



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL



MPC(12)M\_APM

**Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 26th April 2012 commencing at 1900 in The Lindos Centre Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

**Present:**

Cllr Mrs BK Abbott  
Mr JE Bale  
Cllr Mr GK Butterwick  
Cllr Mr A G Corston  
Cllr Mrs JEJ Eckersley  
Cllr Mrs EJG Hilson  
Cllr Mr MJ Kennedy  
Cllr Miss KS Martin  
Cllr Mr AH Porter  
Cllr Mr C Taylor  
Cllr Mr A Thomson  
Cllr Mr ML Webb  
Mrs BA Dann

Mrs P Ferguson  
Mrs M Hammond  
Mrs V Dundiley  
Mr SJ Dundiley  
Mr WJ White  
Ms S Todd  
Mrs M Hampton  
Mr J Hampton  
Mrs S Bale  
Ms ML Burgess  
The Revd M Hatchett  
Mrs P Williams  
Mr MA Fish

**In Attendance:**

Mrs DE Linsley [Assistant Clerk to Melton Parish Council]  
Mr MJ Green [Clerk to Melton Parish Council]

**12.01 INTRODUCTION – CHAIRMAN MELTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman of Melton Parish Council, Cllr Mrs Bryony Abbott, warmly welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting. She explained that the meeting would consist of a report of the current activities of the parish council over the past 12 months and an insight into future plans of the council. The meeting would then be opened up to give residents the opportunity to raise any matters they would like council to consider.

**12.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The following apologies were noted.

Cllr Mr J Bidwell  
Cllr Mr MN Bond  
Cllr Mr HM Needham

Dr Therese Coffey MP  
Mrs ME Addington  
Mr PJ Brockett

**12.03 REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE MELTON PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2012**

The Chairman warmly thanked all the councillors who gave of their time willingly in order to make Melton a better place to live. Council had been working with one councillor short since the turn of the year and following a change in the number of councillors who can be elected there currently exists a vacancy for two councillors.

A number of the councillors have full time work which sometimes makes it difficult for them to attend meetings. Despite this the attendance of Melton Parish Council Councillors during the year was over 90%

The detailed work of the council is delegated to a number of committees and working groups including:

**Committees:**

Finance, Employment and Risk Management Committee  
Planning and Transport Committee  
Recreation Committee

**Working Groups**

Affordable Housing  
Communications  
Friends of Melton Wood  
Neighbourhood Plan  
Pavilion  
Transformation  
Special Events  
Traffic and Transport  
Woodland Management  
Young People

Paper copies of the Chairman's report for the year were available at the meeting and an electronic version will be available on the parish council website at [www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/index.html](http://www.melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk/index.html)

The following is the text of the report:

This report to the Annual Parish Meeting covers the period of twelve months to the date of this meeting and is intended to highlight the main achievements of the Parish Council during the year.

I am grateful to all our parish councillors for their efforts. They are volunteers, fully committed to their roles and we work together harmoniously and productively.

**PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILION**

Last year we spent over £10,000 on maintaining the playing fields and sports pavilion, including clearing up small acts of vandalism and removing graffiti. We refurbished the inside of the pavilion, and with the help of a grant from the District Council, we were able to bring the toilets up to standard. A working party of volunteers gave the interior a good spring clean and we are now investigating the cost of professionally painting and repairing the exterior to give it a longer life and offer it to local sporting groups as a useful facility. We had a local school hold their sports day on the field and a Rugby festival plus of course it is well-used when we host the youth football at weekends.

Earlier designs to rebuild the Pavilion stalled because of the credit crunch and at the time the parish council decided to put their plans on hold. I would like to think that with a great sporting summer ahead of us we can find a way to review and revive that strategy to encourage sporting activities.

**TENNIS COURTS AND FOOTBALL**

The tennis courts on the field continued to be popular and generated a small income for the council to help with their upkeep. Football was well attended and we received a small income from the youth football club for their hire of the pitch. There are maintenance costs in terms of cutting and maintaining the grass to a decent standard. We work with the Safer Neighbourhood Team to ensure that roads and entrances are kept clear for residents.

We do not charge a fee for the Charity Car Boot Sales and we appreciate the efforts of the energetic volunteer organisers who always keep the playing fields safe and free of debris.

We carried out regular safety inspections to ensure the safety of our play equipment for children.

## **WOODLANDS AND THE FRIENDS OF MELTON WOODS**

Burke's Wood was a gift to the village and forms part of the extensive woodland to the north of the playing fields owned by the Parish Council. We take our responsibility for looking after these important areas very seriously. We identified funds and set aside money in our reserves for tree felling and planting and to look after the woodland in perpetuity. The Friends of Melton Woods came together during the year to work with us on clearing and maintaining the woodland. A botany survey of all the plants in the woods was carried out during the year by Mrs G. Ridgway and she found a rich diversity of flora there. The report is available on our website and our thanks to her and to all the local residents who supported us this year.

## **DEBEN ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP**

Residents will have watched with interest as work has been carried out on the Deben shores and by the Environment Agency along the length of the Melton river path. Gone are the days of one agency doing it all and local communities are now responsible for much of this maintenance. The Deben Estuary Partnership was formed to organise this work and they now have several repairs of the Deben walls to their credit. We have a representative on the Partnership, Cllr. Sherwen.

## **POLICING**

We are fortunate to live in a low-crime area where most of our problems are to do with speeding traffic. Car parking continued to be an issue in the village. Visitors to local shops and businesses were regularly asked to park safely without inconveniencing residents. We work well with the Safer Neighbourhood Team. We receive monthly crime reports and regular visits to our meetings of full council. It is important that the police are notified of problems promptly so they have the full picture and can clear up any incidents as they happen in the Village.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

We have been working on this project with Suffolk ACRE, a local organisation that works with rural communities such as ours. Their recent survey established a need for more affordable housing in the village and we have been working to identify suitable sites for development. The next stage of this project will be for the Parish Council to arrange an extensive consultation exercise in the village about the proposed location and the design of the housing development.

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The village of Melton continues to develop and grow and this year I am pleased to report that there have been no major contentious developments. We are still waiting with interest to see what takes place on the Girdlestone's site, where there has been inactivity since demolition of the old factory.

Some changes have been sad, such as the loss of our old pub, the Horse and Groom, and some changes have been for the good. We warmly welcomed our newly refurbished pub and restaurant at the Coach and Horses, opposite our playing fields and very popular in the village.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

Without doubt the biggest boost for Melton in the coming year will be the once in a lifetime event of the Olympic torch relay passing right through the heart of the village.

I would like to thank our support staff in the office for all their hard work behind the scenes and also Keith Stebbings our park warden who works tirelessly for the village.

I would like to thank all our councillors old and new and in particular Cllr. Katy Martin our Vice Chair and Cllr. Geof Butterwick, the 'Father' of our parish council, having given many years of service to Melton. They are both my predecessors as chair of council and their wisdom and experience has been invaluable in carrying out my duties this past year.

This year for the first time our local MP, Dr Therese Coffey has provided us with a copy of her annual report that is reproduced below:

### **Annual Report to Parish Council of Melton**

Sorry I cannot join you at your Annual Meeting but I hope you will enjoy an update on how I have worked on some issues affecting your parish including new planning, health matters, fuel poverty, drought and broadband.

In the last two years, the Government has removed many diktats from Whitehall to local councils. Some parish councils would have liked further devolution; however, there is an added role for parishes with neighbourhood planning. In a nutshell, while the district council will still decide how many and where homes will be built, parishes can develop plans of how they want the look and feel of their area to look and feel with a confirmatory referendum. E.g. if your village has half of its homes that are bungalows and you want to preserve that, you can put that in your plan. The district council will now have to accept that for planning applications and not just take note which is good news for local residents.

I am also working with the local council on key issues emanating from Sizewell C. The proposed bypass is the rallying cry but I am keen we do not forget skills and accommodation legacy.

Two issues on healthcare to report. Last year concerns were raised by the CQC about the way Ipswich Hospital cares for the elderly. Some patients did not receive the great care that many did enjoy. I was pleased that the Hospital has bounced back from this and has now passed its CQC inspection. I will continue to work with the new Chairman of the Hospital.

I met the Health Minister to discuss ambulance response times. In this area, 51.10%, of ambulances arriving within 8 minutes, which is simply not good enough. From April, the targets will be required to be met at county level not just across the region. It's a start and I will keep a close watch on it.

On fuel poverty, I am working with MPs of all parties to tackle specific issues for those of us who live off the gas grid, reliant on oil, LPG and coal. In Parliament, I have constantly raised the plight of those residents. The Office of Fair Trading Inquiry (set up in response to pressure from me and other MPs) in my view did not go far enough last year and so in 2012, I am leading a new inquiry on this matter.

Broadband is key for Suffolk. We have been allocated just under £12 million from Central Government and Suffolk County Council £10 million. The rest of the funding will come from the network provider. The more that Suffolk residents register their interest, the more investment we will see. On the latest figures received only 2.9% of households across Suffolk have expressed an interest, in this parish 5.7%.

Last year I raised the issue of potential drought in Suffolk with the Prime Minister and the Government responded. Drought status was confirmed recently. Of course, we cannot make it rain but I am pleased regular drought summits are happening with positive action taken locally with farmers and the IBD.

I hope you are looking forward to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympics & Paralympics Games. The torch with 10 stops in the constituency will be rather close wherever you live!

Finally, I recently undertook a two-day constituency tour visiting 31 villages and will do so again in 2013. Many of the issues raised actually related to local council matters, particularly planning and roads and I have involved local councillors on these.

## **12.04 MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**

Copies had been available on the Parish Council Website and at the meeting

Minutes MPC(11)M\_AGM previously circulated were received, noted and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by: Cllr Martin

Seconded by: Cllr Porter

## **12.05 MELTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

The parish council had a budget for 2011/2012 of £58,500 of which £52,000 is provide by the precept [council tax] and the remainder from local initiatives of the council.

At the end of the financial year the surplus of income over expenditure was just less that £8,000. This was as a result of careful spending by the council and the lack of any major expenditure on emergencies such as diseased trees. The year end reserves amounted to £29,384.

Melton Parish has a population of 3,718 (2001 census) and the precept per head of population is only £17.21 per year, which is lower than 30 other parishes in the county.

The Band D charge of £38.09 per annum, or 73 pence per week is lower than 24 other Town and Parish councils in the county, including Ufford, Waldringfield, and Eyke.

For the year 2012/13 the precept requested has been increased from £52,000 to £64,000. This represents an increase of £7.28 per year on the Band D charge and has been necessitated by the following:

- To build up the reserves, as directed by the council's auditors to at least 50% of the annual budget. At year end 2011/12 the council has reserves that are approximately 46% of the annual budget.
- To maintain and replace Parish assets, such as the play area equipment, tennis courts, pavilion and village signage. The council has not previously budgeted for replacement of assets and has relied on grants or loans to re-invest in such facilities.
- To accommodate contingencies resulting from the safety maintenance of the woodland and playing field, £2,000 for essential felling of dangerous trees, treatment of the playing field for Chafer bug infestation £1,500.
- To accommodate any divestment of services to the parish from the County and District Councils.

## **12.06 DIAMOND JUBILEE & 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES TORCH RELAY**

Melton Village Queen's Diamond Jubilee Picnic Day and Olympic Torch Celebration will soon be upon us.

A steering group has planned the celebration of both events. Many village groups are participating in the plans: the Primary School, St Andrew's Church, the Parish Council, the Brownies and Melton Pre-School, local businesses and more.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations kick off on Sunday 3rd June at 10.30am with a special community celebration of worship at St Andrew's Church. The Church will also host an exhibition with the theme of the six decades of the Queen's reign. The Rector, Michael Hatchett, and the organisers would like as much involvement and participation from the surrounding community as possible.

On Monday 4th June, from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. a Diamond Jubilee Picnic is being arranged on Melton Playing Field [the Recreation Ground] on Melton Road. This will include stalls, games, refreshments [including a beer tent and hog roast], and entertainment including belly dancing, music from Melton Folk and children's entertainment. Entrance is free of charge.

The organisers are planning a community planting to celebrate the Jubilee. There are plans to unveil a commemorative sign to remind future generations of this special year in the history of Melton village.

On Thursday 5th July the Olympic Torch will pass through the village at 3.30 p.m. approx. Following this there will be sports, games and refreshments on the Playing Field on Melton Road. The sports and games will be especially for children. This will take place after the torch has passed through starting at 4 p.m. until approx 6 p.m. A range of local sports and recreation organisations will be demonstrating a variety of games and leisure activities for all the family to get involved and try on the day. Melton will be busy so please arrive in plenty of good time.

The Steering Group anticipate last minute preparation work and need volunteers for the both the Monday 4th June and Thursday July 5th events. It's not too late to get involved and an invitation is extended to all readers to volunteer for either or both days as we will need Marshalls, helpers and or stall minders!. If you want to help or make a contribution, please contact the Parish Council office at The Bungalow, Lindos Centre, Saddlemakers Lane, Melton; Telephone/fax 01394 382224, email clerk@melton-suffolk-pc.gov.uk.

## **12.07 CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM**

The Chairman of the Planning and Transport Committee, Cllr Geof Butterwick, gave a talk on the Neighbourhood Planning System that is being introduced as part the coalition government localism act.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Butterwick invited those at the meeting to record their thoughts on the flip charts during the refreshment break to give council an insight into what priorities residents have for the future development of the village.

## **12.08 FRIENDS OF MELTON WOOD**

The Chairman of the Recreation Committee, Cllr Jenny Eckersley, reported on the work of the Friends of Melton Wood.

Burkes Wood [4.5 acres according to the conveyance] is a part of the much larger Melton Woods and was bequeathed to the parish by Sir Roland and Lady Burke. I think it was at the same time as the recreation ground, 60 years ago. Burkes Wood is the woodland surrounding the recreation ground and its limits are marked by the public footpath alongside Turnpike House leading to Leeks Hill. It is not ancient woodland and it is thought that most of the wood developed in the last 150 years and is perhaps the result of the loss of rabbit damage following myxomatosis. The woodland between Burkes Wood and Saxon Way is owned by SCDC and the rest of the woodland is privately owned.

Burkes Wood is broadleaf woodland. It is probably true and not disrespectful to say that Burkes Wood was not actively managed in the past. It suffered considerable damage in the hurricane of 1987 and following the storm there was a great deal of replanting, with the help of the Forestry Commission. This was not followed up and subsequent management was ad hoc and was mainly around making safe dangerous trees.

We have now started to look more actively at the management of the woods and have been considerably assisted in this by our assistant parish clerk, Diane Linsley, who has a background in countryside management. Last year we set up a new group, the Friends of Melton Woods and there are about 20 members of this group, all local residents who love the woods and have the time and energy to undertake practical tasks. We have had two work parties and our main task so far has been to remove and clear away the tree guards placed around newly planted trees after the 1987 hurricane. We could almost hear the sighs of relief as the guards were removed and the trees were allowed to grow. There were hundreds of tree guards and they have been stored for future use, or passed on to other groups or taken away for recycling. We also collected some litter. The woods are not badly littered; the worst area is probably around the pond. Many regular wood walkers take bags with them to take away litter and we thank all of you who do this.

We have realised that the friends need to be managed. For example, one of my first thoughts was that maybe we should clear some brambles but I now know that brambles are essential for the biodiversity of the wood. I quote from the Countryside Information website; *Removal of all human activity within a woodland will usually result in the development of dark, dense woods. This will favour a relatively small number of species which prefer this type of habitat. However, it will also result in the elimination of all those species which either require higher light levels, or which are dependent on other species with this requirement.*

We are currently setting up a woodland management group whose main aim would be to direct the work of the friends of Melton woods. Again I quote; *Where the purpose of woodland is for wildlife benefit or conservation, no management might be considered to*

*be an option. However, it is probably safe to say that within Britain, no single woodland has remained uninfluenced by human activities.*

I have now been appointed as the Parish Tree Warden. Tree wardens is a national scheme set up in 1990 and is about local people who care about trees championing their local trees and woods and carrying out and encouraging others to undertake practical tasks. It's essentially about community involvement. In SCDC there is an active tree warden's scheme and I've been able to go to meetings and workshops to learn more. I've also done a basic tree inspection course, with Diane. There is a day on Saturday in Ufford. And I've arranged for Tracey Housley from SWT to come and give some advice about managing our woods and pond.

Cllr Eckersley showed some photographs of Melton Woods. They are very beautiful and well loved – often referred to, along with the recreation ground, as the jewel in Melton's crown [with no disrespect to the riverside!]. They deserve to be managed properly in order to thrive and to be there for future generations. We'd also like to hear the nightingale again.

There then followed a break for refreshments

## **12.09 OPEN FORUM**

The Chairman explained that this was a very informal part of the meeting when residents of Melton were able to raise matters of concern/interest in the village.

The following items were raised during the discussion:

- 12.09.01 Speeding in the village**
- 12.09.02 Station Road Footpath [or lack of it outside the church]**
- 12.09.03 Former Girdlestons Site**
- 12.09.04 CEL – clearance of the asbestos on site**
- 12.09.05 Melton Primary School – going from strength to strength with local support**
- 12.09.06 Melton Churchyard – how well cared for it is**
- 12.09.07 Consider a woodland trail and identification boards to pinpoint unusual trees**
- 12.09.08 Affordable housing – project progressing with the next stage to identify possible site for consideration**
- 12.09.09 BMX Trail – given planning consent and a small working group to be formed to investigate further**
- 12.09.10 Street Lighting Dimming – concern that high risk areas may be more vulnerable**

The Chairman thanked all those at the meeting for their positive input and encouragement for the parish council.

## **12.10 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013 commencing at 1900 at the Lindos Centre Saddlemakers Lane Melton IP12 1PP.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2050

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[Chairman]



**MELTON**  
PARISH COUNCIL

---

Annual Parish Meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Cllr. Geof Butterwick  
Chairman  
Planning & Transport Committee

*Changes to the Planning  
System*



*That's boring!*  
*I'm leaving!*

No you're not – there's the  
refreshment break in just a  
minute!

Planning is a subject which, it has  
to be admitted, is not of great  
interest to most people ...

Not until something happens which affects your enjoyment of your house & garden, your street, your village or your favourite place.

Trouble is, by that stage it's too late to do anything about it but shrug your shoulders and grumble.

For over 60 years, we have had the Planning System to make sure people are able to have a say in what development occurs, where it takes place and what it looks like.

That's what it is meant to do, but ... .. most people would admit it hasn't quite worked out that way.

Once you've had an inappropriate development near you (and Melton has had more than its fair share in recent years!), you realise the system doesn't really give much weight to the views of local people.

*but some Good News!!*

In the last few months, there have been two important changes affecting the national planning system.

One is the Localism Act, which came onto the statute book late last year.

The other is the new National Planning Policy Framework, or NPPF, which came into effect last month.

First, Localism

What is it?

*“The time has come to disperse  
power more widely in Britain  
today.”*

The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister,  
*Coalition Agreement, May 2010*

*“The Localism Act sets out a series of measures with the potential to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central government and towards local people.”*

*“I look forward to seeing how local people will use the rights and freedoms the Act offers to make a difference in their communities.”*

Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Minister of State for Decentralisation,  
*Plain English Guide To The Localism Act*, November 2011

## **LOCALISM - SIX IMPORTANT IDEAS**

**Lift the burden of Bureaucracy**

**Empower communities to do things their way**

**Increase local control of public finance**

**Diversify the supply of public services**

**Open up government to public scrutiny**

**Strengthen accountability to local people**

## Localism Act

- new freedoms and flexibilities for local government
- new rights and powers for communities and individuals
- reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective
- reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally

## LOCALISM NEW POWERS FOR COMMUNITIES

- **General Power of Competence**
  - **Community Right to Bid**
  - **Neighbourhood Plans**



## **General Power of Competence**

**Until now, local councils can only do what the law specifically says they can, anything else is forbidden.**

**Now, they will be free to do anything - provided they do not break other laws.**

**The new power gives local councils increased confidence to do creative, innovative things to meet local people's needs.**

## **Community Right to Bid**

**The Act requires that principal authorities maintain a list of assets of community value.**

**When listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership, the Act gives community groups and local councils the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset when it comes on the open market.**

## Neighbourhood Plans

A key part of  
the Localism Agenda

### Neighbourhood plans

- based on a neighbourhood - e.g. a parish
- written by the neighbourhood - not the planning authority
- within context of national planning framework and the strategic plan for the area
- prepared with an emphasis on evidence
- process of checks - examination and referendum
- permissive
- statutory plan



## Neighbourhood Plans

- Develop a shared vision
- Choose where homes, shops, offices and development is built
- Identify and protect greenspaces
- Influence the design and materials of new buildings
- Produced by Parish or Neighbourhood Forum
- Supported by proportionate evidence
- Cover all or part of parish
- Can cross ward or parish boundaries
- Parish council may determine planning apps relating to NDO



## NP Do's & Don'ts

### Do:

- Decide 'what' and 'where'
- Promote more development
- Provide local policies to shape design; including materials and storey heights



### Don't:

- Block development in the local plan
- Conflict with the local plan or national policy
- Be prepared by anyone other than a PC/TC or a neighbourhood forum



Melton Parish Council has decided  
a Neighbourhood Plan  
would be a Good Thing  
for the Village

Our Neighbourhood Plan is not a tool to say  
'No' to housing  
It is a tool to ensure that  
The **RIGHT** housing  
Happens in the **RIGHT** place  
With the **RIGHT** infrastructure

During the refreshment break,  
we'll be starting with the first step

... asking what *you* would like  
the village to be like  
in 15 - 20 years time

... and secondly, we have

**THE NEW  
NATIONAL PLANNING  
POLICY FRAMEWORK**

**or NPPF for short**

Some of you may remember a lot of fuss in the media last summer about the Government wanting to tear up the rule book and allow a *'developer's free-for-all'*.

For once, the Government has listened.  
When it was finally published last month, the new NPPF is *very* different from the draft which caused all the fuss last July.

It's still a slender volume, but its tone is completely different.

It makes it quite clear that development must deal with economic, social and environmental issues, *not* 'economic benefit at all costs'.

Don't just take my word for it.

Here's what Government Ministers have to say about it ...



*"In recent years, planning has tended to exclude, rather than to include, people and communities."*

*"In part, people have been put off from getting involved because planning policy itself has become so elaborate and forbidding - the preserve of specialists, rather than people in communities."*

*"This NPPF changes that. By replacing over a thousand pages of national policy with around fifty, written simply and clearly, we are allowing people and communities back into planning."*

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Minister for Planning  
Ministerial Foreword to NPPF, March 2012

*"These reforms go a step further and make it clear that local communities have the responsibility and the power to decide the look and feel of the places they love."*

Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for  
Communities & Local Government,  
March 2012

*“The purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development.”*

*“**Sustainable** means ensuring that better lives for ourselves don’t mean worse lives for future generations.”*

*“**Sustainable development** is about positive growth - making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations.”*

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Minister for Planning  
Ministerial Foreword to *NPPF*, March 2012

*“Sustainable development is about change for the better, and not only in our built environment.”*

*“Our natural environment is essential to our wellbeing, and it can be better looked after than it has been.”*

*“Our historic environment – buildings, landscapes, towns and villages - can better be cherished if their spirit of place thrives, rather than withers.”*

*“Our standards of design can be so much higher. We are a nation renowned worldwide for creative excellence, yet, at home, confidence in development itself has been eroded by the too frequent experience of mediocrity.”*

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Minister for Planning  
Ministerial Foreword to *NPPF*, March 2012

Melton has not been well served by the planning system in recent years.

We wait with interest to see how our Local Planning Authority, Suffolk Coastal, will respond to the new system.

Thanks for your time.

If you have any questions, please raise them during the Open Forum, which is right after the Refreshment Break