



**BILLINGHAY PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2016 / 17**

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# INTRODUCTION: Chairman of Council

**Cllr. Mike Passfield** RN QN MSJ MSc DipN FRSPH FIHM MinstLM MCMl



Welcome to Billingham Parish Council's Annual Report for 2016/17.

## **Our mission: to improve the quality of life for people in Billingham and surrounding communities**

This report is designed to explain how we've worked closely with residents, partners and community groups over the past year to achieve the priorities, visions and values. These priorities focus on our communities, our environment and our economy.

We continue to face significant budget cuts and pressure on services, but have delivered a balanced budget for 2016/17. We have focused our resources on protecting community services under direct power of the Parish Council, whilst supporting residents who need the most help. Our customer focused approach continues to be delivered as the Parish Council commits to support and provide a Local Access Point. This provision supports residents to view planning applications, report street light faults, collection application forms and access a variety of information.

## **The challenge**

During this municipal year, we have delivered parish provision whilst maintaining a balanced budget, without directly affecting

services. However, the challenge continues as we continue to receive delegated powers and devolved services from both District and County Councils.

During mid-2016 the ten councils in the Greater Lincolnshire area have been talking to the Government about transferring some powers and resources to our area.

The Councils are Boston Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, East Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council.

Some of the new powers, funding and responsibilities we have requested would provide additional investment for housing and infrastructure. Under the deal an additional £450m over the next 30 years (£15m per year) for such investment would be provided. It was suggested this could also help us to develop a better approach to skills training provision and criminal justice in the area. These responsibilities are on top of the services already provided by Councils in Greater Lincolnshire, which would be unaffected. However, 49% opposed the idea of a Mayoral Combined Authority – a new body headed by a directly elected mayor.

# INTRODUCTION: Chairman of Council

That was slightly more than the 47% in favour, showing that many residents had real concerns about the proposed arrangements. In particular, they did not want another layer of bureaucracy in the shape of a mayor, with all the extra costs involved.

Following the consultation, all 10 authorities across Greater Lincolnshire had to decide whether to support the devolution offer. The county council debate took place on 20 October, watched by residents in the public gallery and via live web stream. It was full of powerful, impassioned arguments from all sides of the chamber, as elected members wrestled with the issues. Following the debate, councillors voted by 43 to 17 against the deal, with five abstentions.

The challenge in the years ahead is to identify the best form of change – one that really works for Greater Lincolnshire and all its people.

We continue to transform the way we deliver our services. By working with appropriate partners, we can make public resources go further whilst still delivering high-quality services. Recent examples include, the development of Billingham Community Plan group, Billingham Community Group and the work of the Billingham in Bloom groups which provide examples of how local people are working with us and the community to shape and improve the local area.

We continue to campaign to get additional investment into the Parish. Several groups within the village have already been

successful with funding applications including; Park Project Play Area and Billingham Community Plan.

Despite the challenges, we face, this Annual Report shows just some of the work we do to make the Parish a happy, safe and prosperous place to live. We will continue to use our resources to the best of our ability to improve the quality of life for the people in Billingham

We have achieved and witnessed a great deal through community working this year, for example the work the Parish Council have done alongside the Billingham Community Plan group to develop a localised neighbourhood plan document, the representation at district planning in support of the Lafford site, which despite the hard work of the Parish Council and other committed groups in the village were not successful in securing the site for community provision as well as housing.

My sincere thanks and gratitude goes to Cllr Kathryn Locke, Vice Chair of Council and Chair of the Billingham Community Plan, John Twells, Claire Markham and their team of dedicated volunteers who have tirelessly provided many hours of time abundance of enthusiasm and effort over the last 18-24 months to research, consult, design and develop the Billingham Neighbourhood Plan. Their work has been the driving force in getting us to the position of almost submitting our plan to NKDC before the final referendum proposed for November 2017.

I have summarised several other key community engagement events that have happened throughout the year that I or other councillors have had the privilege of supporting or attending.

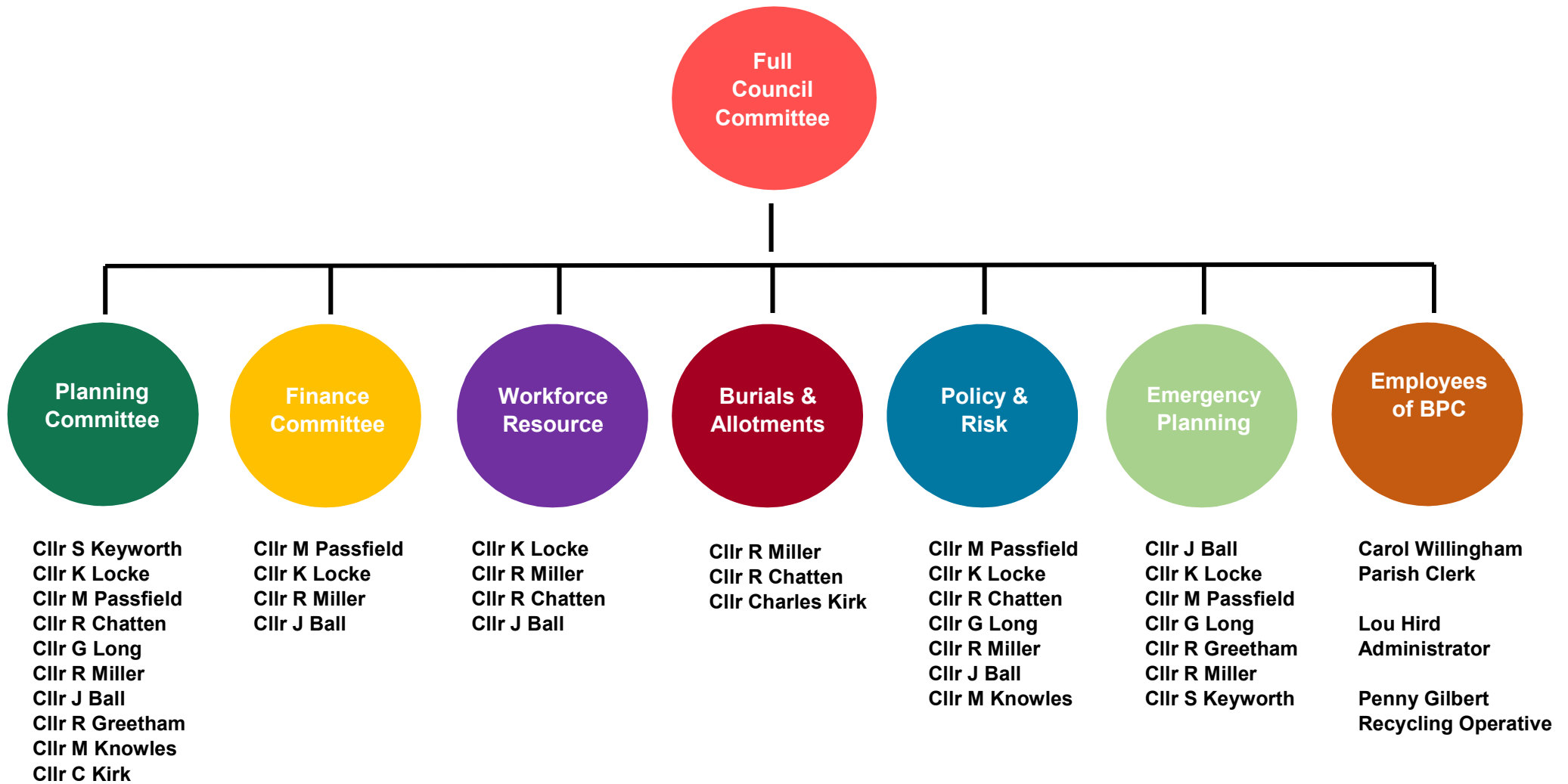
# COUNCILLORS & COUNCIL STAFF

Billingham Parish Council is made up of 11 Councillors.

Councillors are elected every four years by residents or by co-option to represent their area, make decisions and set priorities for the Parish. We operate a democratic style of leadership and governance, with sub committees holding specific responsibilities that report into full Council. Councillors are identified based on skills and attributes to sub committees ensuring the best use of resource and time.

DESIGNATION	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Chairman	Mr. Michael K Passfield	Merryfield House Walcott Road, Billingham LN4 4EG	07840 028443	<a href="mailto:mike_passfield@billinghampc.co.uk">mike_passfield@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Vice Chairman	Mrs. Kathryn Locke	9 Barley Lane Billingham LN4 4GW	01526 861258 07514 621281	<a href="mailto:kathryn.locke@billinghampc.co.uk">kathryn.locke@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mr. Ron Chatten	60 Walcott Road Billingham LN4 4EN	07909 771596	<a href="mailto:ron.chatten@billinghampc.co.uk">ron.chatten@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mr. Geoff Long	Vine Cottage High Street Billingham LN4 4ED	01526 860694	<a href="mailto:geoff.long@billinghampc.co.uk">geoff.long@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mr. Charles Kirk	3 Walcott Road LN4 4EG	01526 869209	<a href="mailto:charles.kirk@billinghampc.co.uk">charles.kirk@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mr. Roger Miller	10b Fitzwilliam Place Billingham LN4 4EU	01526 860539 07831 264554	<a href="mailto:roger.miller@billinghampc.co.uk">roger.miller@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mrs. Jane Ball	45 Walcott Road Billingham LN4 4EG	01526 860340	<a href="mailto:jane.ball@billinghampc.co.uk">jane.ball@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mr. Robert Greetham	32 Church Lane North Klyme LN4 4DJ	07928 681644	<a href="mailto:robert.greetham@billinghampc.co.uk">robert.greetham@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mr Sam Keyworth	TBC	TBC	<a href="mailto:sam.keyworth@billinghampc.co.uk">sam.keyworth@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Councillor	Mr Martin Knowles	TBC	TBC	<a href="mailto:martin.knowles@billinghampc.co.uk">martin.knowles@billinghampc.co.uk</a>
Vacancy				

# COUNCILLORS & COUNCIL STAFF



# COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE RECORD (FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS)

The tables below give attendance statistics for the year 2016/17, for all councillors attending the meetings of full Council. Membership of any of these bodies can change during a municipal year. In instances where this has happened, only attendance at meetings during the period any given councillor was a member have been counted.

It should also be noted there are instances throughout the year where members are invited or required to attend additional meetings for example planning and or risk and policy subcommittee meetings. Such attendances are not included in the table, but are recorded in the minutes of meetings. Taken alone, therefore, the figures should not be the only indicator of a councillor's effectiveness.

Councillor	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	No of meeting attended	% of Attendance
Cllr W Liles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Not in post							5/5	100%
Cllr R Miller	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	11/11	100%
Cllr S Underwood	✓	✓	Not in post										2/2	100%
Cllr M Knowles	Not in post										✓	✓	2/2	100%
Cllr S Keyworth	Not in post										✓	✓	2/2	100%
Cllr K Locke	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓	✓	✗	9/11	82%
Cllr C Kirk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✗	9/11	82%
Cllr R Greetham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	10/11	90%
Cllr S Rossides	Not in post				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗		5/6	83%
Cllr R Chatten	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	9/11	82%
Cllr M Passfield	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗		✓	✓	✗	✓	8/11	73%
Cllr J Ball	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		✗	✓	✓	✓	8/11	73%
Cllr G Long	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗	✓	✗	4/11	36%

Please note: Meeting did not take place in December 2016

# MONEY MATTERS

The Funding cuts continue to bite hard, with the Parish Council having lost circa £5K since the reductions in external funding. The Parish Council will lose further district and county budget allocation over the coming years following the withdrawal supported services provided by North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, such as grounds maintenance. This has seen additional pressures placed on the Parish Council's budget.

Considering this, we are working extremely hard to maintain a high quality inclusive service we provide to residents. Fortunately, the council reserves have helped to offset the impact of the cuts during 2016-17, however the closure of the last financial year witness the council balance its books with 6k underspend, with the internal audited completed and signed off. The external audit is due for completion in the coming months.

<b>Income 16/17</b>	<b>Expenditure 16/17</b>	<b>Variance 16/17</b>
£113,258.68	£106,998.18	£6,260.50

Accounts at Closing of year end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2017)

<b>Income 15/16</b>	<b>Expenditure 15/16</b>	<b>Variance 15/16</b>
£64,925.10	£69,953.47	(£5,028.37)

Accounts at Closing of year end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2016)

Each year the Parish Council's accounts are prepared by the Town Clerk and scrutinised by both an Internal and External audit, to ensure they comply with current legislation. Copies of the Accounts are available by request or from the Council's website



# MONEY MATTERS

The contribution made by the numerous organisations to the well-being of the local community in Billingham is highly valued. In support of such voluntary efforts the Parish Council allocates a modest annual budget to award small grants to voluntary and community groups, subject to available resources. The purpose of such grants is to support voluntary and community initiatives in the local area and to help create opportunities for the residents of Billingham that are not, as a matter of course, funded by the Council. During 2016/17. The following groups received grant awards following application.

<b>Community Group</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
Billingham Athletic Junior Football Club	£2200.00
Billingham Village Hall & Playing Field Committee	£1000.00
Billingham Bowls Club	£500.00
Billingham Scout Group	£500.00
Billingham Community Group	£400.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Billingham Rainbows	£464.70

<b>Total Grant Awarded</b>	<b>£5064.70</b>
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# ACHIEVEMENTS – COMMUNITIES

We have achieved and witnessed a great deal through community working this year, for example, the work the Parish Council has done alongside the Billingham Community Plan group to develop a localised neighbourhood planning document, the representation at district planning in support of the Lafford site, which despite the hard work of the Parish Council and other committed groups in the village were not successful in securing the site for community provision as well as housing.

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. They share their time and talents without any compensation, so it's crucial to acknowledge their contributions and let them know they are valued. On behalf of the Council, I wish to thank the army of volunteers and groups across Billingham that provide time, commitment and enthusiasm to deliver services, in all shapes and sizes. Helping to promote **#beautifulbillingham**.



The annual swimming pool opening in 2016 is another example of how working with our partners, we can grow the community offer in Billingham. With 1st October being Lincolnshire day, some of the Parish Councillors along with members of the Billingham Community Group organised a successful scarecrow competition which witnessed many of the village residents transform their gardens to host novelty scarecrow displays. The 18 entries ranged from a PokéStop to Rapunzel in a castle tower.



The weather was kind to us on judging day, we had 30 entries to view, many thanks to all who took part, and a big thankyou to Anwick Garden Centre for sponsoring the competition. The judges, Tim and Guy, were very pleased with the standards in both garden and container categories making it tough to decide on the placings.

Billingham in Bloom, another successful event in the village sharing the best in gardening. A fantastic opportunity to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make Billingham a greener and more beautiful place. Thanks to resident Les Ball for co-ordinating this wonderful event We look forward to next Billingham in Bloom.

# ACHIEVEMENTS – COMMUNITIES

The Parish Office continues to go from strength to strength following its relocation during 2016/17. A facility which is now fit for purpose and can host the parish meetings and other parish/community activities. This is a good time to thank the council staff and councillors for all their hard work and commitment throughout the year, without whom the work of the council would not be possible.

We have welcomed Cllrs Martin Knowles, Sam Keyworth and Sharon Rossides to the team during 2016-17 and sadly said goodbye to others including Wendy Liles, former Chair, Sharon Rossides, following relocation as well as paying tribute to Councillor Shelley Underwood, following her sudden death in July this year, aged 44.



In September 2016, the village accepted delivery of the play park apparatus which has been installed on the green space at the village hall. The delivery of the apparatus was the culmination of the hard work, fund raising and grant application award which provided this young person friendly provision. The Parish Council supported the grant application on behalf of the Park Regeneration Committee. The new apparatus has provided the residents of Billingham with an outside space to increase their activities in the park. A special thanks to Chloe Conway and Amanda Thornton for their hard work in pulling this together, along with the organisation of the annual Billingham Summer Fete.

Billingham Community Group organised for the Northumberland Theatre Company to come to Billingham on Saturday 10th October with their production of 'How to make a Killing in Bollywood'. The Village Hall was transformed into an intimate theatre venue with lighting and a fabulous Indian backdrop. The spellbinding performance captivated the 50 spectators who enjoyed a show full of dance, comedy and drama for 2 hours. The event was part of the 'Live and Local' Touring Scheme.



As part of our work on the Billingham Community Plan, it was highlighted that many people in the village were not aware of the various groups, businesses and events that take place in the village. In direct response to this, Billingham Community Group designed and published a website ([www.billinghaycommunitygroup.btck.co.uk](http://www.billinghaycommunitygroup.btck.co.uk)) however, they further developed this by developing a Billingham App. The first of its kind, promoting village life, business and events. This is now available on the Apple and Google App Stores to download for free. It includes, links to the village events calendar and businesses / groups directory. I encourage us all to continue to make this an invaluable resource to residents and visitors.

## ACHIEVEMENTS – COMMUNITIES

If you are holding event or know of an event that is happening in Billingham this would be a fantastic tool to support your marketing strategies. It has functionality to send notifications to devices that have downloaded the app to make important announcements. This could be an event taking place, sporting success or something the village should know about. Information can be provided by email to [webmasterofBCG@gmail.com](mailto:webmasterofBCG@gmail.com), via the contact us button on the app.

The North Kesteven District Councils Sustainability Team launched the Low Carbon NK Charter in 2013 asking local organisations to sign and commit to doing whatever they can to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, from their operations. Since inception, the district has had a fantastic response and now holds 35 signatories. The Charter pulls together all projects and activities, from national down to local level, which will have a positive effect on emissions within the district, towards a realistic 20% by 2020 reduction target. The Plan is updated annually and shows that North Kesteven's emissions are falling. Though lead by the Sustainability Team the activity involved in this project is guided by the signatories. The aim is to consolidate what is happening in the district, plus identify and address the needs of organisations. In 2016, Billingham Parish Council demonstrated their commitment to supporting the 20% target by signing up. ***We are committed to working together to create a low-carbon, sustainable North Kesteven, We will work together to build a prosperous district for high technology, smart services and the other elements of a sustainable local economy in which all can share, We will make North Kesteven a leading district for reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change and We will champion local people who are trying to reduce their carbon footprint.*** A copy of the carbon Charter and the sustainable community strategy can be viewed on the parish council website.



Finally, I am pleased to be able to share with you the success of our local primary school. Billingham Church of England Primary School formally received a letter on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report their inspection findings. The visit was the first short inspection carried out since the school was judged to be good in February 2012. It was noted that the leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection, whilst successfully creating a culture where everyone is valued and supported as a learner. One pupil summarised the culture of the school by explaining to the inspector, 'If you make a mistake, you can do it again. It's OK to get it wrong.' The report continued to highlight the positive impact that the governing body has. Processing a clear understanding of the strategic role it plays in the leadership of the school. The Head Teacher and the governors have an accurate view of the provision at the school and its performance. Many congratulations to the Head Teacher, his staff and the Governing body for providing outstanding leadership and creative learning environment for the young people in and around Billingham.



# ACHIEVEMENTS – BILLINGHAY COMMUNITY PLAN

## Kathryn Locke, Vice Chair of Council



Over the last year Billingham Community (Neighbourhood) Planning Committee (BCP) has been working hard writing the draft Plan, ensuring it is based on the evidence of the community consultations and meets the criteria for both the current Local Plan (2007), the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The committee is made up of a Parish Councillor and Billingham residents and all are volunteers. As a team, successful bids for Locality funding have been written and technical support awarded due to the complicated nature of the developing neighbourhood plan.

Last August Billingham had a visit from AECOM, a global company responsible for designing the new World Trade Centre, amongst other prestigious buildings and sites, and from this our suggested Billingham Vision Document was devised, with the Fen Road site at the centre of our growing village. In January 2017 Billingham had another visit from AECOM and the Heritage and Character Document was created, again based on evidence and suggestions from the village community.



The draft Plan has undergone two initial assessments by Peterborough City Council and in January 2017 BCP were informed that the draft Plan had passed its Strategic Environment Assessment Screening and did not need further in-depth screening. This screening involved

scrutiny by the Environmental Agency and Historic England, amongst other agencies.

The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Strategy Planning Committee on 24 April voted unanimously to adopt the Local Plan which proposes 563 new homes for Billingham. With the recent building of new homes and successful recent planning applications being agreed by North Kesteven District Council, Billingham is expected to have at least 578 new homes by 2036. This will increase the population of children by 118!

On 8 September 2016 BCP took part in a joint venture with Billingham Community Group (BCG) to hold the first Open Heritage Day for the village. Despite atrocious weather, 30 visitors came to look around the Old Vicarage Cottage, which is held in affection and viewed with pride by the local community. Several stories surrounding the history of the old Cottage were shared but concern was expressed about its uncertain future, leading to the Parish Council successfully bidding for the Cottage to become an Asset of Community Value to keep the building safe and available for future community use. Visitors also viewed the developing Neighbourhood Plan and emerging Local Plan documents; researched their family history with the expert support of the Past Times History Group; enjoyed refreshments, hosted by the Ladies Branch of the British Legion, and followed the blue plaque and QR heritage trails around the village. BCP hope to arrange another Open Heritage Day on 9 September 2017.

# ACHIEVEMENTS – BILLINGHAY COMMUNITY PLAN

Currently the BCP team are writing the Basic Conditions Statement to show how the Plan adheres to both local and national planning guidelines, and the Consultation Statement to show the various ways the community was consulted and the outcome of these consultations.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, the Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Pre-submission Public Consultation of the draft Plan began. This is an opportunity for residents, groups and businesses to view the Plan and make their comments known, before it is submitted to North Kesteven District Council for further consultation, followed by examination by an independent examiner. At this

time, it is expected the referendum will take place in November 2017.

Copies of the draft plan will be available for viewing and commenting upon at:

- **Billingham Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7pm at Billingham Village Hall**
- On the BCP website [www.billinghay.org.uk](http://www.billinghay.org.uk)
- At various events and locations around the village

The closing date for comments is Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 5pm.

# BILLINGHAY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 17



If you require further copies of this publication,  
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