

REFERENCE NUMBER	ORGANISATION	COMMENTS	OFFICER RESPONSE
ST14 - TOWN CENTRES, LOCAL CENTRES, LOCAL SHOPS AND SERVICES			
1652721	Resident	There is no mention of car parking facilities being increased in Retford. Where are all the probable extra cars going to park? There is already a major parking problem at the weekends, and one new resident of the flats at Beardsalls Way is already complaining of nowhere to park.	No issue in terms of town centre capacity with existing car parks has been raised. However, the Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan has been recently designated to look at the town centre in more detail and the issues it faces.
1656935	Resident	The clustering of non-F2a uses, such as banks, cafes and takeaways, can reduce the attractiveness of a Primary Shopping Area and can create 'dead frontages'. Unfortunately the Harworth and Bircotes town centre is primarily made up of these non-F2a uses, with every other shop a takeaway or hairdressers. More needs to be done to develop footfall in the town and attract more shopping and leisure opportunities as the population of the town continues to grow. Without this we will see any money from the town be spent in shops within Doncaster, or leisure opportunities in Bawtry.	A Masterplan for Harworth Bircotes centre is being prepared. This will look at local issues affecting the area including opportunities for improving public realm, shop frontages and other regeneration.
REF041	Retford Civic Society	It is disappointing to see that the Draft Plan says very little about Retford town centre. The problems, opportunities and potential of this area are barely mentioned. The Council has committed resources to a study of central Worksop, has identified this area as a 'Priority Regeneration Area' and is to prepare a development plan document to guide its future. The Draft Plan proposes that a neighbourhood plan be produced for Retford town centre, led by the Business Forum. Retford Civic Society will do all it can to assist in, and contribute to, this work. The neighbourhood plan process is complicated particularly in a town centre and is very lengthy. The production by the Council of a development plan document, as in Worksop, could well be quicker and more effective	There is a difference between Retford and Worksop Town Centres in the fact that Worksop has a substantial amount of vacant or underused brownfield land. The regeneration of these sites is a Council priority and as it is linked to infrastructure social and physical regeneration, it needs to be comprehensively planned alongside other developments.

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		<p>involving just as much community input. The Society urges the Council to keep the neighbourhood plan preparation under review and to consider an alternative approach if it fails to make rapid progress.</p>	<p>Retford Town Centre has less of a physical or social regeneration need as the issues it faces is similar to other town centres such as a declining retail core. The Retford Neighbourhood Plan could focus on these issues at a more local level without the need for an additional development plan document.</p>
REF047	Resident	<p>The Plan fails to address the problems, opportunities and potential of Retford town centre. This is in contrast to Worksop where the Council is developing a 'town centre masterplan'. The proposal for a Neighbourhood Plan passes responsibility for Retford town centre to others. It is much more difficult in a town centre to produce a Neighbourhood Plan than in a village. The process is likely to take a long time, and in the absence of central involvement by Council planners will probably require the involvement of consultants with little local knowledge or loyalty. The Council could deal with Retford town centre in the same way as it is dealing with Worksop town centre; this could involve at least as extensive community involvement as is likely with a Neighbourhood Plan; a Plan produced this way would carry just as much weight as a Neighbourhood Plan. This option should be pursued if there is any delay with the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>There is a difference between Retford and Worksop Town Centres in the fact that Worksop has a substantial amount of vacant or underused brownfield land. The regeneration of these sites is a Council priority and as it is linked to infrastructure social and physical regeneration, it needs to be comprehensively planned alongside other developments.</p> <p>Retford Town Centre has less of a physical or social regeneration need as the issues it faces is similar to other town centres such as a declining retail core. The Retford Neighbourhood Plan could focus on these issues at a more local level</p>

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REF190	Babworth Parish Council	The Parish's main service centre is Retford which the Parish is reliant upon for the provision of most of its day to day needs. The vision for Retford within the Local Plan is that "Retford will have retained and enhanced its character through a significant public realm intervention strengthening its town centre offer and providing an attractive base for cultural and visitor economy events". Support the delivery of town centre improvements and public realm strengthening. The vitality and vibrancy of the town is reliant on an appropriate level of growth being delivered at the town.	Noted. Thank for your comment.
REF214	Historic England	Proposals for a local centre within the Bassetlaw Garden Village will need to take into account comments made in relation to Policies ST3 and ST4 and the historic environment.	Noted. Thank you for your comment.
1670549	Resident	Town centres in Bassetlaw are dying, not helped by parking charges and never ending roadworks which drive shoppers away. The pandemic has opened the door to online grocery shopping and it is likely going forward visits into the town centre will get less. A wide diversity of shops is what is required to tempt shoppers back and applications for further supermarkets should be refused.	Noted. Thank you for your comment.
1670589	Resident	6.7.10 It is asked that more development in Small Rural Settlements is allowed, reflecting the need to sustain and create local 'corner' and village shops, many of which have ceased trading a number of years ago.	Development in rural areas is dealt with through Policy ST2 Rural Bassetlaw.

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REF054	Councillor, Bassetlaw District Council	Of course the need for a master plan for Retford town post COVID. Interested to know how the year of the pandemic will shift some of the priorities for the plan to enable development of town centres?	<p>The Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan could focus on the town centre post-covid. The Neighbourhood Plan is being developed by a group of businesses and local people. More information can be found at:</p> <p><a href="#">Retford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan   Bassetlaw District Council</a></p>