-hall condition of the main hall to preserve its ready use for a wide variety of events and group activities. A further ten responses stressed a need to curb expansion plans. Justification included the view that the addition of gym facilities would add to the administrative burden for little real benefit to the community. Furthermore, the Hammond Hall as built plus the Hammond Tower under construction completed the physical development of the site.

Residents were asked if they would support the development of more activities in Bassingham village. Of the 370 who responded, 80% said they supported the proposition. The survey then asked residents what additional activities they would support, from a supplied list of suggestions collated from the postcard and focus group feedback. The most popular of the options was Open Air Musical Events, with 78% of those who answered the question indicating support. Adult Learning/Evening classes and Visiting Theatre Groups would also be supported by over 70% of those who answered the question. Full details and percentages for each suggested activity can be found in the annex on the Community Options website at [www.mybassingham.co.uk](http://www.mybassingham.co.uk)

Residents were invited to put forward ideas for activities. 54 out of 357 respondents to the Activities section offered suggestions, some of which were repeated elsewhere in the survey. Of these, 22 suggested activities with both physical and social content. Various types of adult learning were proposed by 9 and 6 suggested varieties of arts and crafts. Other suggestions (19) covered support for carers, social events, sales and wants adverts and requests for a particular facility, for example, “somewhere for a library”.



Other suggestions, specifically related to Hammond Hall were:

Car boot and table-top sales - expand programme.
Climbing Wall.
Commercial scale Kitchen.
Dancing – all types.
Film Shows.
Gymnasium – see above.
Learning opportunities.
Music Groups.
Outdoor seating Café.
Skittle Alley.
Squash Court.
Badminton



## Services and Facilities

(All percentages have been calculated on the number of responses to the particular question as not all respondents answered all questions)

At both the launch event and in the postcard and focus group feedback, the village shops and Post Office were considered the most important services in Bassingham, closely followed by the Health Centre and the Public Houses. The most frequent suggestions for improvements to services and facilities in all the community consultation activities were improved broadband and mobile connection, more facilities and activities for young people and the importance of keeping a Post Office in the village.

The questionnaire asked questions to ascertain residents' opinions on the importance of services available in Bassingham and frequency of use, developments they would consider to be of benefit to the community, specific suggestions for improvements to the Play Park on the Bassingham Memorial Playing Field as well as how residents found out about what is happening locally.

389 people responded to the question asking for services to be rated in order of importance and frequency of use. The village shops and Bassingham surgery were considered either very important or important by those who answered the question at 99% and 98% respectively. There was a reasonably even distribution of scores for the village pubs, Hammond Hall, playing fields, Witham Staple and St Michael's Church, all at around 90%. While all the remaining facilities received a positive importance rating of 70% or more, the following services were rated personally by a significant minority of respondents as not important: Garage (19%), Hairdressers (24%), Pre-school/Tree Tops (27%) and Primary School (24%).

In terms of usage, there was some correlation between how often services were used and how important they were considered to be. This was particularly the case for those services which rated highly as 'never used', with the primary school (64%) and Pre-School/Tree Tops (74%) featuring most prominently. The hairdressers also appeared well above the average with 50% of respondents recording 'never used.' At the other end of the scale, the village shops had the highest rating for services used regularly at 80%, followed by the Witham Staple at 73% and the pubs, church and Hammond Hall all around 50%.

There were a number of individual comments that emphasised the importance of maintaining a range of services within the village. Some commented on the need to continue the mobile library. Others suggested additional services such as a tea or coffee shop, dry cleaning and cashpoint facilities, as well as a local taxi service.

There was some concern expressed at the number of patients registered at the surgery and the impact this is having on waiting times. Other health related issues that were raised included establishing dentist and chiropody services. Some respondents did not realise that there was a garage or hairdressers. A few other issues were raised with the greatest number of single issue comments relating to the importance of having a village post office with some of those expressing concern that some services had reduced since the post office had moved. A further three responses, (2%), criticized the provision of street lighting but gave no indication of the nature of their complaint.

384 people responded to the question seeking opinions on developments which would be of benefit to the village. In common with the other consultation activities, two areas in particular stand out: faster broadband and better mobile phone reception, each with a 93% 'yes' vote. Mains gas supply (68%), community website (66%), coffee shop (64%) and help for the elderly (63%) all feature strongly as preferences, followed by village Wi-Fi (59%)

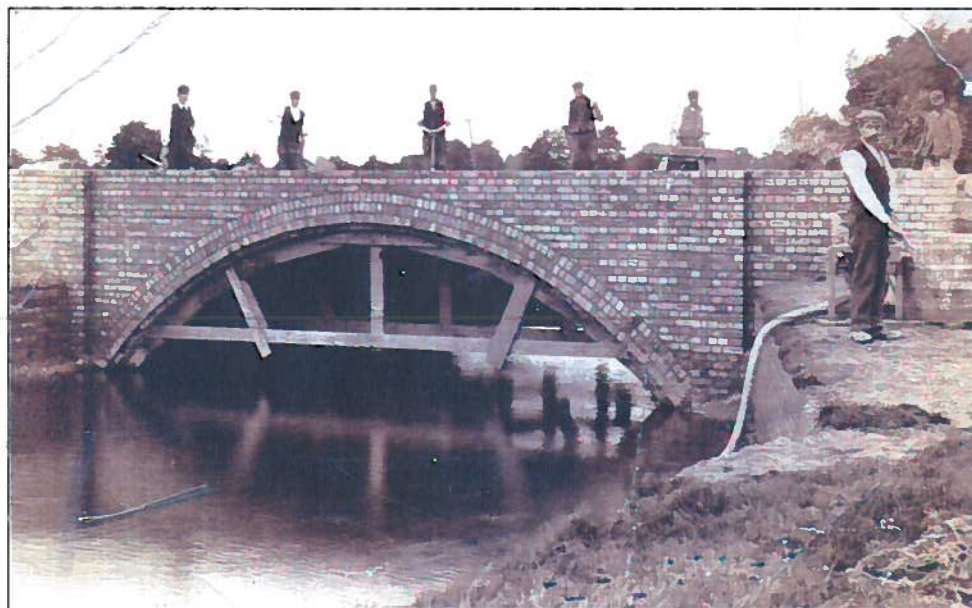


solar generation (54%) and help for young families (36%). The most frequently made comments were made in relation to banking services, with 58 respondents raising the issue, many requesting cash machines and mobile banking facilities. Other suggested areas for development included additional health services: dentist, chemist, pharmacy, optician and chiropody with the most popular being a dentist with 55 comments. Library services, takeaway food outlets and improved post office services were also identified.

Of the 371 respondents who answered the question whether a member of their household uses the play park, 112 answered yes. When asked about the suitability of the equipment for different age groups of children, the majority (over 90%) rated the equipment as either good or acceptable for children up to aged 10. For older children and teenagers, the equipment was rated as less suitable with 45% rating it as poor for 11-16 year olds and 77% of respondents rating it as poor for 16 years and older. When asked about specific additions, over 70% of respondents who used the park indicated that a member of their household would use a trim trail, zip wire and skate park either often or occasionally. Support for a skate park was expressed in the comments section to this question as well as in the youth section of the questionnaire. Other comments of note indicated that the park did not contain any items of equipment that were accessible for disabled children.

The questionnaire then asked respondents to state how they find out what is going on locally. Seven options were offered and 382 people responded. Two of the choices, community magazines (93%) and word of mouth (85%), featured most strongly. Next came Parish Notice boards (58%) and Hammond Hall (34%) with the Church Notice board (20%), community Internet site (8%) and social media (4%) completing the picture. The comments supported the use of notice boards with a couple mentioning local radio and word of mouth.

Respondents were then asked to identify what additional information would encourage greater use of parish notice boards, community magazines and community Internet sites. A common thread across all three was the desire to see greater visibility of parish council business (minutes, agendas, decisions etc). More sales/wants/jobs information was also identified as a requirement with a number of respondents regretting the loss of the post office window notice board. To have bus timetables published within community magazines was also seen as a good idea by some. Several comments were made regarding the need to keep information on notice boards up to date and for notices to be made easier to read. The editing and appearance of the community magazines was noted by others who felt that they were 'too jumbled' and hard to read. Several people were not aware of the village website and some of those that were suggested it needed updating more regularly and improving editorially.





## Local Governance

(All percentages have been calculated on the number of responses to the particular question as not all respondents answered all questions)

The questionnaire sought to identify how engaged and interested residents in Bassingham are in the governance of the village and how well informed they feel about decisions made at the three levels of local governance; Parish, District and County Council. 369 people responded to the question, 'Are you aware of any decisions taken by the Parish Council which have had an impact on the life of residents in Bassingham?' Of those, 63 (17%) indicated that they were very aware, 169 (46%) were generally aware, and 137 (37%) were not aware. When asked, 'How well informed to you feel about decisions that are made locally?' 353 people responded to the question rating each of Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Bassingham Parish Council in terms of how well informed they felt.

The results were as follows:

	Well informed	Acceptably informed	Poorly informed	Total respondents
Lincolnshire County Council	7.31%	50.29%	42.4%	342
North Kesteven District Council	15.03%	54.91%	30.06%	346
Bassingham Parish Council	19.02%	53.89%	27.09%	347

377 people responded to the question, 'Do you attend parish council meetings?' Of these, 21 (6%) said they did attend regularly, 117 (31%) responded 'when there is a specific issue for discussion', and 239 people (63%) never attend. While some respondents provided reasons for non-attendance as "others attend on my behalf", "recently arrived" or "not got round to it", the majority of comments can be broken down into the following:

- 'not convenient' - mainly because of timings or other commitments (43 comments),
- 'lack of information' about what the council does or about the meetings themselves (21 comments),
- 'no interest' in parish council business (18),
- 'no point' in attending (18) since opinions don't matter or won't be listened to.

Attendance at Parish council meetings is low and a significant minority of respondents were not aware of decisions made by the council which had a local impact. While the Parish council fares marginally better than the district council with the county council coming in last, a significant minority of people feel that they are not aware or poorly informed about local councils including what they do, how decisions are taken and the impact of those decisions on local people.

There were seven comments about the formal and informal governance of the village. All in some way complained of a lack of opportunity to get new members onto committees or the Parish Council. There was a view that a few core people ran the clubs, associations and societies and took all major decisions for the village without consulting residents at large. Those who are involved were seen to work hard for the village and to deserve support but this should take the form of active recruitment of new-comers to bring in new ideas, stimulate a fresh approach and, shortly after, to become their successors.





## Business

(All percentages have been calculated on the number of responses to the particular question as not all respondents answered all questions)

Of the 391 people who responded to the question about having a business in Bassingham, 27 (7%) confirmed that they did. 19 are self-employed and 9 employed although 25 confirmed that they operated their business from their home. In terms of age range, all were above 36 with most being between 46 and 61.

12 (26%) would not want to see the village grow any bigger with 9 saying they were happy for the village to grow in 'a sympathetic and limited way' and 5 happy for it to grow more extensively.

In terms of travel, the majority expressed no opinion in the local bus service with only 1 using it weekly.

The large majority held positive views of the village in all categories. In terms of local services, most were considered to be 'very important' with 'Local Shops' and 'Bassingham Surgery' scoring the highest and the school, pre-school and hairdressers being used the least. In terms of decisions made locally, the majority felt they were 'acceptably informed' and that 'Community Magazines' and 'Word of Mouth' were the best ways to achieve this.

26 people responded to the question relating to developments they thought would be of benefit to Bassingham with the favourite being 'Faster Broadband' at 23 (88%), and 'better mobile connection' and 'sustainable energy generation' close second at 22 (84%). Of the 'No's', 'Gas Supply' was the highest at 8 (30%).

In terms of whether the village should try to attract more small business, 18 (69%) agreed, with 4 (15%) saying no and 4 (15%) having no opinion either way.

From the 18 who agreed, individual comments relating to ways in which new business might be attracted to the village included several comments suggesting that this should only be pursued using the currently available units with no further development. Other suggestions included reasonable rates for business units, better broadband, a café, promotion by NKDC, better bus routes and parking. Other comments warned of increased traffic and parking issues and the possibility of the village becoming 'characterless' if local people weren't encouraged to work here.





## Youth

A total of 46 young people answered the questions in the Youth Section of the Community Led Plan questionnaire. The largest number of respondents (40%) were between the ages of 12 and 15. 6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds were also well represented, with 25% and 18% of responses respectively. This reflects the 2011 census, which showed the largest youth age group to be 10-14. Over 60% of respondents were female.

The questions were specifically designed based on feedback from earlier consultation activities with the youth of Bassingham and covered their likes and dislikes about living in Bassingham, specific clubs and activities that had been suggested at earlier consultation events and the most effective way to communicate with the youth. What was clear from all the responses was that the 'youth voice' is a vital aspect of local decision-making and so an action point relates to developing a consistent means to allow the youth to contribute.

Overall, the questionnaire showed that the youth are very positive about the village being safe and friendly, about the facilities and activities in particular the park and school. Some felt that the park needed more challenging equipment and voiced concern over the number of new houses being built, cars speeding and inconsiderate parking.

Over half of all respondents to the questionnaire would like to attend a youth club for under 12 year olds and there was interest in all of the activities listed with a trampoline, bike park and live music for young people being the most popular. There were also a plethora of other suggestions for activities from survival courses to horse riding to a Lego club.

Posters and the Witham Staple were the most popular existing methods of communication with the young people. A website and use of school to send out letters were also suggested by a number of people.



## **Bassingham Community Led Plan Acknowledgements**

This Community Led Plan could not have been completed without a group of dedicated and determined individuals over a 3 year period.

In particular, Liz Clarke spent countless hours analysing the results of the Village Survey and has produced the main contents of this Plan and the associated Action Plans.

### **Members of the Community Options Group:**

John Rowland	Liz Clarke	Sue Barnett	Matt Bartlett	Tina Bartlett
Mike Larocque	Val Wiltshire	Geoff Culpitt	Jan Culpitt	Roger Hales
David Williams	Andrew Francis	Colin Coulson		

**The following is a list of businesses, organisations and individuals who have contributed in various ways to the development of the Community Led Plan:**

Frontier Group - £500  
Danwood – Photocopier  
Ian Loftus – Printing Services  
metanym.com – Website set up  
Vanessa Morris – Pip Pip Design, Front Cover design  
Ann Taylor, Helen Ash, Community Lincs, Greens Store, Spar Hicksons  
Bassingham Surgery, Tangles, Bassingham Primary School  
The Bugle Horn, Five Bells Inn, St Michael and All Angels Church, Bassingham  
Bassingham Parish Council

### **CONTACT FOR COMMUNITY LED PLAN**

Community Options website at [www.mybassingham.co.uk](http://www.mybassingham.co.uk)

