

SAXILBY WITH INGLEBY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local planning authority area:
West Lindsey District Council

**Parishes/neighbourhoods in the plan
area: Saxilby with Ingleby (one parish)**

Timeframe

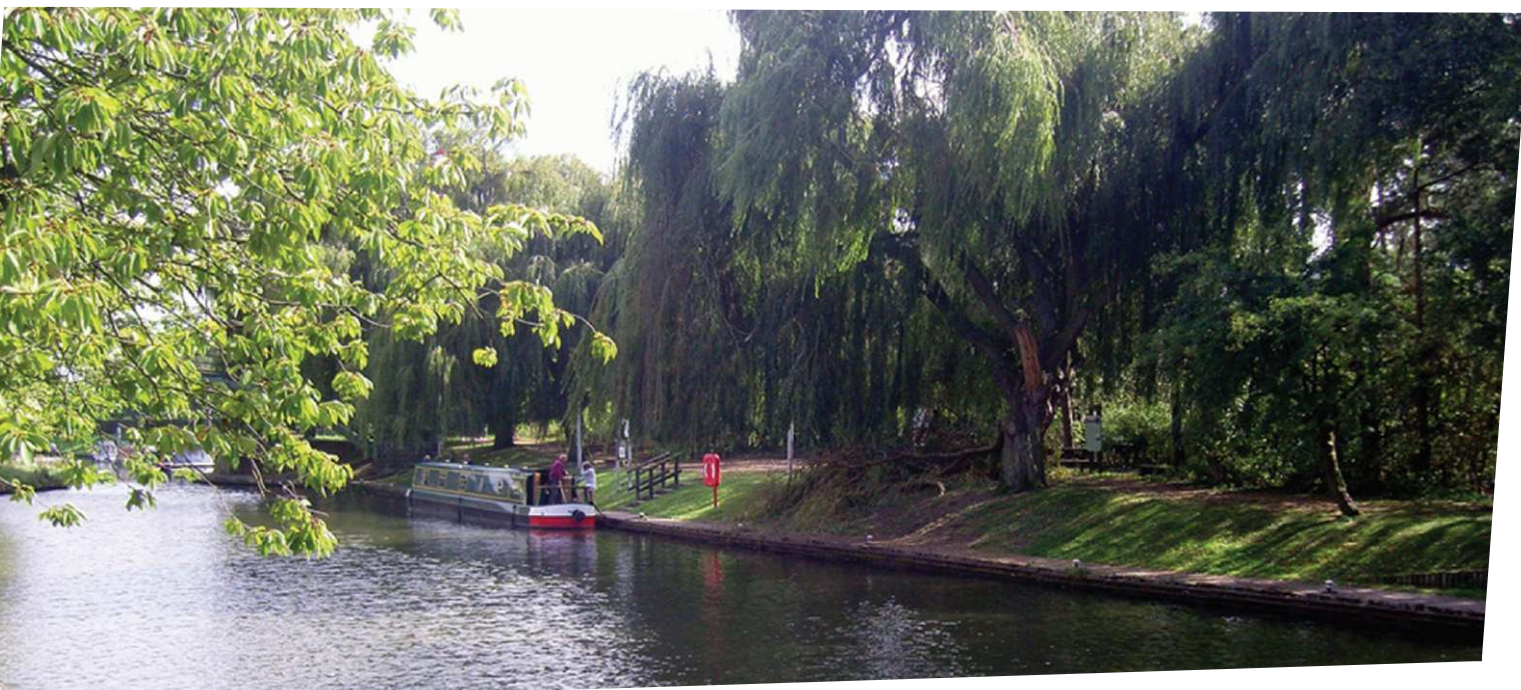
Selected as a neighbourhood planning front-runner: 2012
Received funding from the DCLG to create
neighbourhood plan: 2012
Received area designation: 2013
Community consultation: 2015
Draft plan development: spring 2016

What were the motivations behind developing the neighbourhood plan?

Saxilby is one of Lincoln's radial villages and as such is under severe pressure for extensive residential development. The village has experienced a number of large and rather unimaginative developments in the past. The community wished to take advantage of the neighbourhood planning process to feed into the Central Lincolnshire Plan and influence the type of development to be allowed in the future.

How the local planning authority assisted us:

Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council was selected as a neighbourhood planning front-runner by the Government to lead on the creation of a neighbourhood plan, supported by the local planning authority – West Lindsey District Council. They received funding from DCLG, which is being used by the parish council to create the neighbourhood plan. They are being supported throughout by West Lindsey District Council's neighbourhood planning officer who is providing technical advice, statutory support and attending most steering group meetings.





Who else helped, and how?

The charity Community Lincs has supported us with the community consultation process. They helped design a questionnaire to gather the views and opinions of members of the community, which achieved a 35% response rate. They also undertook a housing needs survey to find out how much affordable and supported housing was needed.

What local issues did the plan process identify?

So far it has highlighted a number of issues posed by extensive residential development, such as loss of rural character, pressure on road junctions, parking and the need for affordable housing.

What challenges were faced in its production?

At one stage, the group recognised that having initially raised awareness within the community it had not kept the momentum going and people's interest had slipped. They knew they had to retrieve this situation and set themselves the aim of achieving significant community engagement.



How were challenges overcome and how were these solutions identified?

The group knew the answer to significant engagement was through strong communications and they have taken a very proactive approach to this. This has included:

- Development of a dedicated neighbourhood planning website (<http://www.saxilbyplan.co.uk/>). This is not a static display but a very active site providing background information, progress to date, publicising activities, update on consultations, minutes of meetings and a gallery of photos. The aim has been to be very transparent and informative in keeping the whole community in the loop.
- A dedicated Facebook page providing regular updates on what is happening and encouraging feedback.
- Recognising that not everyone is up to speed with electronic communications, they have ensured that the local newsletter has been given regular updates.
- Publicising key activities with leaflets, posters and banners displayed around the village to ensure as much impact as possible.
- A critical factor in their communications has been quality. They recognised that quality of presentation and of materials was important to reinforce the impression that the neighbourhood planning process was being undertaken professionally and that the results would carry weight in future development decisions for the parish. They have developed a logo for the group; they have made good use of images, photographs and full colour in all publicity materials across all media. They have ensured that all communications are up to date, accurate and relevant.



Questionnaire returns were strong: 35% of households responded and some 850 additional comments were provided. The survey was analysed by Community Lincs and a full colour report and display boards produced. The results were put up on the group's website and a follow-up engagement event held to feed back to the community.



How has the community benefited from developing a neighbourhood plan?

The group are still progressing with the neighbourhood plan and have completed the 'community consultation and building evidence' base. The greatest gain to date is the high level of awareness raising and community engagement with the whole issue of appropriate development in the village. The group has put a lot of effort into holding a number of community engagement events to raise awareness and understanding of the neighbourhood planning process. They have planned these events to take place in support of all the stages of the process, giving people an opportunity to interact with the group and participate. A big part of these events has been to make them informative and easy to participate in.

Key elements have included making them drop-in events so that people can find time for them in their busy lives, ensuring that plenty of group members are on hand to spend time talking to people individually, and to ensure there is a constant supply of tea and cake on hand for everyone. It has also highlighted and quantified the concern the community has on a number of issues which would be affected by further residential development (see local issues identified on page 2).



Photo credits:

Photos of Saxilby on pages 1 and 4: Roland Turner via Flickr

Main contact(s) at the neighbourhood plan group

Liz Hillman

Email: lhillman@btinternet.com