

# The Tree & Hedgerow Survey Report Launch Event

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Forum held a launch event, hosted by Bosworth Hall Hotel, for the report of a walking survey of the important trees and hedgerows in the Parish carried out by 29 local volunteers between June and October 2017.



**Surveyors at the Report Launch Event in Bosworth Hall Hotel**

As part of the neighbourhood planning process residents were given the opportunity to identify the characteristics of Market Bosworth they valued most. During the public consultation phase one resident identified the opportunity to afford protection for trees outside the Conservation Area.

One aim of the project was to identify the potential impact of any loss of trees and hedgerows on the landscape character of the Parish. The National Planning Policy Framework states: “Design policies should be developed that are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area’s defining characteristics. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes
- recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital – including the economic and other benefits of trees and woodland

Essential Characteristics of Market Bosworth	
Country Park	97.5%
Separation from surrounding villages by fields, countryside	97.3%
Conservation area and its listed buildings	95.6%
Trees (lining roads, gardens, spinneys etc)	94.7%
View on approach into Market Bosworth	93.3%
Canal and railway heritage	92.6%
Overall balance of population and facilities	92.2%
Open/green space inside the town	92.0%
Working farms surrounding town	87.2%
Deep inlets of country reaching close to the centre	85.9%

**Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire Analysis**

The Neighbourhood Forum placed notices in local magazines and delivered presentations at meetings of local societies to recruit and then train a team of volunteers in the adopted survey methodology. For the purpose of the survey, the Parish was divided into 14 rural survey areas, in addition to the Conservation Area and the area within the Settlement Boundary. A detailed literature search and desktop 'satellite map' review was carried out before all the public roads, footpaths, towpaths and bridleways were surveyed.



**Surveyors and Yew Tree – Probably the Oldest Tree in the Parish**

Each team of surveyors was provided with a map, survey report form and where applicable, information specific to the survey area. The surveyors took photographs to complement their survey notes and marked the location of individual trees, hedgerows and woods on their maps without trespassing on private land.

The report records the location of trees and hedgerows valued as important by local residents including, mature (veteran) trees and species rich (ancient) hedgerows. It makes over a dozen recommendations for protecting the local rural landscape and identifies the need for future work. It is intended that the data will be 'digitised' to populate maps used by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to inform planning decisions and scrutinise applications for removal of important hedgerows to ensure protection under the Hedgerow Regulations and relevant planning legislation. The data is presented in a format that can be easily used by planners, developers and land owners to make informed decisions regarding future building development and conservation of the rural landscape. The Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Forum believes that all the important trees identified in this report will be protected by tree preservation orders.



### **The Project Team Cut the ‘Tree & Hedgerow’ Cake**

Mr John Wastenev, Chairman of Market Bosworth Parish Council praised the efforts of the project team and surveyors on this project which, in addition to gathering important reference data, illustrates the ‘volunteering spirit’ of local residents. The Neighbourhood Forum is investigating an opportunity to submit the survey report for the 2019 Royal Town Planning Institute National Awards in the category ‘Planning for the Natural Environment’.

Copies of the full report are available to view in the Market Bosworth Parish Council Office and the Market Bosworth Community Library or download from the Neighbourhood Forum website ([www.bosworthvision.org.uk](http://www.bosworthvision.org.uk)).

