



HBBC Has its biggest ever response to a planning application!

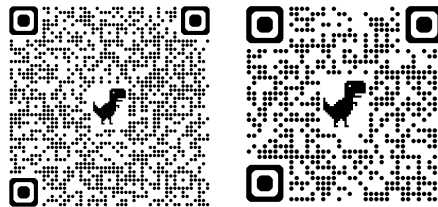


In an interview with Peter Bedford our MP for Mid Leicestershire, Ozzy O'Shea in his capacity as County Councillor was asked about the issues facing the Village of Ratby, and specific reference was made to our efforts in opposing the Lagan Homes Outline Planning Application for 470 houses on the fields either side of Burroughs Road - Ref:24/00914/OUT.

(See links below to watch the video in full.)

<https://www.instagram.com/peterbedfordmp/reel/DHqCCjfMhlt/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PB4ML/videos/i-was-recently-out-and-about-in-groby-ratby-speaking-with-county-councillor-ozzy/634325135879517/>



(scan the QR codes for direct links)

Whilst this is amazing news, we still need many more residents to object. To do this takes ten minutes of your time and could help preserve the village and the open fields above for future generations.

1. Forms can be downloaded from the Rise for Ratby website www.riseforratby.org.uk and are available in both Word and PDF formats.
2. Completed forms can be dropped in to the Parish Office, the Post Office or the library, and we will submit them on your behalf.
3. Residents can also send objections direct by downloading the form or scanning / or taking a photo of the completed form and sending it by email to alex.jelley@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
4. Or you can post your letter direct to Alex Jelley, Planning Policy, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0FR.

If you need help or have any questions, please get in touch via the Rise for Ratby website www.riseforratby.org.uk and please do not forget to register at the foot of the home page, you will receive regular updates and news direct to your email.

The fight continuesUnite as a community and we can do this !

House Sparrow Survey – Your Help Is Needed

House Sparrows in the UK have suffered a significant population decline over the past few decades. Since the 1970s, their numbers have dropped by more than 50%. Causes include habitat loss, pollution, lack of food sources, and disease.

They are now classified as a Red List species on the UK's Birds of Conservation Concern. Parts of Ratby still have good numbers of House Sparrows, particularly around Ferndale Park

and along Markfield Lane, but numbers elsewhere appear to have crashed.

A Leicestershire survey has been launched to find out more about the status of House Sparrows locally. If you see one, then please let us know where and where it was and how many there were (approximately). We especially want to know if they are nesting so the breeding population can be assessed. If you see a House Sparrow entering a hole or cavity between now and July it is likely to be nesting – just add a note about this on your record.

You can easily submit a record of any sighting on the **NatureSpot** website (www.naturespot.org). Just log in (or quickly create an account if you've not done this) then select the Submit Records form from the main menu. Enter the date, location name (e.g. Ratby garden) and click the spot on the map. You can then select House sparrow from the species menu below.

Helping House Sparrows

1. Sparrows like dense hedges and shrubs – leave bushes in your garden to grow thick and bushy. Let parts of your garden grow wild to create a mini habitat – insects are needed to feed their young.
2. Set up a shallow birdbath for drinking and bathing, keeping it clean and unfrozen in winter.
3. Provide food such as sunflower hearts, and mixed birdseed. Mealworms and dried insects provide essential protein, especially in breeding season.
4. Put up a nest box. The RSPB website offers advice on the type of nestbox needed for House Sparrows.



Male – grey 'cap' and speckled black 'bib'.



Female – streaky brown with a thick beak