

# Belchford and Fulletby Business and Stakeholder review

Undertaken between March 2022 and July 2022

## Introduction

This final review was created specifically to provide businesses and stakeholders with an interest in the parishes with a place to express thoughts and ideas. The questions were designed to discover how the parish council could better support businesses as well as environmental, cultural and recreational interests.

Belchford and Fulletby Parish Council, with financial support from Groundwork UK, funded this project. Hard copies are available through a member of the Neighbourhood Development Plan committee.

## The Response

Every business or interested party received one hard copy of the survey. An online version was made available for ease of completion.

There were **26** responses returned by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Belchford stakeholders returned **16 (62%)** responses, Fulletby **9 (35%)** and outside the parishes **1 (3%)**.

### 1. Does the community currently support your business or interest? e.g. do you employ local residents or rely on local trade? (please comment below)

The results show that yes **15 (58%)** of the community do support parish businesses in various ways. Some employ local residents or use local tradespeople, others use the mobile Royal Mail Post Office. This is followed by **8 (31%)** who stated that no community support was received and **3 (11%)** who selected not applicable.

I use local electricians, plumbers, gardener and window cleaners!

Please define local e.g. Horncastle, Louth?

Retired

FGT is a charitable trust formed to support a joint community purchase of a field to be used by all for recreation.

The village green is a "community project", villagers support it by using it, visiting, fetes or events and by helping to operate it

The community supports the project by providing volunteer labour, materials and young trees to develop the project. Local business provide specialist services

Although my business is based in Belchford, I work throughout the UK and occasionally abroad. I am a sole trader have no employees

employed at the bakery, most of customers out of the village

Some and some, 70% of our work force travel

We try to support local companies when servicing our holiday let

We employ local residents, use the local post office and staff use the local shops for lunch

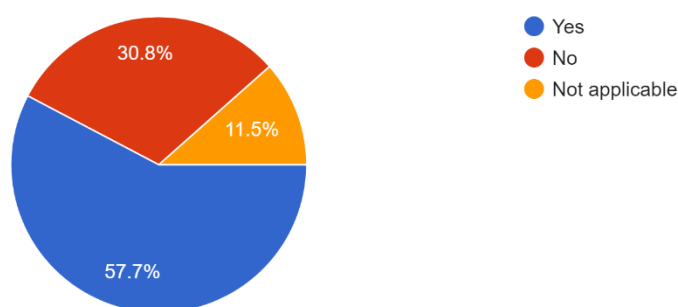
Not as much as we would like from Fulletby and Belchford residents

Currently 2 part-time positions available. Should be trading in Summer 2022

Names retracted for privacy

1. Does the community currently support your business or interest? e.g. do you employ local residents or rely on local trade? (please comment below)

26 responses



2. In the future, what local services would you like to see to support your business or interest? e.g. faster or reliable broadband, or room to expand.

Out of **19** comments, **13 (68%)** have stated that fast and reliable broadband is essential to support businesses. Other comments included improved public transport, a public footpath to provide off-road access between Fulletby and Belchford to support a local business idea, further pub parking. One respondent proposed plots for business expansion. Ongoing parish council support for the newly created Glebe field was also raised. Thoughtfully, one business replied with an alternative angle and is keen to positively support the pub in some way as it has helped theirs.

Faster / reliable broadband

None Required

Faster Broadband

Faster & more reliable broadband

The parish council supported the purchase. Ongoing, continued PC support at times when required, to help assist with maintenance and enhancements for the benefit of the community, would be valued

A public footpath to provide off-road access from Belchford to Fulletby

Faster & more reliable broadband

My business is highly reliant on a fast and reliable broadband service

|   |
|---|
| Better broadband  |
| Better public transport   |
| Better roads  |
| Fibre broadband to the house  |
| Bus service   |
| Better roads / infrastructure                                       |
| We would like to support the pub as this business has helped ours   |
| Better broadband  |
| Locally generated power   |
| No  |
| Room to expand  |
| Faster and reliable broadband would help us                         |
| reliable broadband is important, stable power, working drains/roads |
| Nothing we can think of   |
| Reliable broadband  |
| Pro-business planning policies                                      |
| Faster broadband  |
| More parking would be good  |

**3. In the next ten years, do you have ambitions and needs to grow your business/or interest in to larger or new premises?**

The majority of respondents **17 (65%)** replied with no, there was no ambition or needs to grow their business or interest into larger or new premises. There were **6 (23%)** respondents who selected yes, they did have an intention to grow and shared comments on what could help them achieve the growth. These comments are **bolded** below. There were **3 (12%)** respondents who felt this question was not applicable to their situation.

|  |
|--|
| I am semi-retired. I am a sole trader and currently have no plans to expand my business  |
| Have the ambition to retire at 75 <span style="background-color: #cccccc; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1em;"></span>   |
| <b>New more modern buildings</b>   |
| Diversification projects   |
| <b>Expand the yard but not increase the fleet</b>  |
| <b>We are trying to expand the business to provide more jobs and infrastructure within the economy and the community. This would mean we would need larger storage facilities and reliable broadband to support and sustain this. The growth would in turn provide more jobs and support the local amenities</b> |
| <b>Currently applying for premises license to be able to trade</b>   |

**Need to build a cider house in orchard & tap room. This will replace current smaller premises at home**

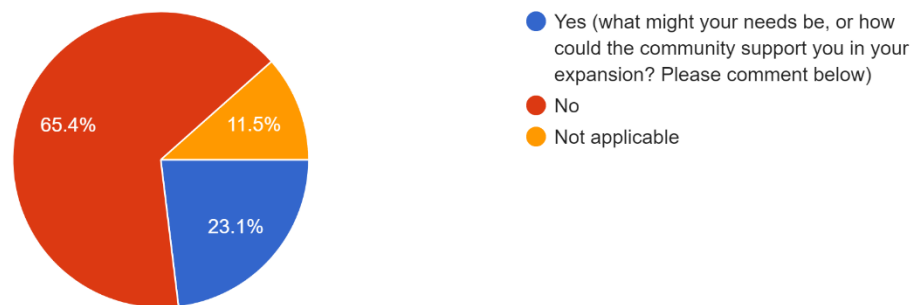
But still be in keeping with rural area

**If I can get some of the land out the back of the Bluebell Inn**

Names retracted for privacy

3. In the next ten years, do you have ambitions and needs to grow your business/or interest in to larger or new premises?

26 responses



**4. Do you intend to open a new business within the parishes? What are the obstacles?**

Of the respondents, **19 (73%)** currently had no intention of opening a new business within the parishes. **4 (15%)** respondents did intend on opening a new business and commented on their obstacles, such as planning restrictions, the availability of land and property, and funding. There were **3 (12%)** respondents who felt this question was not applicable to their situation.

The woodland project is not a commercial venture

I currently have no plans to start a new business, either in the parish or elsewhere

Planning - some policies are out of date

Skills - suitable property

There is always the possibility of side-line business to the ones we currently run from here

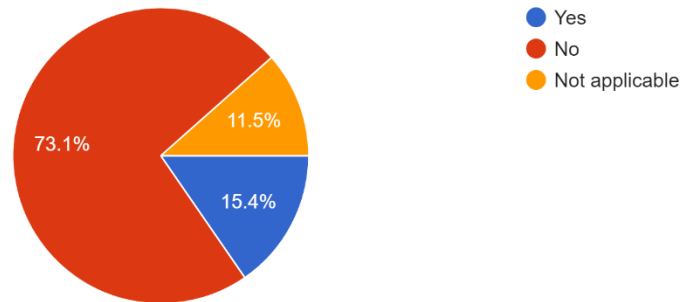
Planning

Availability of land

Funding

4. Do you intend to open a new business within the parishes? What are the obstacles? (please comment below)

26 responses



#### 5. What would attract you to base your new business within the parishes?

Below are the comments received when asking the above question on how Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council, could appeal to respondents to create another business within the parishes.

The woodland project is not a commercial venture

If I was to start a new business, it would be based in tourism. I think there is a potential to start a viable cycle hire business combined with a café/tea room and the availability of suitable premises would encourage me to develop that idea.

The only business would be agriculture or online business.

You can attract walkers but they don't benefit the village only perhaps the pub.

Nothing for youngsters not even a playpark on the dog green.

Already based locally

Suitable buildings / facilities

Vibrant, engaged community

Support from the local community, reliable staff and facilities to run the business and store stock.

Near home, no commuting

Make most of local assets and natural environment

6. What are your thoughts on these draft NDP policies for our area which are to support the local plan for East Lindsey District Council? (please comment below)

1. All new buildings to offer environmental and social benefit to the community

2. Maintain low housing density by preventing excessive infill development

3. Encourage development which conforms to the current and historical road layouts and the viallges

4. Promote a greater diversity of building materials

5. Keep open views of the countryside from the villages

6. Innovative regenerative out of boudary development to be considered

7. Support suitable business development and renewable energy schemes

8. Inspire the developement of small residential properties

From the villages, keep open views

Support suitable business development

Maintain low housing density

Whatever is done the character of the village should be maintained. i.e. limit infill and maintain layout

Agree with all the policies listed

I strongly agree that all new development in the parishes should offer environmental and/or social benefit to the community. The character of Belchford is such that we enjoy low density housing, combined with rural views from within the village. I would not want to see all road frontages filled with buildings! I also feel that new residential buildings should front to the existing roads and not fill the historic open spaces. I would welcome more diversity in the style of new houses and the materials used to construct them

I am in favour of appropriate commercial development and would be happy to see such buildings constructed on brownfield sites within the villages. The mix of house sizes needs to become diverse to maintain a healthy mixed community. So I would like to smaller houses built

Social benefit:

Encourage development - When people do you don't support them. Local people not incomers making a fast buck

Building Materials - ?? Stone/wood/??

Open views - If you want an open view, buy a house on a hill

Innovative regenerative out of boundary - ?? What do you mean?

Inspire small developments - ?? Doesn't everyone want 4 bedroom and 4 bathrooms

Comment:

Very little to attract young families

As for footpaths, the ones we have are not maintained. Would suggest the dog walkers take

a scythe. A lot of the footpaths on that map haven't been walked for 50 years and the last thing farmers need are paths going straight through the middle of fields

Agree with Policy 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

The communities need to develop & re-refresh. We cannot choose a date in history to just 'stop', hence any new development need to follow the direction of travel guided by these policies

Agree

I think we need to be respectful of the historic values within the community and parishes whilst moving forward to be able to sustain them. Encouraging development within the area will attract people to our parishes and provide income to sustain them. I do agree with maintaining the countryside views and low housing density as we do not have the infrastructure to support mass developments

The plan seems relatively fair with a view to maintaining and sustaining the history of the area, I think we need to be aware of the changing times, and be careful not to stay static. We need to use what we have around us

What has this to do with business?

Agree with all the above policies

## Summary

In light of this business review, only a small percentage of the existing businesses have a plan to expand or branch out. Those businesses put forward modest requests to achieve this growth. Those points will be read by the parish council. Growth was raised by a few as a negative, although there were respondents whose comments showed that the parishes have to 'be careful not to stay static'.

**Thank you for taking the time to be part of the  
Neighbourhood Development Plan process**