

RUTLAND LOCAL PLAN UPDATE COMMENT FROM
GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised Rutland Plan, which incorporates St George's.

Like every other town and village in Rutland, Great Casterton will be affected by the St George's development. In addition, the village is adjacent to the similarly large scale North Stamford development. Both of these will have an effect on on local communities in Rutland.

Rutland is a rural county with few major roads, with its small villages/communities connected by narrow roads. With that in mind the Parish Council has two comments on the future road structure and on the public transport strategy.

One particular point affecting Great Casterton is that it is the home of Casterton College, Rutland's highly successful secondary school where 57% of its pupils come from Lincolnshire and elsewhere: the remainder travel from all over Rutland. Two large developments, coupled with the popularity of the school and the village's proximity to the A1 trunk road will inevitably bring a large increase in the number of cars, delivery vehicles and utility traffic, particularly at school time. Recent new housing at Rutland Heights and adjacent to A606 (Empingham Road, Stamford) has already contributed to an increase in traffic of 500 cars a day

through Great Casterton. Anyone from North Stamford who wishes to travel north or west will have to go through Rutland. Similar criteria will apply to the area around St George's.

In addition, a large number of people from all over the County and from the adjoining counties will wish to access the A1 and this will cause further congestion at the already inadequate junctions. In short the infrastructure needs updating.

Whilst it is appreciated that the resolution of this problem will be difficult, it is recommended that the Rutland Plan reflects both these developments and gives some indication of the way ahead.

Secondly there is the issue of public transport, particularly the integrated part of it. People need to get to work, to school and to further education colleges at the right time of day. Additionally there will always be people who either prefer to travel by bus or are elderly and have to rely on a decent service. Whilst the financial pressures on the bus companies are appreciated there are times of the day outside the peak hours when an adequate, reliable and reasonably frequent service is required. The absence of a bus service outside these hours impinges on the quality of life in a rural community. This is another area that needs highlighting in the Plan, not only around Great Casterton but also across the whole County, as the St George's development will again highlight this need.

As has already been said by our Member of Parliament: “we need an effective rural bus service in Rutland which connects people to our thriving towns and villages. Good public transport options provide a vital lifeline to those who are otherwise unable to get around and lead independent lives”.

The Parish Council looks forward to the revised plan.