



The Parish Pen



The official newsletter of Glenfield Parish Council
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Welcome to the latest edition of the Parish Pen, the official voice of Glenfield Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the parishioners of Glenfield a Happy Christmas and the very best for the New Year.

Lee Breckon JP, Chairman

Major Development in Glenfield

During recent years a number of studies and consultations have taken place across the whole of the country which has resulted in the generation of Regional Plans, one of which is the East Midlands Regional Plan.

The East Midlands Regional Plan is also known as the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and this name gives a better clue to the importance of the document as major parts of the RSS deal with the use of space.

Following several revisions, and changes by the Secretary of State (July 2008), the final RSS will be published this winter. It will contain key issues that affect Blaby District. These issues include the quantity, phasing and broad location of dwelling growth. The RSS now requires a **minimum of 8,650 dwellings to be built** within the District of Blaby by 2026 (including affordable housing). The building programme is phased with 260 dwellings being required between the years 2006 to 2011, 340 dwellings per year between 2011 and 2016 and 460 dwellings per year from 2016 to 2026 (years run from April to March). A mini review is being undertaken and this may result in a further increase in the minimum requirements.

In addition to the demand for land for housing the RSS encourages Local Planning Authorities, of which Blaby District is one, to designate land for employment needs, although the RSS does not quantify the land required.

The RSS encourages a policy of urban concentration, which requires most of the growth to be around Principal Urban Areas (PUA) and includes parts of the Blaby District that are close to Leicester, including Glenfield. The RSS also advises re the need for a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) to the west of Leicester in Blaby District.

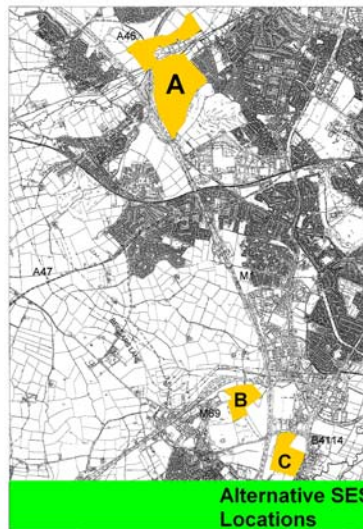
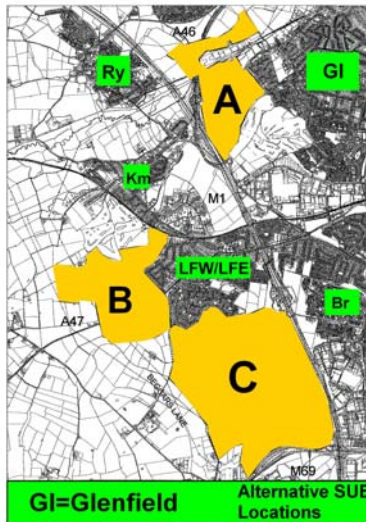
Blaby District Council has, as a result of the RSS, prepared a document that provides detail and **explores options** about where both dwelling and employment land will be designated. This document is known as the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Alternative Options (AO).

Of the 8,650 dwellings that are required the AO indicates that 5,720 need to be found within Principal Urban Areas, with the remaining 2,930 being found elsewhere within the district. Of the 5,720 there are a number of dwellings that have been constructed that can be counted and others for which plans have already been approved. The net result is that some 4,000 additional dwellings are required in and around the PUA.

The first map shown indicates those areas that the AO suggests could accommodate these 4,000 dwellings, following appraisal by Blaby DC and discussions with developers and landowners.

The area marked C on the map is some 430 hectares and could accommodate up to 5,000 dwellings. Area B is 170 hectares and could accommodate 3,500 homes and area A is 90 hectares. The AO does not specify how many dwellings could be built on A, but this could be as many as 2,000. This provides a total capacity for 10,500 dwellings, so the question is - where should the 4,000 dwellings be built?

Two studies have indicated that the district of Blaby needs 25 hectares of land for Strategic Employment Sites (SES). In a similar manner Blaby DC has highlighted three potential areas to be used for SES. These are marked A, B and C on the second map. The area marked C is 25 hectares, the area marked B is 20 hectares and the area marked A 90 hectares.



You will note that the area marked A is common to both the SUE and the SES. The total area in the options for SES is some 135 hectares, so once again the question is - where should the 25 hectares be?

The Alternative Options document states that "Key areas that require further work include the impact of the Options on: transportation; 'infrastructure' (the facilities and services that support communities); and the Green Infrastructure". There is, thus, a lot of work to be completed.

The Alternative Options is now out to consultation and replies to Blaby District Council are required by Thursday 18 December 2008. There is a public exhibition about the AO at Park House on Monday 8 December 2008, from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The full AO and its supporting documents can be found on the Blaby DC web site, as can a web response form, **the preferred response method**. Glenfield Parish Council has set up one click links to these documents, so visit the home page of our web site.

You can also express your views by email to planning.policy@blaby.gov.uk or by writing to the Corporate Head of Policy and Projects, Blaby District Council, Council Offices, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicester, LE19 2EP.

You may wish to comment on how many and where dwellings and employment premises should be, you are not restricted to sites A, B and C. You may wish to comment on the infrastructure and/or available services and the impact that different sized developments would have on these. There is the subject of separation between Glenfield and those urban areas around it and the currently defined green wedges. Climate change and the need for renewable energy is another issue. You are asked to bear in mind that Blaby District Council now has an obligation to identify sites for dwellings and employment and that Blaby District Council cannot refuse to take part.

We apologise for the complexity of this report. The detailed history behind the current situation has purposely not been given. Finally, we remind you that a full copy of the AO is available via our web site.

Wildlife Wander

Councillor Roy Denney, representing Glenfield Parish Council's Wildlife and Environment Group, led a group of villagers on a walk round Glenfield's more natural areas on 19 October 2008.

Starting from Park House and going along Barrow Lane they followed the old railway line and then Rothley Brook into the outskirts of Anstey before circling back via the Arboretum and the old railway tunnel entrance. Along the way they visited both the Millennium Green and the new Glenfield Meadow wildlife and recreation area, which has just re-opened.

Whilst keeping their eyes open for any unusual birds or other creatures the walkers got more than they bargained for. They spotted a large white mammal and watched it for some time. The creature was about two foot long and Roy is convinced it was a ferret which had escaped and gone 'wild'. The ferret is a domesticated version of



the polecat, once nearly extinct in England but slowly making a comeback. These fearsome killers are normally dark brown with a yellow under-

fur. They normally hunt the edges of woodland near water, which is exactly the sort of terrain in which this creature was seen.

Those completing the walk expressed their enjoyment and it is hoped that this walk could become an annual event.

Smartwater Scheme

As reported in the last edition of the Parish Pen, Glenfield is now designated as a Smartwater area. We are sure you will have noticed the signs at the borders of our village.

Many residents have now protected their valuables with Smartwater. If you would like to protect your valuables then call at the Parish Council's offices to obtain your Smartwater or contact the Police Community Volunteers on 07902038687.

We once again ask why?

Regretfully, we have suffered from graffiti on and around Ellis Park. There has been damage to one of the pieces of play equipment with "Luke" being carved into the car and caravan on 10 November 2008. Other surface material was also cut away. A gate to the children's play area was also ripped from its hinges on 6 November 2008.

Both the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Policing Unit take these issues very seriously. Four youths who caused graffiti will shortly be visited by the police, with our CCTV being used as evidence. If you carved "Luke" or know who did then you might want to call the Parish Office. Owning up to the damage could prevent a criminal record. At the time of writing our CCTV is being reviewed.

Millennium Green

The Millennium Green Trust is to hold a Reindeer Drive at Park House on 19 December 2008 at 7:00 pm. Carols on the Green is to be held on the Millennium Green at 6:45pm on 20 December 2008. For further information please see the notice boards or call 2991868.