



Planning Focus

Issue 5 - July 2010

- Changes to the Planning System
- Planning Gain Guide — Forthcoming Consultation
- Update on the progress of Evidence Based Studies
- Work experience students help out in Planning Policy

Planning Focus provides information on Craven District Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) - the new 'plan' for the area of Craven outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park - and other planning policy issues.

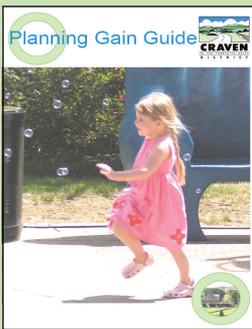
CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM FOLLOWING THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

The new Coalition Government has announced the following changes to the Planning system in an attempt to make the system more localised. The aim is to incentivise local people to make decisions about their communities rather than having targets imposed on them by higher levels of government:

- **Revocation of RSS:** The Government has revoked the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and it no longer forms part of the development plan. The development plan now consists of saved Local Plan policies and any adopted LDF documents; national planning policy continues to be a consideration, too. The RSS previously set out district level house building targets and these will now be set by Local Authorities in close consultation with communities. The abolition of the RSS will require legislation in the Decentralisation and Localism Bill which will be introduced to parliament later this year. The aim of the Bill will be to devolve powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities greater control over housing and planning decisions.
- **Changes to PPS 3:** The government has altered the definition of previously developed land (also known as brownfield land) in national Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3: Housing, and excluded private residential gardens from the definition. This is intended to help curb a recent trend of 'garden grabbing', which has seen many gardens, in some parts of the country, concreted over in an effort to meet targets for housing developments on brownfield land. The government has also removed the national indicative minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare, which puts greater emphasis on deciding appropriate housing densities locally.

PLANNING GAIN GUIDE

The team is currently working on an easy-to-understand guide to planning gain, which it hopes will be useful to a broad range of people covering local residents, parish councils, third sector organisations, councillors, developers and council staff.



The format is likely to be a folder containing pamphlets on different planning gain subjects. This should enable us to break up an otherwise large and time-

consuming project into smaller parts that build into a complete guide; and should enable readers to digest the material in smaller chunks and perhaps focus on areas that they're most interested in.

It's likely that a consultation draft will be issued soon to those who have the greatest interest and contribution to make. The draft will include a folder, providing a general introduction, and the first pamphlet, dealing with sport and recreation facilities. Work on a second pamphlet is already well advanced and it too might be included in the consultation draft - it deals with affordable housing and is based on our existing Affordable Housing Guide published in 2008.

HOUSING POSITION STATEMENT

Every 2 months the Council issues information on housing supply and the number of dwellings completed in its Housing Position Statement (HPS). Information in the latest HPS suggests that the economic downturn is still having an impact on house building with only 3 completions recorded since April. Unlike previous issues of the HPS, the statement for July does not contain an indicative five-year land supply following the revocation of the RSS (see above). To see the latest Housing Position Statement please [click here](#).

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF IN POLICY

The Planning Policy Team will soon welcome two new members of staff. Stephen Brown joins the team on 26th July and will be filling the role of Principal Planning Policy Officer for a fixed term of 3 years. Catherine Honeywell will be joining the team on 16th August and will be working in the role of Planning Policy Officer for a temporary period of 15 months. Both will be valuable assets to the policy team in helping to progress the LDF.

UPDATE: STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Craven has commissioned, in partnership with Harrogate and Richmondshire Councils, an update of its Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The update will ensure that the Council's Flood Risk Assessment is in line with the most up to date national planning policy statements and Environment Agency advice.

The updated Flood Risk Assessment is nearing completion and will be available to view by the end of August. Copies of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be posted on the LDF pages of the Council's website at that time. Upon completion the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be used to inform the Council's planning policy and will help to identify where development is unacceptable due to flood risk



Canal, Skipton

UPDATE: HOUSING VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

Adams Integra Consultants were commissioned by the Council to carry out a Housing Viability Assessment in April 2010. The Housing Viability Assessment will provide key evidence to inform preparation of the affordable housing policies in the Council's Local Development Framework.



Affordable housing provided at Lord's Close, Giggleswick

Work on the Viability Assessment is well underway and a draft report is expected at the end of August.

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS TRY TO ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE LDF PROCESS

Local Y10 students Luke Sumnall and Josh McCartan, from Ermysted's Grammar School, joined the planning policy and development control teams in early July for a two-week work experience placement. Whilst in the policy office the students were asked to consider the issue of engaging young people in the Local Development Framework process. The following is an extract from the brief prepared by Luke Sumnall in response to this issue:

"It is important to get young people involved with the consultation process for the LDF because it needs input and ideas from the local community about how they want Craven developed and it is the young people of Craven that will benefit most from these developments in the future. I thought that the current consultation methods were not working at getting young people's input because they had to find out how to get involved and they had to attend a workshop. However I thought this is ineffective with young people because they wouldn't be bothered enough to attend a workshop in their own free time when they could be doing something more enjoyable. Instead I thought young people may get involved if they were taught about the LDF at school in an assembly, then they could be invited to attend a workshop, at school during school time, where they could give input into the LDF and discuss how they would like Craven to be developed in the future."

Luke and Josh also provided suggestions for the website with regards to engaging young people in the planning process which included:

- Would it be worth setting up a Facebook group? Facebook is the most widely used social networking site in the world, with 400,000,000+ users, a considerably larger amount than the amount of people who visit the Council's website. Consequently, this would be an easier way to tell people about Craven and what the Council is doing. The site could update people with the latest news, activities and points of interest within the Craven district.
- Perhaps advertise things for the younger generation? Projects, clubs, activities etc. BUT DO NOT BE PATRONISING OR TRY TO BE COOL. THERE'S NOTHING THAT WE HATE MORE!

The students' ideas provided the policy team with a useful insight into young people's views about the Council, and about how to reach out to this age group during the preparation of the Local Development Framework.

Planning Focus does not cover the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The National Park Authority (0300 4560030) deals with planning in that area.

DISTRIBUTION OF PLANNING FOCUS

Copies of this newsletter are available at Council Offices as well as at local libraries. Planning Focus is distributed by email to all contacts on its planning database with email addresses, however due to postage costs, we are unable to send out paper copies. If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter directly, please send your email address to ldf@cravendc.gov.uk.

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