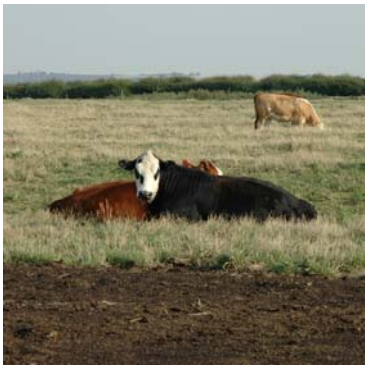


FOSTON Parish Plan 2007



Foston Parish Plan

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Introduction

The Village Plan is the result of gathering information and opinions from the villagers of Foston. This process has enabled the Working Group to analyse the results and form an Action Plan that will take forward as many issues as possible. It is hoped that the Action Plan will help to rekindle a sense of community spirit within the village, as we address the concerns that have been collated. It will give the village encouragement and justification to take on matters that can be realistically changed for the benefit of the village.

The plan has been produced by the -

Foston Parish Plan Working Group (FPPWG)

This Group has included:

Lucy Bliss Secretary	Christina Lees
Alan Clark	John Lucey Treasurer
Simon Hall	Janet Peto
Marcus Howell	Stephen Peto
Paul Hutchinson	James Ross
Rhona Kufluk	Marion Taylor
Oliver Justice	Jenny Wynn Chair
Augusta Lees	Richard Wynn

What is the Parish Plan for?

In 2000, the government issued a Rural White Paper, which introduced the concept of Vital Villages' Scheme. This theme was further developed by the Countryside Agency to offer a range of grants and advice to help rural communities take their own action when it came to the development of plans. From this initiative, there evolved a vision of parish plans linking in with the work of the district councils. A 3-year pilot project was launched which was successful and now villages up and down the country are creating village plans. The purpose of a village plan is two-fold. After initial consultation with the village, a detailed Action Plan is developed that can be taken forward by the local community and then followed by the production of a Village Design Statement.

What are our objectives?

This document shows the analysis of the questionnaires and from this information FPPWG has produced an initial Action Plan. The Action Plan, it is hoped, will provide a catalyst for volunteers to take on a particular issue that they may feel strongly about. Through consultation with the village we have been able to identify the needs and wishes of the residents. This data can be used to justify grants and support applications to the various bodies and authorities that have funds for community projects. Ultimately, as an on-going result of the Action Plan we, as a village, can take our own actions to make some improvements to Foston. Therefore, what is already a good place to live can become an even better place to live as well as encouraging a closer-knit community.

A Village Design Statement will be an additional outcome from this Action Plan. This document will set out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development within the village. It should identify the landscape setting of the village; the shape of the settlement; and the nature of the buildings themselves. The document will not stop change from happening as it will be advisory but will influence the statutory planning process. Consequently, new developments within the village will be in harmony with the existing environment and reflect what the community wants.

Who funded the work?

The bulk of “cost” has been borne by the **FPPWG** members in volunteering their considerable time and effort in doing the work required to produce this report. A grant of £2,900 from the **Community Council of Lincolnshire** has been available for where actual cost is incurred such as printing costs etc. **Foston Parish Council** also provided a grant of £500.

How did we approach the task?

We planned a public Open Day at the Village Hall. This event was an opportunity to explain the concept of what we were doing as well as an enjoyable social gathering. The Open Day was held in April 2006 and was attended by over 100 villagers. Topics per table covered different issues including Services, Environment, Amenities and Housing. Villagers were invited to anonymously fill out notes (*right*) commenting on the many varied topics. Members of the working group were available for discussion on every aspect to stimulate interest and encourage points of view.



These comments were gathered and formed the basis of a questionnaire, taking account of the many topics that had arisen at the Open Day. A separate children’s questionnaire

was also produced so that the younger villagers’ points of view and issues could be gathered separately.



These questionnaires were printed and delivered to every person within the village boundaries. The results were subsequently analysed and in November a feedback day was held with a presentation at the village hall, which generated an attendance of over 50 villagers. We also kept the village informed with regular progress reports via a newsletter that was delivered to every household.

The analysis



The results and analysis make up the body of this report and we take the same approach for each section. Initially, we looked at where we are now, that is to say a description of what currently exists within the village. Then we looked at where we want to be by considering the analysis of the questionnaire itself. The results from the village questionnaire

and comments on the key issues for respondents, indicating percentages and numbers of comments, were taken into account.

It should be noted that the overall percentages include all age groups, but inevitably reflect the 19-59 year old age group because the majority fell into this category. However, we have highlighted areas where the 13-18 and 60+ year olds' responses might otherwise have been overlooked. See Appendix I and II for details of the questionnaires and analysis.

NB. Please note in Appendix II, the comments have been gathered under the various subject headings and similar comments have been grouped together. You may not find your exact comment unless it is quoted within the body of the report. There were some comments that did not fit into a specific section so these have been counted and listed as unclassified or general. The list of comments and suggestions are available for viewing upon request from any member of the Foston Parish Plan Working Group.

Appreciation

Thanks are usually confined to a section at the end; however, we think that the introduction is a good place to convey our appreciation. We would like to thank all of the **volunteers** who have put unpaid effort into this report. Also to the **Community Council of Lincolnshire** who have provided the majority of the actual costs and not least **Foston Parish Council** who have been most supportive and provided us with funds.

Acknowledgements

With grateful thanks to,

Mr G A Parker and the Late Mrs E M Brieant for allowing chosen extracts to be used from their Foston village history book, "Foston" revised edition 1988. A re-typed version is available from St Peter's Church, who receive all proceeds.

Mr G A Parker for allowing the use of his photograph, the Foston post windmill.

Mrs P Farmer for allowing the use of her old photographs of the Chapel, Black Boy Public House, Shop (now the Bakehouse) in Long Street and the Foston Cricket team of 1932 in the history section.

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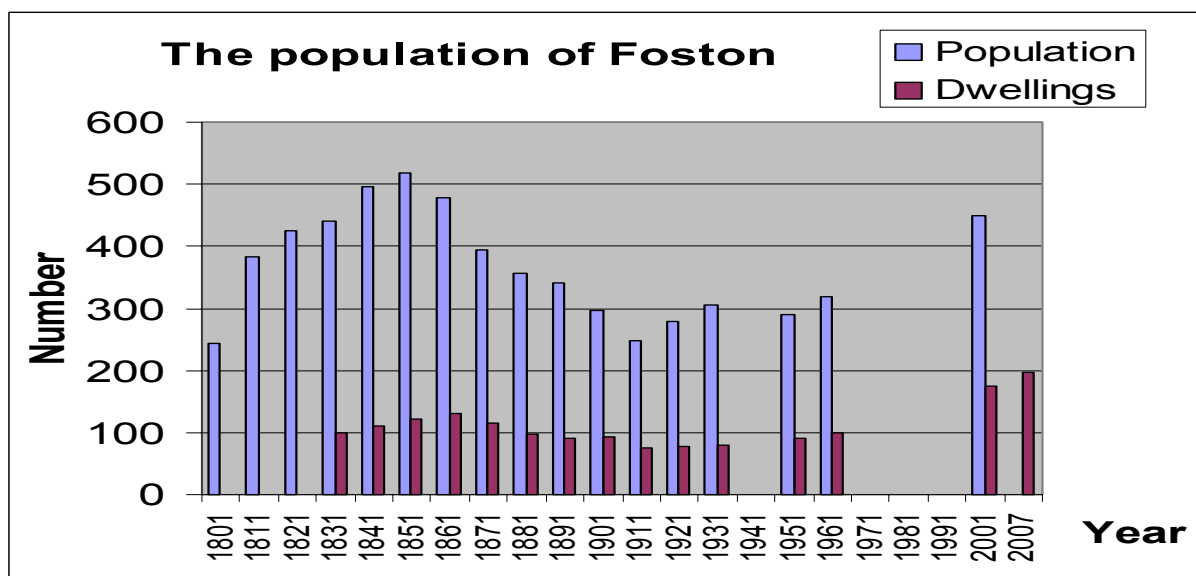
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A brief history of Foston

Foston lies on an ancient cross roads, situated on the northern edge of the Vale of Belvoir, nearly six miles northwest of Grantham, national grid reference SK 85 42. Foston has a linear scattering of houses sited on the upper edge of a north-south fault line in theory giving flood free living conditions, but having a line of springs, which emerge from the outcropping limestone. The local subsoil is mainly clay although there are a considerable variety of soils within the parish.



Foston is traditionally a farming village. The River Witham runs to the north of the village and the A1 trunk road bisects at the southwestern edge isolating half a dozen village dwellings. The Foston Beck runs along the eastern border and the parish covers around 850 hectares. Neighbouring villages include Long Bennington, Westborough, Allington and Marston.

In Roman times there was a settlement in the parish and it is thought that it may have been developed from a late Iron Age farmstead situated close to the Fallow Ford at the end of Fallow Lane. A Roman Villa was excavated in late Victorian times 1891-1896; it was on slightly raised ground near to the present forded crossing of the River Witham. Rev. Henry Faulkner Allison (who was Curate of Foston from 1891 to 1896) found various Roman pieces of pottery and Mr J Dable discovered numerous Roman coins in 1973. These coins were dating from Nero AD 37 to Constantius II in 306. Other artefacts have also been found including two Dolphin brooches and one Trumpet brooch along with a Stud brooch.

The Saxons settled in this district and extensive remains have been excavated on Loveden Hill, which can be seen to the east of the village. Another pointer to the possible Saxon settlement within the parish is to be found in the name Foston itself - i.e. the first "ton" or settlement on the road north from Grantham, FOTR-TUN. The combination of Scandinavian personal name and Saxon ending found in Ekwall's interpretation of the Village name may reflect a Saxon settlement taken over by a Viking headman. Foston from the Old Scandinavian *Fos+ton*, for "farmstead or Fotr". [A. D. Mills, "A Dictionary of English Place-Names," Oxford University Press, 1991]

The Normans took over an existing agricultural society and organised it. We give the name "feudalism" to this system where land is held in return for the performance of services. The Manor was the farming unit and evidence of the Manorial system is

extensive in Foston. Foston was part of the manor of Long Bennington and Foston appears in the 1086 Domesday Book as "Foztun".

Agricultural practices in the Middle Ages were based upon the open field system and the land divided into strips. The general line of the holdings would run in an east-west direction. The Enclosure Act in a plan dated 3rd March 1796 affected Long Bennington and Foston. The present pattern of land usage is very nearly that formed from the old strip system at enclosure. Modern agricultural machinery has made it necessary to remove hedges thus recreating the appearance of the large open fields of the pre-enclosure era.

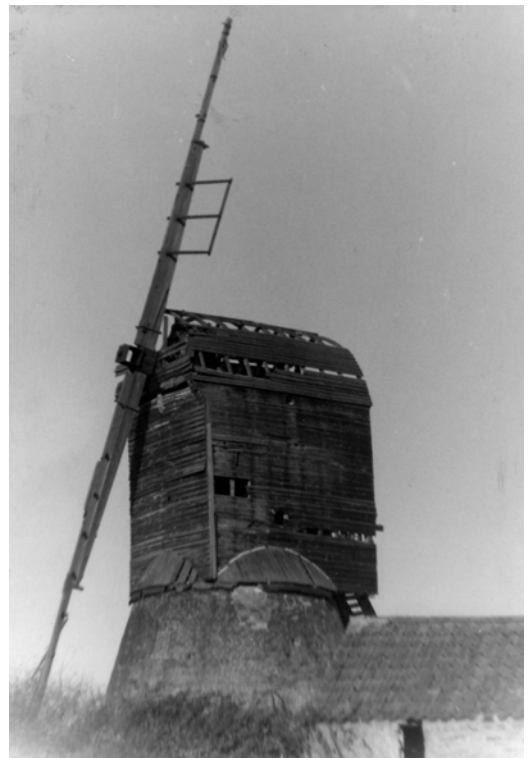
The English Civil War started in 1642. A Battle on Gonerby Moor was fought between Foston and Marston on the northeastern side of the Great North Road in 1643, which was the year Oliver Cromwell won his first victory over the Royalists at Grantham. The Royalists were defeated in 1647, and King Charles I was executed two years later. The monarchy was restored with Charles II in 1660.



The Anglican Church of St Peter dates back to at least the 13th Century, although in 1858 it received substantial restoration and was partially rebuilt under the direction of Charles Kirk. The parish register for burials and baptisms begins in 1626, several years before Oliver Cromwell proposed the civil registration of births, deaths and marriages. Marriages were included in the Long Bennington register until 1766. There was a Wesleyan Methodists Chapel (*above*) that was situated on Chapel Lane. However, it was taken down and bungalows and houses were built on the site.

A National School was built next to the Church in 1847 to hold eighty children, which later became a Church School. The attendance at the time was only about forty. An earlier school building adjoined the south wall of the churchyard. The School was closed in 1987 and subsequently converted into a home. Children up to the age of eleven are bussed to the Long Bennington Church of England School.

The Foston Post Windmill (*right*) was one of the oldest in Britain, dating back to 1624. It was demolished in 1966. It had been sited on the A1 at the cottage known as Mill House. Previous to that it was sited at Mill Close on Allington Lane and before that it stood immediately below the old Post Office on Newark Hill. At the time these mills were considered portable.



Old buildings constructed from mud and stud have been demolished although most new dwellings have been built on sites of older dwellings with the exception of Wilkinson Road. In 1967-69 around forty houses were built on land belonging to Mr Wilkinson whose family had farmed in the village for a hundred years.



New houses were also built on the site of The Black Boy Inn (*left*). From 1979 to the 1980's eight houses were built on Highfield Close and since then individual houses have been fitted in along Main Street, Church Street, Newark Hill and Long Street. Foston is currently undergoing a series of small developments of individual properties in Long Street and Back Lane.

Coaching was at its height in the early 19th century and Foston had several Inns and Staging Houses. The Duke William public house was at the Allington crossroads close to the service station area. The Black Horse still exists in the centre of the village as a private house and flats. The Black Boy was demolished in 1950 and it stood at the Junction of Tow lane and Newark Hill. With the advent of the railway Foston lost any importance it may have had as a staging post and the village was bypassed in the 1920's isolating the village from any through traffic.

At the turn of the century when the Great North Road ran through the village, the vehicles on the road were mainly horse drawn. Travelling circuses would pass through the village along with occasional dancing bears and travellers from all walks of life.



During the First and Second World Wars, Foston remained a thriving village. Sadly, during the Great War eight men from the village lost their lives in the armed forces. In the Second World War, two men were lost during the war. During that time American Medics stationed at Allington frequented the Public Houses in the village. Italian prisoners of war



worked on some of the farms, replacing villagers that had left to go to war or work in Grantham at the armament factories.

Up until the time the school closed Foston remained a busy, more or less, self-supporting village. By the beginning of the twenty first century the story is very different. Foston has lost all her services including the Doctors surgery, Post Office, pub, and shop, which, was also a bakery (*above right*), however, the

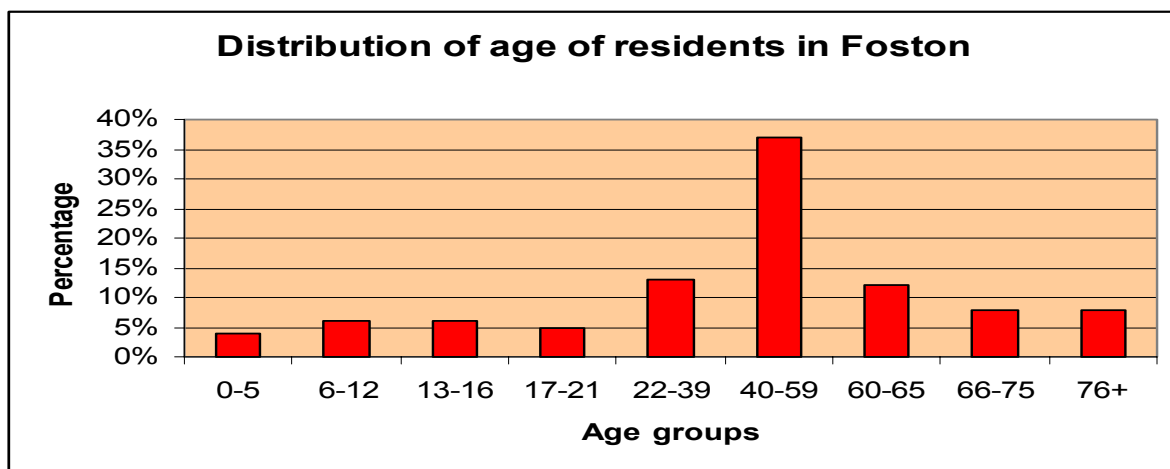
villagers are fighting back with the Parish Plan.

Household information

Overall there was an excellent response rate to the questionnaire, with 73% of 192 households (occupied at the time of distribution) completing and returning the questionnaire. In total, 345 residents completed the questionnaire, and an additional, 30 young people under 13 years returned the youth questionnaire (see 'Youth questionnaire analysis'). The high response rate therefore gives a good picture of what residents in Foston deem important to the future of the village.

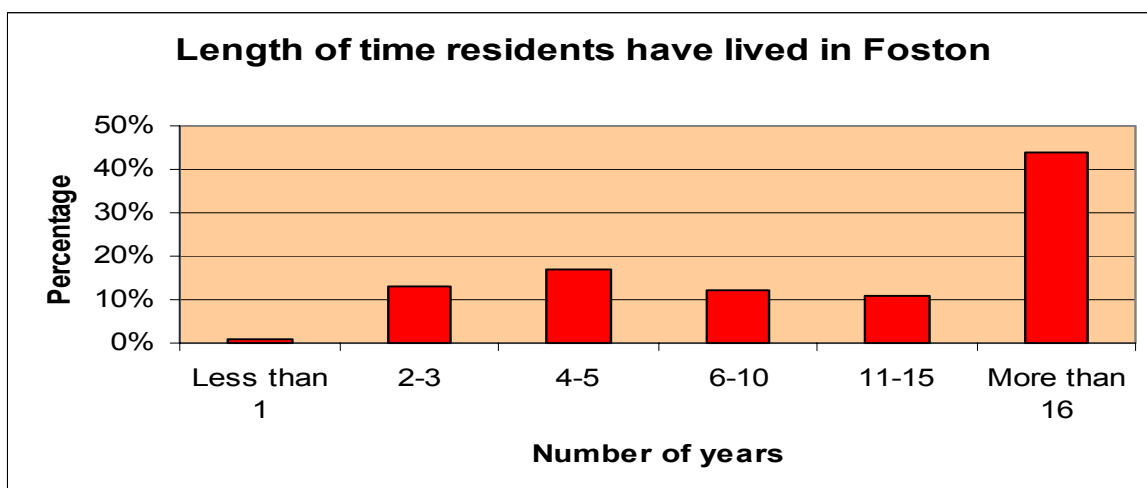
Reason for moving to Foston	Total	Reason for moving to Foston	Total
Rural area, low crime, peace & quiet	64	Family & friends	22
Property	35	Amenities and schools	19
Road access / Geographical location	32	General	1

From information given on each household response, the largest category of residents is the 40-59 year age bracket (37%).



Significant proportions of households have lived in the village for over 15 years (44%), with 17% residing here for four to five years. The most popular reason for moving to the village is to be part of a rural village with little crime and looking for peace and quiet (38%). Other strong reasons for moving to Foston included the individual property and the geographical location of the village with the road access (21% and 20% respectively). See 'Appendix II – Comments'.

"Nice village close to the A1, Long Bennington School and other facilities, allowing access to the facilities without needing them in the village keeping the village quiet & attractive."



Services

Where we are now

The main services provided to Foston are outlined below.

Bus service – There are two routes on school days. One that takes students to and from Foston to the middle of Grantham and the other is to the Sir William Robertson School near Welbourne. For the younger children a service, run by Lincolnshire County Council, provides a bus to the designated primary school at Long Bennington.



The public bus service consists of three buses to Grantham Monday - Saturday plus two return services. However, both of the return services require a change in Long Bennington. In addition, ASDA in Grantham provides a bus service from Foston to and from their store. Waitrose in Newark, provide a service from Long Bennington. All bus timetables and/or telephone contact numbers are displayed on the village notice board.

Doctors' surgery – Since compilation of the questionnaire results, the Doctors at Long Bennington have closed the weekly surgery held in Foston Village Hall. 39% of residents either agreed or strongly agreed that this facility was needed, the Foston Parish Council have written to the Doctors' surgery to this effect.

Mobile library – The mobile library currently visits Foston every other Tuesday lunchtime outside the Black Horse Cottages. Details available from the Parish News.

Refuse collection – Since producing the questionnaire, a wheelie-bin scheme has been introduced, silver bins for recycling and black for general waste. They are emptied alternately every Tuesday. Green bins for garden waste may be purchased from South Kesteven District Council and they are emptied fortnightly on a Monday.

Where we want to be

The most important issue to all ages is the improvement of the bus service (76% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed). The 13-18 and 60+ year olds particularly supported this issue with 23 comments plus a further 32 under 'One last question'.

"A frequent bus link between Grantham and Newark is needed for the younger, older, and persons with no access to cars"

The next most important issue for 13-18 year olds was the need for more frequent emptying of litterbins. However, the second most important issue for the 19-59 and 60+ age groups was the provision of a waste collection service for large pieces of furniture. Some residents provided information with regard to the fact that this provision already exists, suggesting that it merely needs more advertising.

At the other extreme, the majority of people in all age groups disagreed or strongly disagreed (55%) with the provision of a public toilet. Seventeen comments were to this effect, one of the strongest of these being;

"Public toilet! Absolutely not. Vagrants (and worse) will end up using it"

Roads and paths



Lincolnshire crossing the A1 into Foston and passing through the village on its route.

Where we are now

The A1 is the responsibility of the Highways Agency, the other roads and footpaths being the responsibility of the Lincolnshire County Council Highways department. A start has been made on tidying up footpaths at the north end of the village with the rest to follow in due course. The Viking Way is a 147-mile long distance footpath. The path runs from Oakham in Rutland to the Humber in



Where we want to be

The 13-18 and 19-59 year olds had an extension of a footpath all the way from Foston to Long Bennington as their top priority in this section. This was second place for the 60+ year olds, giving 70% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing overall and putting this issue at number 8 in the 'Top twenty issues'. However, it has been pointed out that this needs researching carefully before any moves

are made towards achieving this.

"Footpath to Long Bennington is urgently needed. At present it is too dangerous to walk along with prams, buggies, etc."

"The problem with having a footpath to Long Bennington all the way is that the village children would then not be entitled to a bus to get to school. That means all parents would have to take the children in."

For the 13-18 year olds the next most important issue was the provision of a footbridge over the A1 to Allington. The other age groups did not see this as a priority and indeed, several respondents commented negatively.

"A footbridge over the A1 would be great, I could cycle to see friends in Allington instead of relying on parents for lifts."



"Footbridge over A1 will never happen - too expensive for little use."

In this category, the top priority for the 60+ year olds and second most important for the 19-59 year olds was an extension to the southbound slip road on the A1 (number 2 in the overall 'Top twenty issues').

Several comments supported this.

"A1 south bound slip road is dangerously short, should be merged into the lay-by."



However, of the comments opposing this, one was very much against the proposal.

"A longer slip road would cause more accidents, now, you have to STOP - better, plus far too expensive."

Discussion with the Highways Agency would help establish the current regulations and safety requirements for such a slip road.

Other issues raised across the age groups as being important included resurfacing of the roads in the village, provision of a path from Wilkinson Road to the play area and production of a leaflet on local walks.



Hot topics for written comments have included respondents adamantly against the use of double yellow lines in and around the village. Comments were made suggesting that the Village Hall car park should be used as a turning point at the end of Church Street.

"Take post out of village hall car park. (It was given to the village as an amenity)"

"Take the Village Hall car park barrier down from the Village Hall entrance and turning would be no problem"

Environment



Where we are now

Verges in the village are maintained by Lincolnshire County Council at set times, or by individual householders. Landowners maintain the Viking Way and other verges. The WI has already planted many bulbs in the Church grounds in conjunction with the Parochial Church Council.

Where we want to be

Although environmental concerns were not found to be a top priority, nevertheless many people desired some sort of conservation scheme (57% agreed or strongly agreed). The next priority in this section was the attractiveness of the verges including general maintenance and planting more wildflowers and bulbs.

The picnic site by the river/ford area attracted the most comments; some felt it would be nice, although they suspected the villagers would not use it. Others felt that the principle was fine but it would attract litter and may not fulfil the intended use. There were also the ever-present health and safety concerns about the site, due to the



closeness of the river. Basically it would be an asset if it was maintained and well looked after, but most were sceptical.

“Creating a picnic area by the river sounds a nice idea, but at present it attracts the wrong sort of people during nice days, who leave it littered with all sorts so I don’t think it needs to be encouraged.”

Many of the other issues were all constrained by concerns on costs and this was reflected in the comments;

“Whilst in general supportive of all green items I do not want to fund any of the above by increase to my [council] tax.”

“Better upkeep of other footpaths across fields particularly to Marston. What is the point of a new bridge if 5ft high vegetation prevents access to it.”

Health and safety



Where we are now

There are remnants of a previous Neighbourhood Watch Scheme still active in the village. Foston does not have a Police base; the Local Rural Officer is based at Long Bennington and assisted by a Community Support Officer. Whilst Foston is not a high crime area its close proximity to the A1 makes it a potential target.

There are a number of litterbins placed strategically around the village but no dedicated dog fouling bins.

Where we want to be

Whilst respondents were supportive of Neighbourhood Watch (67% agreed or strongly agreed), there is a need to recruit co-ordinators and organise them as a team to cover all of the village, as well as providing security advice. Comments were very varied.

“An active neighbourhood watch scheme should be in operation especially in a village like ours where rapid access and exit is easy.”

“We do not need a neighbourhood watch, it isn't effective in the slightest, if someone wants to rob you, they'll rob you. A neighbourhood watch isn't going to stop them!”

There was a strong perception amongst respondents that they see very little police presence (66% agreed or strongly agreed).

“An increased police presence: police only need to drive through the village now and again.”

“Foston is not a crime capital, it is safe to walk around and police presence is a waste of their resources and time which are needed elsewhere.”

There were such strong concerns about dog fouling in some areas of the village that this features in the 'Top twenty issues'.

“Dog owners should deal with poo, not collect in place where specialist emptying is required and is a hazard between collection days.”

“Make residents more aware, when walking their dogs; there is a lot of dog fouling around the village! I have witnessed this a lot near my property, so we need to make people aware that this is an offence, so probably more signs around to jolt their minds.”



Respondents felt that modified street lighting to emit less upward light pollution (58% agreed and strongly agreed) was more important than more street lighting (38% agreed and strongly agreed). Most of the village is adequately lit although there are some dark areas especially on the path close to the A1 making the crossing very dangerous for villagers.

Sport and leisure



Where we are now

Foston has a playing field, which is approximately 2.5 acres and is owned, maintained and insured by the Parish Council. It was initially used by the school for sports activities before the school closed. It has a full sized football pitch, which is currently used by a football club from outside the village for training on Thursday evenings and Sunday for matches. It is also used by villagers for a

variety of activities. The changing facility on the playing field is a porta-cabin owned by the Grantham Blues football club.

The playing field also has some rather dated play equipment for children. Some of the play equipment has been removed recently due to its poor state of repair and its location is somewhat remote from the playing field entrance. The Gorrie Hall, owned by the Scouts, is also situated on the playing field (see 'Amenities'). The entire surface is grassed.

Aside from the football club there are no organised sports clubs in the village and presently many people travel to nearby villages and Grantham or Newark to participate in the sports of their choice.



Where we want to be

The need for a playing field featured very high on the list of respondents' priorities (number 4 in the 'Top twenty issues'). There is a pressing need for improved equipment for the under twelve's (66% agreeing and strongly agreeing with this).

"Over £6k was raised some years ago for a children's play area. Yet I seldom see

any kids playing on it & it seems poorly maintained. If money spent on this, then please ensure that funds are available for maintenance."

It was suggested that a hard playing surface, which could accommodate a tennis court, cricket nets, netball/basketball court as well as five a side football would be used.

"Cricket nets would be good along with a netball hoop and hard surface and wall for ball games."

"A tennis court would be used by people of all ages, great idea!"

"Any hard surface area should be large enough for five a side football."

"With facilities for children it also encourages new families and a better community spirit with parents and children being able to meet new people"

Amenities

Where we are now

There are a number of clubs that meet regularly throughout Foston making use of the existing amenities. For more information about any of these, contact details are published in the Parish News.



Gorrie Hall

Named after an early Scout Leader for this area. The Scout Group owns the hut. The Parish Council own the land on which it stands and collect £1 per annum peppercorn rent from the Scout Group. The group receive a small grant from the Parish Council for running costs.

Scouts – There is a very active scouting troop in Foston. All groups meet at the Gorrie Hall currently on the evenings;



- Beaver Scouts - Mondays
- Explorer Scouts - Mondays
- Cub Scouts - Wednesdays
- Scouts - Thursdays

Village Hall

The village owns this and the Village Hall Committee are the trustees. It stands on land donated to the village by the Marris family. It has been improved over the years with grants and fundraising. Although it

needs some modernising inside, the grounds were recently landscaped and proper provision was made for parking and disabled access. The committee receive a regular grant from the Parish Council.

Brownies and Rainbows – Rainbows meet on a Tuesday evening and Brownies meet on a Thursday evening in the Village Hall.

Women's Institute (WI) – The WI currently meet every second Tuesday in the month at the Village Hall.

Other regular events include bingo, line dancing, art classes and quizzes. Parish Council and Parish Plan Working Group meetings are also held there. Anyone can book the village hall for private or public events e.g. birthday parties.

Book club – This club meets in members' homes mid week once a month to review a book agreed by members the previous month.

St Peter's Church

See 'A Brief History of Foston'. This is managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC). They receive a donation from the Parish Council towards Church Yard maintenance.

Playing Field See 'Sport and leisure'.

Where we want to be

Generally the results of this section were positive with all groups, the 13-18 year olds being the most enthusiastic in all areas. The most pressing issues to arise were the need for a shop, Post Office and pub. These issues were supported by 29 comments (plus a further 51 comments under 'One last question').

"A pub should have remained as a focal point and social gathering place."

There were 25 negative comments warning of the difficulty of running such ventures. However, another villager suggested;

"Pub, Post Office, shop could be combined possibly as a community run enterprise or co-operative."

This idea was repeated in various forms including the possibility of selling the Village Hall to rebuild a community venue on the playing field to include a shop and pub. It was also pointed out;

"The Village Hall committee are a management committee not an entertainments committee!"

The group that responded strongly in favour of the erection of a bus shelter was the 13-18 year olds. Some of the reasons given for this were;

"The bus shelter is very important because the children get soaked when it rains and they then have to sit in school with wet clothes."

All age groups agreed with the need to conserve St Peter's Church. The other Church issues were not so strongly supported, with the highest proportion of people neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the need for the church to be unlocked, with similar results for the later Church Services.



"Unlocked church desirable certainly, not practical nowadays, too many thieves about."

"Church services with old school hymns for families."

"A good way to support the church conservation would be to assist with funds to provide a toilet and kitchen in the church".

"Perhaps the church could house a small shop/post office or a little café for people to drop in and have a chat."

Within this section there were 8 comments supporting the need for a footbridge over the A1 to the Texaco Garage and Shop (also see 'Roads and paths'). These are the only retail amenities to serve the village and can only be accessed by crossing the A1 on foot.

"A bridge to the service station would suffice."

"However if we had a bridge over the A1, probably would not need a shop."

Foston has very few amenities and it is problematical for some elderly residents who find it difficult to drive, cycle or access the amenities at Long Bennington.

Housing



Where we are now

A recent analysis (Electoral roll, 2006) of the housing in Foston indicated that there were 196 dwellings and these were located as detailed in the table below.

The above figures do not include the development of Top Farm, Highfield Farm, North Farm and Tow Lane, which are currently underway.

Street	Number of dwellings	Street	Number of dwellings
Allington Lane	5	Great North Road	3
Back Lane	4	Highfield Close	8
Burgin Close	17	Long Street	30
Chapel Lane	20	Main Street	32
Church Street	18	Newark Hill	14
Fallow Lane	1	Tow Lane	6
Farm Close	3	Wilkinson Road	26
Goosegate Lane	9		Total 196

There is a mix of housing in Foston, which developed originally as a farming community, with agriculture as the largest employer. The post war mechanisation of agriculture has drastically reduced the number of people employed in agriculture and the development of housing has reflected that change. Currently, the majority of residents commute to work in the surrounding area and this is shown in the style of housing that is now being built, which is predominantly the executive detached type.

There are a small number of properties that are available for rental. There are currently eight SKDC council houses remaining and the residents of these have the 'right to buy' option. This means that there is effectively no 'affordable housing' for young people and those wishing to get on to the property ladder for the first time.

Where we want to be

Housing in Foston was a major issue for many respondents. Across all age groups 63% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with Foston expanding towards Long Bennington, bringing this issue in at number 3 in the top twenty issues. The 19-59 and 60+ year olds were not happy with large 4-5 bed-roomed houses being built.

"There is an excess of large houses with multi car occupancy making the village like a race track. Need some houses that younger people can afford and for those who have lived here a long time, can down size into and stay in the community they know and are happy with (if we have any more building)."

The general consensus was for the village to stay the same size

"One of the attractions of the village is its size and lack of traffic, to en-large would spoil the ambiance".

"To stay the same size, nothing stays the same change is inevitable".

Jobs and employment



Where we are now

There are a number of small businesses in Foston and a network that is based near Grantham does exist - The Welland Enterprise Agency, which offers support and contacts for starting and running new and small businesses.

Adult education classes are not available within the village. Informal and registered child minding facilities are available. Paper rounds exist in the village but are governed wholly by the demand for newspapers.



Where we want to be

There was a fairly negative response across all age groups for the building of small business units with 42% of responses against the idea and 59% against retail units. In the younger age group, 13–18 year olds, things were a little different with 37% in favour of retail units.

Support for starting self-employment gained some positive support, particularly with the 19-59 age group, with a total of 31% in favour. The car-sharing scheme gained uniform positive support with 34% agreeing and strongly agreeing.

“As far as I can tell there has never been an official car sharing scheme although I sometimes let my wife come into town with me”.

The provision of more paper rounds was supported by the 13-18 age group with 63% in favour. Adult education and child minding received the most positive response, having the support of 43% and 37% of respondents respectively. 54% of the 60+ age group required the provision of adult education. The relatively few comments in this section (36) mainly concerned logistics and funding for topics covered. In particular, 11 of these comments expressed concerns about the location and type of retail and business units in the village.

“Building small business units or retail units run the risk of expansion - I certainly disagree with having what could become a “Business Park” in Foston. Would cause extra pollution - traffic, large delivery vehicles, noise pollution, air pollution.”

Communication



Where we are now

Currently the village has a notice board situated in the middle of the village near the post box. This displays village information including some bus times, mobile library information and Parish Council minutes. Any information to go on the notice board must be submitted to the Parish Clerk.

The Parish News is compiled, printed, assembled and distributed monthly by volunteer members of Foston and Long Bennington Churches. It is funded by revenue from advertising and sales (by subscription and in Long Bennington shops.) The cost has not changed for ten years. In Foston it is sold to 140+ households (out of a total of 196) and is a major source of local information; including times of church services, Parish Council meetings and details of contacts for various groups in both villages.

A village website is currently under construction and can be found at fostonvillage.org.uk. Additionally, flyers highlighting village events are delivered door-to-door and/or posted throughout the village.

Where we want to be

Overall the responses showed a level of satisfaction with and a positive view of the current communication systems within the village. No strong issues were raised but some good ideas for further improvement and involvement were given.

All ages agreed the Parish News is good source of information within the village. 71% of respondents liked it in its current format and composition.

“The Parish [Magazine] is already excellent and Peter Drury does outstanding work”

Most of the comments made in this section were regarding the Parish News and included some ideas for further enhancing its appeal.

“A letters page in the Parish Mag to publicize ideas, make appeals, etc.”

“Parish Mag should include a local crime report and planning applications”

“Parish News: Birthdays - Congratulations – Celebrations - Write-ups of e.g. Foston footy team, cricket team, tennis tournaments etc.”

As with the Parish News, the Notice Board is viewed as a useful place for information across all age groups. Respondents indicated a strong inclination to include new technologies in our communication throughout the village, with all age groups favouring the set up of a website (45% agreed and strongly agreed).

“A village website is an excellent idea, when do we start!”

“We need various ways to get ideas etc about and a good percentage of us go about the village in vehicles and rarely on foot!”

There was less support for an e-mail system within the village (39%) with some strong comments against it;

"E-mail, website - absolutely stupid!"

However there were ideas of how an e-mail system could be used;

"Planning notices could also be delivered to the whole village by e-mail."

The majority of respondents are neutral to the idea of a Youth Parish Council (52%), whilst 29% believed it would be good to involve young people more. Comments made about a youth council tended to be negative.

"Parish council welcomes youth opinions; feel free to express them at the public sessions."

"More young people are needed in the Parish Council instead of setting up a Youth Parish Council."

"A Youth Parish Council can be viable only as long as the youth wish to be involved. After 4-5 years they move on - this is fine, as long as others move in!"

A large proportion of respondents agree that a 'Welcome to Foston' sign would be desirable at the entrances of the village (58%), whilst 14% of respondents disagreed with this idea. Where specific comments were made concerning a sign, the majority indicated funds could be better used elsewhere, although this only amounted to a small number of total respondents.



"A map of the village at entrances to aid delivery drivers."

"A 'drive carefully through our village sign' is required"

Comments made in this section related to improved community spirit and places to meet, which would ensure improved and stronger communication within the village.

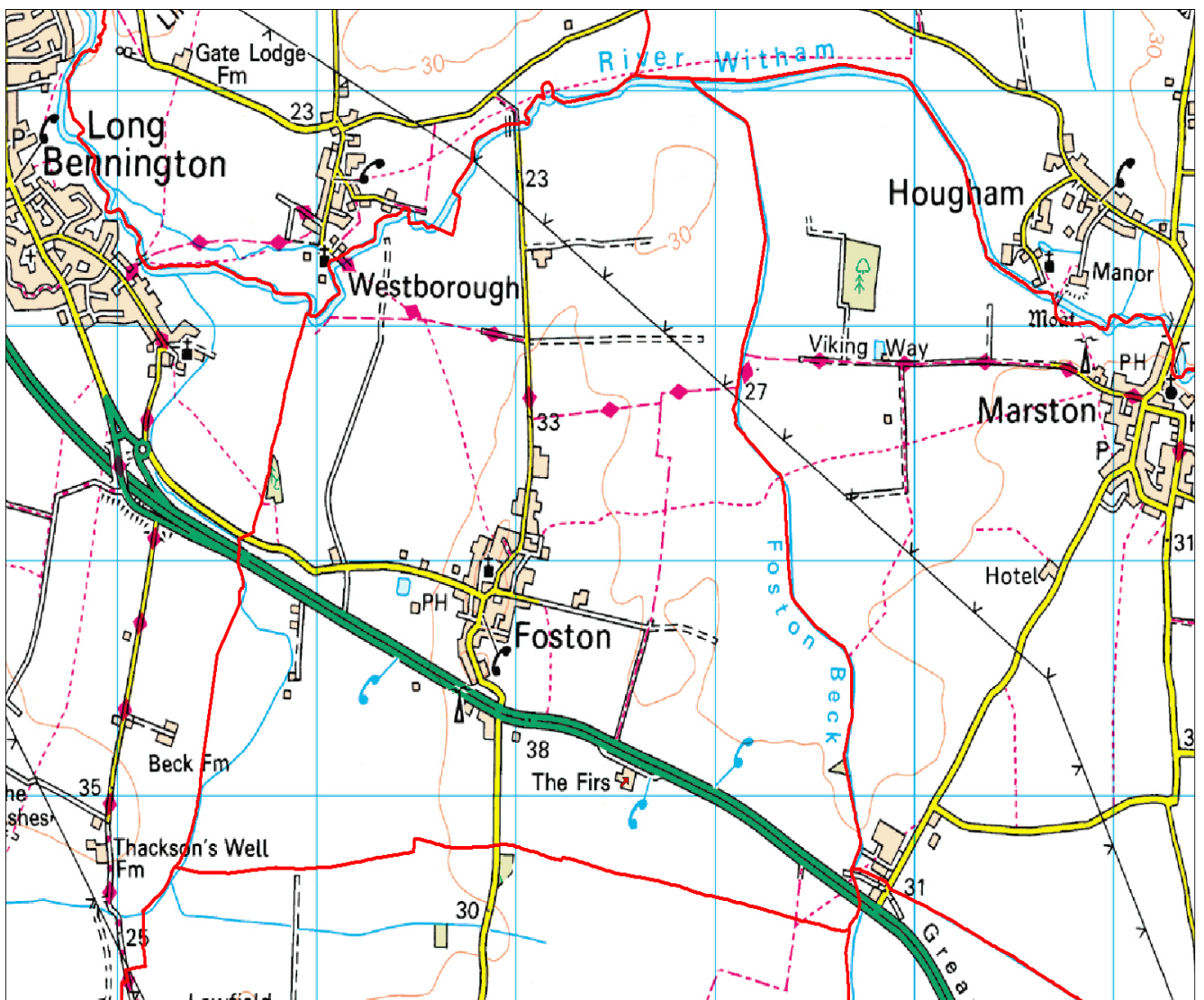
"It seems to me that Foston is a ghost village in the daytime and needs a shop/pub etc. for some sort of community."

"Open the village hall one afternoon each week for people who stay home, so people can meet & chat."

"More social gatherings, opportunities for residents to get to know their neighbours."

"Residents to respect each others property to maintain goodwill and avoid disputes"

Ordnance survey map of Foston showing boundaries marked in red



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One last question...



In reading the numerous (nearly 400 comments) received in this section, it became apparent that there was a general satisfaction with the way the village is at present. The summary of comments in 'Appendix II – Comments analysis' has been sorted into popularity order. This section did not raise any significant other issues, but mainly confirmed the most

strongly felt matters in other questions. It is clear that the most popular 'want' is a pub, followed closely by a shop/post office. An improvement to local transport links is also high on the list. These things are all featured in the 'Top twenty issues' as determined by the questionnaire data.

One last question...		Comment	Total no
Comment	Total no	More seats in the village	7
To have a pub in the village	61	Provision of a school and improve facilities for children	7
To have a shop/Post office in the village	51	To adopt a clearer and more sensible (balanced) planning regulations	7
To improve transport links	32	Parking controls on verges and some streets	5
No changes! I like it the way it is	27	Bridge over the A1/Re-open crossing for vehicles	5
To encourage community spirit/Return to old values	24	To ensure that any changes made do not cause Council Tax rises	5
To improve the roads and pavements, verges, footpaths and signs	21	More housing/People in the village	4
To implement measures to reduce speeding traffic through the village	19	To have the Church used/open more often	3
Improved facilities on the playing field	18	The planting of more trees	3
To prevent any more housing development	17	Improved access to Marston by vehicle, cycle and foot	3
To encourage more use of the Village Hall	14	More litter bins	2
Reduce the noise from the A1	12	Conservation of wildlife	2
A footpath down to the link road	10	Better street lighting	2
Hand Village Hall over for development in part exchange for a new hall elsewhere	9	Improved information for villagers	2
Stop dog fouling of paths and verges	9	To provide recycling facilities	2
Improved slip roads onto the A1	8	Provision of a child minding service	1

Youth questionnaire analysis

Demographics

Thirty young people under the age of 13 answered the Youth Questionnaire, with a relatively even split between boys and girls (43% and 57% respectively). Over half of this group were aged 9 -12 years with the remaining being 8 or under. The household information gathered in the main questionnaire, indicates there are 36 young people under the age of 13 so this gives a strong representation of views for this population.

General

The majority of respondents liked the quiet, safe countryside location of Foston. Other things generally liked about the village were having a play area and the friendly village community. However, a strong proportion of respondents felt there was a particularly poor provision of facilities in the village, including poor play equipment and an unkempt



play area. Poor footpaths and cycleway were also remarked upon.

“We need pooper scoopers for all the dog walkers, who go down towards A1 dogs always fouling the roads”

“It would be useful if the goals in the park had netting and there was a pitch across the width of the big football pitch and clear marks to show the edge of the pitch.”

Other issues for respondents included speeding in the village, lack of street lighting, noise from the A1 and too much development/construction.



Activities

The activities used, which are currently available in Foston, include Brownies, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Rainbows – 23% of respondents attend these clubs. There are several local football clubs, including Long Bennington, which are attended by Foston village children. Additional activities used by young people in the village are horse riding, Kids Club and attending the Family Church Service, though these are not always in Foston.

The main reasons for not attending more activities in the village were being too young/old for the activity (28%) and the lack of knowledge that the activities existed (24%). Twenty percent of respondents acknowledged they attended activities in other villages or were not interested in these particular activities.

Required activities and issues for the under 13-age group

Sports Club / Facilities	%	Other Activities	%
Cricket nets & club	27	Youth Club	23
Tennis court & club	13	Better play equipment on playing field	17
Football nets & club	13	Discos / Dance classes	13
Football for girls	13	Art classes	13
Basketball Hoop & club	7	Drama	10
Rugby	7	Gardening Club / Planting corner	10
Skate park	7	Choir	3
Football – under 6 years	7	Sunday School	3

Facilities

The overriding request for improvement to facilities in the village related to improving the play equipment available – 25% of comments related to this improvement. There were specific comments requesting improved equipment for very young children and the inclusion of monkey bars. Additionally suggestions were made for improving Gorrie Hall, introducing a planting corner at the playing field and putting netting in the goals at the playing field with clearly marked pitch boundaries. A path to the play area from Wilkinson Road also generated some positive interest.



*“There needs to be a pub in Foston and roller skating lessons and tennis courts!
And a few shops!”*

The second most frequently requested improvement was the introduction of a basketball hoop. The introduction of tennis courts and an area for roller skating and skate boarding are also of interest to the respondents. Other sporting facility improvements included a better football pitch and cricket nets. A swimming pool was also considered desirable.

Over 50% of respondents felt a village shop would improve the village overall. Other suggestions included a pub, better roads and paths, an ice cream van and more policing. Other comments included,

“I would like to have some street lights put up. Thanks ”

“I hope that after all these comments some things get changed. Thank you.”

Top twenty issues

Below is a table of the top twenty issues for the village raised by all respondents to the questionnaire.

For more details see 'Appendix I – Questionnaire data'.

	Foston says
1	Yes to a shop in the village selling local produce
2	Yes to a longer southbound slip road onto the A1
3	No to expanding towards Long Bennington
4	Yes to the playing field
5	Yes to a more frequent bus link with Grantham & Newark
6	Yes to a Post Office in the village
7	No more 4/5 bedroom house building
8	Yes to a footpath all the way to Foston from the link road
9	Yes to a pub in the village
10	No to the provision of a public toilet
11	No to building some retail units
12	No more infill development
13	Yes to stay the same size
14	Yes to improved & updated children's play area – juniors (4– 12 yrs)
15	Yes to support the conservation of St. Peter's Church
=	Yes to better enforcement of speed restrictions through the village
=	Yes to the neighbourhood watch scheme
18	Yes to an increased police presence
=	Yes to reduce the noise from the A1
20	Yes to dog fouling bins

Please note:

The above list is compiled from weighted scores – See Appendix I

Youth top ten issues

Below is a table of the top ten issues for the village raised by all respondents to the youth questionnaire.

	Foston youth says
1	Yes to updating and improving play area
2	Yes to a shop
3	Yes to a basket ball hoop
4	Yes to tennis court
5	Yes to a skate park
6	Yes to cricket nets and club
7	Yes to path to play area from Wilkinson Road
8	Yes to include nets and markings on football pitch
9	Yes to a cycle path
=	No to nothing to do and nowhere to go

Action plan

The objective of the Parish Plan Working Group was to provide the framework for the village to move forward on a well-researched and consultative basis. The Working Group does not see its role as the implementers of the plan but following on from the publication of the Parish Plan it is envisaged that a number of groups will be established to pursue some of the issues raised in the report. As an example, the issues relating to the playing field and its facilities could be progressed by the formation of a Playing Field Committee whereas others may be better advanced through the Parish Council.

The results reveal many other issues that villagers may wish to instigate or be involved with and this is welcomed. It is proposed FPPWG continues in an advisory role, helping to co-ordinate any groups formed and providing support and guidance, for example, helping source possible grants.

The following tables list issues that villagers supported, suggest possible solutions, actions needed to fulfil the aim, who might take responsibility and when it might happen.

Abbreviations

CG	Conservation Group	PCC	Parochial Church Council
FPC	Foston Parish Council	PFC	Playing Field Committee
FPPWG	Foston Parish Plan Working Group	SKDC	South Kesteven District Council
HA	Highways Agency	VDS	Village Design Statement
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council	VHC	Village Hall Committee
LCCH	Lincolnshire County Council Highways	WI	Women's Institute
NW	Neighbourhood Watch		

Services

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Improve public transport service to Newark and Grantham	Get bus operators to extend their regular services to include Foston and investigate dial a ride service	Approach bus companies and appropriate transport authorities	FPC FPPWG	2007/2008
Confirm procedure for the disposing of large items	System already exists with SKDC	Need to agree and publicise present arrangements	FPC FPPWG	2007
Ensure litterbins are emptied regularly	Identify the bins that should be emptied more frequently	Review arrangements with SKDC	FPC	2007
Ensure the needs of the elderly, and disabled are met	Regularly review requirements and improve facilities	Assess needs and take necessary action on issues identified	Consult with FPC/FPPWG VHC	Ongoing

Roads and paths

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Provide a longer southbound slip road on to A1	Extend the slip road to incorporate the lay by	Approach the Highways Agency to make extension	FPC HA	2007
Footpath to the link road	Provide footpath from Foston to Marshall Way	Lobby LLC Highways	FPC LCCH	2008

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Enforce speed restrictions within the village	Request periodic speed checks and look at signage	Approach Lincs. Police to discuss options	Consult with Lincs. Police	Ongoing
Reduce noise from the A1	Resurface A1 with low noise surface	Lobby Highways Agency	FPC HA	2007/2008
Improve village roads	Identify roads for repair and resurfacing	Lobby LCC Highways to investigate	FPC LCCH	Ongoing
Improve safety for villagers crossing the A1	Provide a footbridge over the A1	Approach Highways Agency to consider a bridge	FPC HA	2008
Research local walks and footpaths	Identify all walks	Publish a leaflet on all local walks and bridal-ways	FPPWG CG	Ongoing
Improve northbound access to the A1	Provide northbound access slip road onto A1	Approach Highways Agency Support Long Bennington Parish Council	FPC HA	Ongoing
Improve grass verges	Encourage less parking on pavements, and grass verges	Inform residents of the damage caused by parking on verges	FPC	Ongoing
Improve vehicle turning access in Church Street	Provide a vehicle turning point in Church Street	Consult with LCC Highways investigate all options	FPC	Ongoing
Improve signposting of bridleways	Seek volunteers and arrange survey	Identify problem areas, and organise improvements as required	FPPWG CG FPC	Ongoing
Improve foot-paths in village	Identify problem areas	Lobby LCC Highways	FPC/LCC Highways	Ongoing
Provide a path from Wilkinson Road to the playing field	Path would give easier safe access to the playing field	Seek permission from landowners and consult with LCC	FPC	2008

Environment

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Encourage wild life conservation schemes	Formation of a Conservation Group	Advertise for interested volunteers to address issues raised	FPPWG FPC CG	Ongoing
Plant bulbs and wild flowers along the verges	Develop a planting plan for the village	Identify suitable areas for plants and seek expert advice and investigate funding	Consult with FPPWG/ CG FPC/WI	Ongoing
Keep Viking Way well maintained	Regularly walk the Viking Way	Report areas which need maintenance	FPPWG CG/FPC	Ongoing
Keep grass verges cut regularly	Ensure LCC Highways keep to the agreed schedule	Contact LCC Highways as necessary	FPC CG FPPWG	Ongoing
Provide recycling site	Identify possible sites	Approach SKDC	FPC	2007
Provide subsidised water butt scheme	Contact Anglian Water and others offering similar schemes	Circulate options available	FPPWG FPC	Ongoing

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Reduce overhead utilities	Encourage underground utility services	Lobby utilities, install replacement/new work underground	FPC	Ongoing
Organise litter picking scheme	Consult with SKDC	Hire a community cleaner	FPC	Ongoing
Renewable energy initiative	Encourage individuals to form energy group	Research possibilities in energy efficient programmes	FPPWG CG/FPC	2008

Health and safety

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Improve police presence and visibility within the village	Liase with the Grantham North Rural Policing team to ensure village receives adequate policing	Regular contact with policing team and participation in the Community Council initiatives	Consult with Lincs. Police FPC NW scheme	Ongoing
Extend Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to include the entire village and improve co-ordination	Contact existing co-ordinators and seek volunteers to expand the scheme throughout the village	Form a Foston Neighbourhood Watch group, including all areas, publicise activities, recruit person to oversee the scheme	Consult with Lincs. Police FPC, Foston NW scheme	2007/2008
Reduce dog fouling	Select appropriate sites for dog bins	Provide more dog fouling bins and signs	FPC	Ongoing
Organise crime prevention and advice	Issue residents with appropriate suggestions	Determine which is the best way to communicate advice	Consult with Lincs. Police NW/FPPWG	2008
Consider making street lighting less polluting	Seek advice from utilities	Contact Utilities to identify lower polluting replacement lights	FPC SKDC	2008
Health and safety classes	Explore possibilities	Contact Red Cross and St Johns Ambulance	FPPWG	2008
Improve street lighting	Identify areas in need	Contact LCC	FPC/LCC	Ongoing

Sport and leisure

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Improve facilities on the playing field, see youth issues	Produce an overall plan for the use of the playing field and the allocation of space	Investigate options, funding and form a Playing Field Committee	FPPWG PFC FPC	2008 onwards
Provide play equipment for children	Provide new, safe and age related play equipment	Investigate options and funding	FPPWG PFC	2008 onwards
Provide youth club	Seek leader for group	Investigate funding options	FPPWG	2008
Provide exercise classes	Approach suitable exercise teachers	Investigate options	Consult with VHC/FPPWG	2008
Provide facilities for older children	Provide a hard surface for football, basket ball and tennis	Investigate options and funding	FPPWG PFC	2008 onwards

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Encourage new clubs including sports clubs	Seek possible leaders for football tennis and cricket groups	Investigate options and funding	FPPWG PFC	2008 onwards

Amenities

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Provide a shop, Post Office and pub	Identify possible approaches to providing the amenity	Investigate possibilities of finding a site or arranging mobile facilities	FPPWG	2008 onwards
St. Peter's Church, preserve as a place of worship, for community use and as a fine ancient building	The Church is endeavouring to install mains water, drains, toilet, kitchen area and to open the area around the font	Villagers provide regular giving allowing the church to function, help with collation and distribution of the Parish News, plus provide flowers All help is appreciated and everyone is welcomed	PCC and Lincoln Diocese have legal responsibility for the care of the Church and Churchyard	Ongoing
Support the improvement of the Village Hall facilities and increase usage	Consider what additional facilities might be provided Identify areas for growth in usage Encourage new groups to use facilities	Investigate funding Publicise existing groups and help with funding Advertise for ideas and help with funding	Consult with VHC Consult with VHC Consult with VHC	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Renovate Gorrie Hall	Improve facilities	Investigate funding with Scouts	FPPWG Consult with Scouts	Ongoing
Renovate Footballers' hut	Improve facilities	Investigate funding with Grantham Blues	FPC Consult with footballers	Ongoing
Provide a bus shelter	Consider location possibilities	Investigate funding LCC/FPC	FPPWG FPC	Ongoing

Housing

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Keep Foston about the same size	Support SKDC Core strategies for Rural Communities	Lobby SKDC, and comment on proposals in Local Development Framework, get the Village Design Statement agreed by SKDC	VDS/FPPWG FPC/SKDC	2007/2008
Conserve old buildings	Respect and protect listed buildings	Look into creating a conservation area	VDS/FPPWG CG/FPC	2008
Ensure all new development, conversions and extensions are in keeping with the village character	Produce a Village Design Statement and get it agreed by SKDC	Use supplementary planning documents, to influence the type of development allowed	VDS FPPWG FPC	2007
Improve drainage	Assess poor drainage areas	Identify problems and consult with water authorities	FPC	2008

Jobs and employment

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
To provide adult education classes	Provide adult education classes in village	Identify appropriate subjects, providers and advertise for volunteers	FPPWG Seek co-ordinator	Ongoing
Provide child-minding facilities	Form a Child minding/ baby sitting circle	Encourage like minded people to form a group	FPPWG	Ongoing

Communication

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Improve village communications	Notice Board to be used for all village issues	Agree with Parish Clerk	FPC	Ongoing
Enhance the village entrance	Provide "Welcome to Foston" signs at the entrances to the village	Consult with LCC Highways	FPC	2008
Improve communications to village residents	Set up a village website and email	Appoint a village volunteer web site webmaster	FPPWG	2007
	Encourage circulation of newsletters from village groups	Appoint co-ordinator to liaise with all groups	FPPWG	Ongoing

Youth Issues

Aim	Options	Possible action	Suggested responsibility	Estimated time scale
Updating and improving play area	See 'Sport and leisure'	Include younger people in Playing Field committee (PFC)	FPPWG/ PFC/ FPC	2008
A shop	See 'Amenities'	See 'Amenities'	FPPWG	2008
Basket ball hoop	See 'Sport and leisure'	Include younger members in PFC	FPPWG/ PFC/FPC	2008
Tennis court	See 'Sport and leisure'	Include younger members in PFC	FPPWG/ PFC/FPC	2008
Skate park	See 'Sport and leisure'	Include younger members in PFC	FPPWG/ PFC/FPC	2008
Cricket nets and club	See 'Sport and leisure'	Include younger members in PFC	FPPWG/ PFC/FPC	2008
Path to play area from Wilkinson Road	See 'Roads and paths'	Seek permission from landowner and follow up	FPPWG/ PFC/ FPC	2008
Nets, and markings on football pitch	See 'Sport and leisure'	Include younger members in PFC	FPPWG/ FPC	2008
Cycle path	See 'Roads and paths'	See 'Roads and paths'	FPC	2008

Appendix I – Questionnaire data

The total numbers of responses for each question are listed below. For clarity these have not been split up according to age group. However, if you would be interested in seeing this data then please contact a member of the Working Group.

A weighted score was used to establish the 'Top twenty issues'. Each response was weighted accordingly:

5 – Strongly agree, 4 – Agree, 3 – Neither agree nor disagree, 2 – Disagree, 1 – Strongly disagree.

The tables show the results above or below 3. The more positive the number, indicates a strong agreement within the village. The more negative the number, indicates a strong disagreement. The 'Top twenty issues' are those that generated the strongest feeling either way.

Services

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Frequent bus link to Grantham and Newark	2	4	59	102	130	8	305	+ 1.08
Large item waste collection	6	10	86	127	57	20	306	+ 0.52
Public litter bins to be emptied more frequently	6	4	94	132	46	22	304	+ 0.47
Wheellie-bins for all rubbish	38	24	54	89	83	18	306	+ 0.33
Better facilities for the disabled	3	8	123	105	38	28	305	+ 0.27
A more frequent doctor's surgery in Village Hall	7	16	143	81	39	19	305	+ 0.24
More frequent visits from the Mobile Library	4	15	195	55	15	21	305	0.00
Provision of a public toilet	80	87	72	30	11	26	306	- 0.89

Roads and paths

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
A longer southbound slip road onto the A1	2	11	50	82	151	10	306	+ 1.11
Footpath from Foston to link road	10	11	25	110	134	16	306	+ 0.98
Enforcement of speed restrictions in village	9	24	70	97	95	10	305	+ 0.70
Reduce the noise from the A1	3	28	95	79	93	7	305	+ 0.69
Resurfacing of all roads	9	28	86	108	62	13	306	+ 0.48
Footbridge over the A1 to Allington, fuel station and shop	22	33	77	91	76	7	306	+ 0.47
A leaflet about local walks and footpaths	2	19	93	137	38	14	303	+ 0.49
A north-bound slip road onto A1 avoiding Long Bennington	20	37	72	76	83	17	305	+ 0.37
Reduce parking on pavements, roadside & verges	15	34	103	73	69	12	306	+ 0.36
Turning point at the end of Church Street	10	21	136	84	39	15	305	+ 0.25
Better signposted, accessible bridleways	10	17	133	95	33	17	305	+ 0.24
More footpaths	13	30	111	98	37	16	305	+ 0.22

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
A path from Wilkinson Road to the play area	11	23	130	92	33	16	305	+ 0.21
Clearer road signposts	10	33	141	74	23	25	306	- 0.03
Double yellow lines along the entrance to Church Street	44	61	123	37	19	21	305	- 0.45

Environment

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Wildlife conservation schemes	2	8	106	126	46	16	304	+ 0.52
Bulbs and wildflowers planted on verges and hedgerows	7	21	75	145	41	16	305	+ 0.47
Better up-keep of the Viking Way (National footpath)	4	9	114	115	41	22	305	+ 0.37
Cut grass verges more regularly	10	19	127	112	29	8	305	+ 0.35
Provide a recycling site	33	31	55	119	52	15	305	+ 0.27
Subsidised water butt	11	20	117	103	35	18	304	+ 0.25
Cables to be routed underground	16	37	117	84	36	13	303	+ 0.16
Organise a litter-picking scheme	5	20	145	101	14	20	305	+ 0.13

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
A village composting site	23	26	99	96	36	23	303	+ 0.09
Renewable energy initiative-	21	21	132	71	34	24	303	+ 0.01
Picnic area near ford to be created	41	44	77	91	33	18	304	- 0.08

Health and safety

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Increased police presence	7	15	71	125	76	12	306	+ 0.69
Restart Neighbourhood watch scheme	2	6	83	150	53	11	305	+ 0.70
More dog fouling bins	8	7	67	138	68	17	305	+ 0.66
Issue crime prevention advice	1	6	93	151	40	14	305	+ 0.59
Modify street lights to emit less light pollution	7	24	77	134	43	20	305	+ 0.40
Classes on first aid and health and safety	7	14	170	75	18	21	305	+ 0.07
More street lighting	31	51	100	73	42	9	306	+ 0.06

Sport and leisure

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Playing field	2	2	27	108	147	20	306	+ 1.10
Improved/ updated play area – (4 – 12 yrs)	4	4	76	113	88	20	305	+ 0.71

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Improved/ updated play area – (0 – 3 yrs)	5	6	71	117	83	23	305	+ 0.65
Improved/ updated play area – (13yrs +)	7	8	79	110	75	26	305	+ 0.52
Youth club	4	5	94	131	50	21	305	+ 0.51
Exercise classes in village hall	3	10	147	86	33	26	305	+ 0.19
Football club	10	18	122	97	33	25	305	+ 0.16
All-weather hard playing surface	13	30	106	87	45	24	305	+ 0.16
Tennis court	12	31	98	97	38	29	305	+ 0.10
Cricket club	8	22	124	85	34	32	305	+ 0.06
Establish wing of the Ramblers club	15	16	193	44	8	29	305	- 0.24
Twinning with a city/ town/village	38	41	152	34	12	28	305	- 0.47
Skate park	52	65	107	39	16	26	305	- 0.58

Amenities

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Open a shop selling local produce	5	6	44	90	152	10	307	+ 1.13
Post Office	4	10	46	107	126	13	306	+ 0.99
A pub	9	12	51	70	146	18	306	+ 0.91
To support conservation of St. Peter's Church	2	7	70	144	66	17	306	+ 0.70
Use Village Hall for more social events	3	4	91	143	50	14	305	+ 0.63

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
The Gorrie Hall (scout hut) to be renovated	10	14	86	134	43	19	306	+ 0.42
Footballers' portacabin to be renovated	11	16	116	101	37	25	306	+ 0.20
Bus shelter	17	37	78	98	49	26	305	+ 0.15
Later times for Church services	8	11	203	46	11	26	305	- 0.12
Church to stay open	23	49	110	83	17	24	306	- 0.16
New multi-purpose community hall	42	71	83	50	37	22	305	- 0.32

Housing

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Stay the same size	5	23	61	88	97	14	288	+ 0.72
Conserve old buildings	2	3	67	127	62	26	287	+ 0.58
Improved drainage	3	9	108	87	58	22	287	+ 0.43
More starter homes	40	48	75	67	36	22	288	- 0.19
More retirement homes	34	44	110	60	11	28	287	- 0.40
More infill development	65	59	89	27	15	31	286	- 0.79
More 4/5 bedroom houses	86	67	78	25	5	27	288	- 0.99
To expand towards Long Bennington	113	69	52	24	8	21	287	-1.11

Jobs and employment

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
Provide adult education classes	6	17	137	104	18	24	306	+ 0.13
To have a child-minding circle	6	7	164	83	20	25	305	+ 0.10
Organise a car sharing scheme	10	16	159	81	13	27	306	- 0.03
Support for starting self-employment	24	29	143	76	12	22	306	- 0.14
More paper rounds	19	23	178	37	16	32	305	- 0.29
Establish a local business network	32	46	145	48	10	25	306	- 0.38
Build small business/craft units	53	69	104	51	12	17	306	- 0.49
Build some retail units	82	88	75	29	13	19	306	- 0.83

Communication

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
The notice board to be used to convey all village issues	3	2	69	180	35	17	306	+ 0.62
"Welcome to Foston" sign at the entrances to the village	15	27	73	131	48	12	306	+ 0.44
Independent website for Foston	6	24	115	108	30	22	305	+ 0.22

Foston Needs:-	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	Total	Score above or below 3
To set up an email system within the village	6	30	129	88	30	22	305	+ 0.13
Establish a Youth Parish Council	7	23	160	73	16	26	305	- 0.03
The Parish News (magazine) to contain more information	5	10	201	51	11	27	305	- 0.09

Appendix II – Comments analysis

Comments here have been grouped subjectively to try to show a general trend for each section. The figure shown is the total number of comments.

Services			
More buses	23	Against wheelie bins	3
Misc. comments (see raw data)	18	For wheelie bins	3
Against a toilet	17	Empty bins more often	2
Furniture collection already in place	5	More bins	2
Better paths for disabled	4	More information re: services	2
For a toilet (near the playing field)	4	Buses are not used	1
For recycling	3	Better bins	1

Roads and Paths			
No double yellow lines	9	Enforce no parking on paths/verges	4
Bridge over A1	7	Turning point needed in Church Street	4
Speeding in village a problem	7	Against a longer slip road	3
Footpath all way to Long Bennington	6	No speed bumps	3
Too much noise from A1	5	Bridge over A1 a waste of money	2
More/better footpaths around village	5	Bridge over ford	2
Longer slip road	5	No footpath to LB	1
Resurfacing needed	5	Speeding in village not a problem	1

Environment			
Picnic area will not be used, attracting the wrong sort of people and leaving litter	11	Better litter management with litter picking schemes	3
Already enough recycling	8	Better management of Viking Way	3
Leave verges and hedges uncut for wildlife, only cut in the interests of safety	8	Plant more bulbs along new road and roundabout	2
Manage verges/ encourage wild flowers & plant bulbs	6	There is no problem with litter	2
There needs to be more recycling facilities		Leave Viking Way uncut for wildlife	1
No subsidy of water butts by the tax payer	5	Plant trees and shrubs free of charge	1
Against removal of overhead cables on basis of cost	5	No dog Fouling Notices	1

People can compost their own waste in their gardens	4	Preserve rural setting	1
Picnic area good idea - must be kept in good condition	3	Better management and weed control on paths and roads	1
Renewable energy to be subsidised and encouraged	3	Some seats placing along the Viking way and the river	1
Renewable energy good but not practical due to cost	3	Roads to be swept more often	1

Health and Safety			
Fine people for dog fouling	8	Ban all dogs on playing field	2
Dog fouling red bins needed in Foston	7	Security cameras to cover main areas	2
More street lighting in dark spots, not too bright	6	Trees need trimming where they block street lights	2
Street lighting needed at A1 crossing urgently	5	We don't need health and safety and first aid classes	2
Would like police presence	4	All lights emit light pollution - it's a light	1
NHS should fund first aid classes day and evening	4	Village needs to ban bonfires	1
Dog fouling bad on footpaths and bridle paths	3	First Aid classes unlikely to have much support	1
Neighbourhood watch waste of time and money	3	Leaflets on crime prevention needed	1
Neighbourhood watch still active in Foston	3	First aid classes available Red Cross & St Johns Ambulance	1
Foston should have active Neighbourhood watch	2	Fines for residents putting rubbish out days early	1
More low power solar lighting	2	How would these things be funded	1
Police presence - waste of their time	2	Modify street lights, waste of money	1

Sport and Leisure			
Youth & other clubs – have been successful in the past, now it is difficult to find leaders for child supervision	6	Team games involving the young, these groups are transient and are only interested for 4-5 years	1
0-12 play area needs improving, it is a disgrace, unhygienic & ill-maintained	5	Youth Club good, in school holidays	1
Demolish Village Hall sell land build multipurpose recreation building to replace Gorrie Hall	4	Any facilities would be welcomed – cost and lack of support would render useless	1
Twinning sounds good needs careful consideration of any benefits and costs	4	13+ don't need play area, but somewhere to go instead of Church Porch	1
A skate park would bring jobs to Foston	3	Playing field - better if more central	1
Please could we have cricket nets	3	Football club for girls not just boys	1
In the past exercise classes have not been supported	3	Would appreciate aerobics/yoga classes	1
A tennis court, all weather surface - great for all ages	3	We would support anything for children	1
Village Hall available to hire for clubs and or classes	3	Village Hall too good for rampaging teenagers, why not Gorrie Hall	1
Imperative-playing field improved and retained	3	Netball / basket ball hoop would be good	1
More activities on playing field and shelter	3	Football activities to be Foston oriented	1
Funds needed to maintain play equipment	3	0-3yrs area needed but expensive	1
Village not large enough for netball area,	3	Financial support is available to develop	1

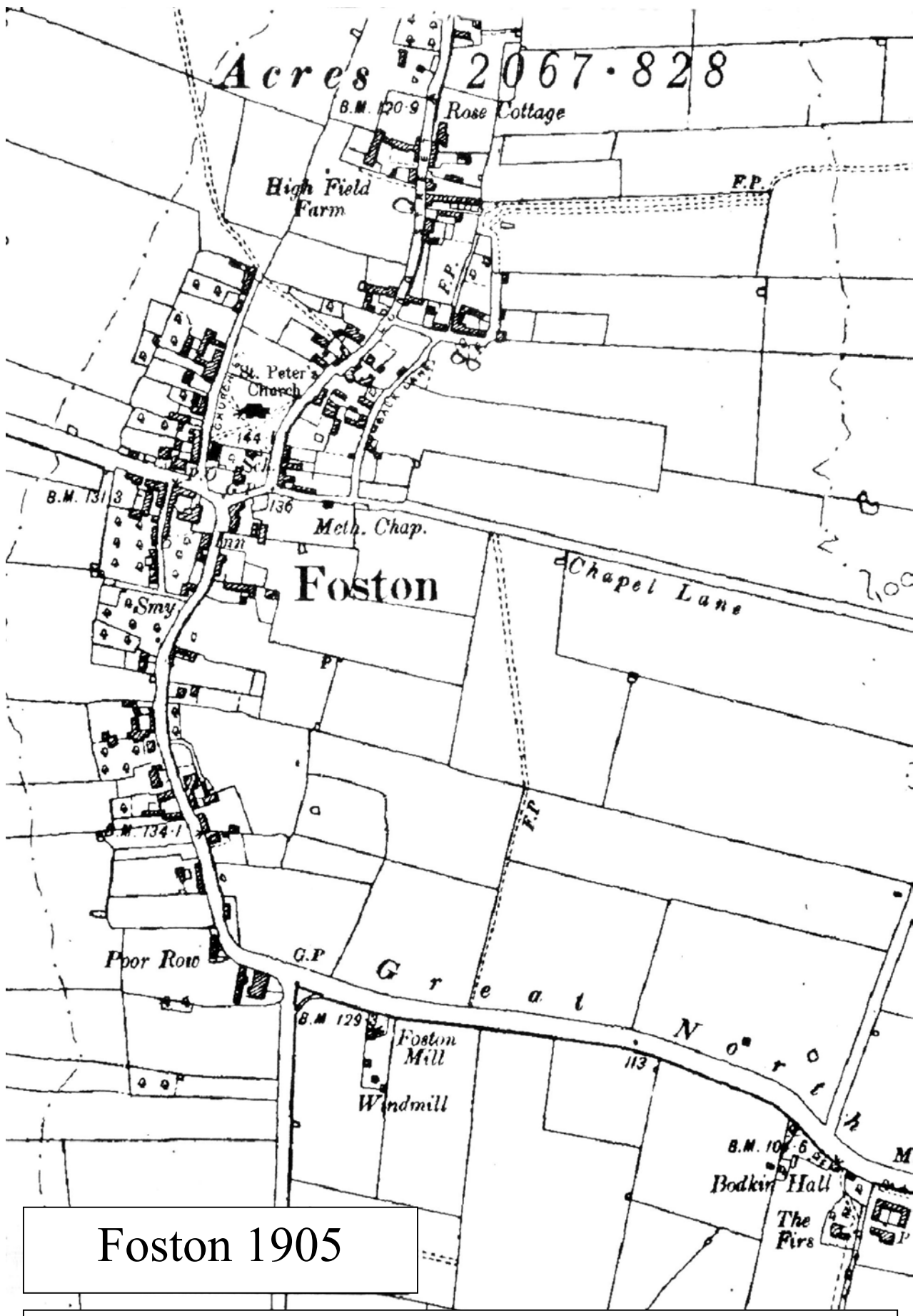
tennis court, football club, cricket club, skate park and youth club		Facilities for 13-19 year olds – LCC Youth Opportunities Fund	
It is important for the young to socialise	3	Local Health? Walks are available	1
Hard surface and wall for ball games and five aside football	2	The Village needs a decent Pub and Restaurant	1
Playing field already got one	2	Return of the Pig Roast	1
At my age I can only be a spectator	2	A 13+ play area would not be used	1
Urgent need for activities for young people or community access, co-ordinated to sport facilities at Long Bennington or community taxi / parent community lifts	2	Field should not be amenity for outside teams, except for specified times. LB is strong on Football & Cricket – Not viable for Foston	1
Twinning is a hassle and expensive	1	A skate park would not be used	1

Amenities		Village needs better bus service	7
Village could do with a pub	16	Modern multi purpose community centre	5
Village needs a Post Office / shop	13	Gorrie Hall & Footballers' portacabin to be restored by owners	3
Post Office / shop would not survive	13	Sell Village Hall to finance the development of Cooper's Arms property & land	3
Pub may not survive due to lack of support	12	Community Centre is not sustainable	1
Village Hall events are not supported	10	The bus shelter would look unsightly	1
Village needs a bus shelter	10	Renovate / modernise Village Hall	1
Village needs footbridge over A1	8	The Village needs a fast food shop	1
Supervision vital if the Church is left open	7	Provide toilet and kitchen for Church	1

Housing			
Unbalanced housing ratio no more 4-5 bed roomed homes	17	Retirement homes needed for villagers to down size	3
Stay the same, do not expand and sprawl to Long Bennington	14	More & better facilities are needed if village is to expand	3
New builds to be in keeping with original village style	9	Improved drainage needed	2
Encourage young with affordable housing	8	No housing associations	2
Not practical for young and old no facilities	4	No starter homes	1

Jobs and Employment			
Concerns over location and type of retail/business unit	11	Child Minding Scheme dependent on numbers and qualifications of minders	4
How can we create more paper rounds	6	Car Sharing scheme	3
Adult education	4	Already support for small businesses	2
Adult education - concerns over funding	4	Open a village shop	2

Communications			
Villagers need more information	15	Reduce Traffic speeding through village	3
Notice board good and should be used more	8	New technologies are not appropriate for use as the only communication tool	3
Parish Magazine provided by Church and Village Link are good communication tools	7	Welcome sign/map would be useful in the Village	2
New technologies for communications including websites and email	7	Magazine should reduce faith aspect and encourage multi-faith articles	2
Welcome sign would be waste of money	6	Youth Parish Council not seen as viable	2
Needs increased community spirit	4	Parish Magazine should be free	2



Foston 1905

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