

Shaping a Spatial Strategy and Housing Figure Workshop Bulletin



Some early feedback & informal updates following our recent series of workshops

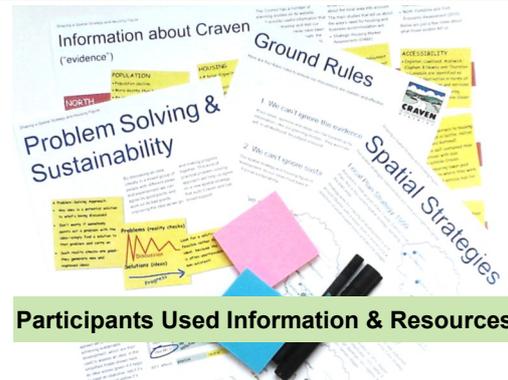
September 2012 saw Craven District Council host four participatory workshops to begin the process of “Shaping a Spatial Strategy and Housing Figure” for a new local plan. This was the first time such events had taken place, reflecting the Council’s determination to make the best of opportunities offered by the Government’s localism agenda.

A total of 23 participants came to three parish workshops held in Ingleton, Settle and Skipton; and 25 came to a single workshop arranged for other stakeholders (not just developers!), also held in Skipton.

In general, workshop groups recognised that it would be difficult to justify a housing target of below 160 new homes per year. Plus, getting the right kind of housing development is important, too—not just the number—and homes need to be more affordable.

A lower housing target would be difficult to justify

Parishes felt a target of 160 per year would be about right, so long as additional “windfall” development isn’t allowed to boost this figure significantly;



Participants Used Information & Resources

The general view on the potential role of Neighbourhood Plans was that they aren’t a viable option and can’t be relied upon to provide the new homes villages may need. Local plan policies

Neighbourhood Plans are too difficult and expensive

should address design, housing mix and green infrastructure, to reflect local characteristics, and windfall development should be closely managed. Policies should also address development in villages, including exception sites.

“Thanks for the very interesting event”

Susan Gregory, Burton-in-Lonsdale

Participants worked in groups to complete three exercises, in which they discussed how many new homes Craven might require in the future, where they might be built and how Neighbourhood Planning might fit in. A total of eight groups completed 24 exercise sheets, which now form a unique and invaluable planning resource.

whereas other stakeholders felt benefits could come with a higher figure.

More settlements should receive allocations

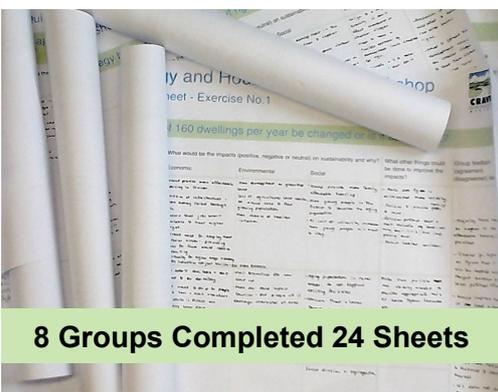
Groups generally agreed with the idea that the needs of three distinctive “sub-areas” (in the northern, middle and southern parts of Craven) should guide the local plan strategy, but that land for new homes should be allocated in more settlements—not just the biggest. A more dispersed distribution was not felt to be necessarily less sustainable and nobody argued for a more concentrated distribution.

Dear Participant,

Thank you for contributing so much time, effort and enthusiasm to our recent series of workshops. Your fantastic output will be an invaluable resource for us to draw on and brings us one step closer to creating a new local plan that’s right for Craven. It was great to meet you all and to work with you in such a positive and co-operative way.

Yours sincerely,

The Planning Policy Team



8 Groups Completed 24 Sheets

Next: We’ll report in detail to our Spatial Planning Sub-Committee on Mon. 8/10/12