



Planning Focus

Issue 6 - November 2010

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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.

INTERIM HOUSING TARGET

The Council is required to maintain a five-year supply of land for housing development, and the Council's ability to demonstrate a five-year supply can affect the outcome of planning applications. Our five-year supply was previously based on a housing target of 250 dwellings per year from the Regional Spatial Strategy. However, as reported in the July edition of Planning Focus, the Coalition Government has revoked the Regional Spatial Strategy - and with it the housing target - as part of its drive to make planning more localised.

The Council will now need to produce its own housing target based on relevant, reliable evidence and extensive community participation. This will take time, so the Council is proposing an interim target, which can be used to calculate a five-year supply and be taken into account when planning applications are decided.

In September and October the Council's Spatial Planning Sub-Committee and Policy Committee considered a number of options for establishing an interim housing target, settling on a minimum of **184 dwellings per year**, which represents a continuation of past trends in housing completions since 1991. The final decision will be made by full Council on 7th December 2010 and, if adopted, the proposed interim target will translate into a five-year housing supply of 920 dwellings.

UPDATE: Planning Gain Guide

Consultation on a draft Planning Gain Guide went ahead as planned (see July edition) during August and September. The draft was sent primarily by e-mail to contacts in the LDF database, members of the Craven Housing and Employment Market Partnership, locally active housing associations, local sports and community groups, councillors and parish councils.



Nineteen people responded from a variety of public, private and third sector organisations. Each person influenced the final document by highlighting good points, suggesting changes or instigating additional work or action and we would like to express our appreciation for all the contributions.

Please visit our dedicated [Planning Gain Guide](#) webpage to access the final document and lots of further details.



"Green infrastructure" is a term applied to multi-functional green spaces within and between our towns and villages. The idea being that they should be treated as essential infrastructure along with the usual "grey infrastructure" of roads, utilities, telecommunications and so on. Recently there have been a couple of notable events relating to green infrastructure in Craven.

Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy

For some time, Craven has been collaborating with the other North and West Yorkshire authorities in the Leeds City Region to guide the production of a green infrastructure strategy by consultants LDA Design. Several proposed projects and programmes within the strategy will involve Craven, including the Fresh Aire Project (a city-region scale "park" providing economic and

environmental benefits along the River Aire) and the Rivers For Life investment programme (looking to fund economic and environmental enhancement of the city-region's rivers, including the Aire). The strategy has been published recently and can be accessed via the [Leeds City Region](#) website. [Click here](#) to see the executive summary.

White Rose Forest

White Rose Forest is a group of public and third sector organisations working together to implement green infrastructure projects. It originated in West Yorkshire, but organisations in other parts of the Leeds City Region, including Craven District Council, have been invited to join. After participating informally for several months, Craven accepted the invitation and joined the group in October. [Click here](#) to see the award-winning White Rose Forest website.



Parishes and Planning

It seems that top-down spatial planning is on its way out and due for replacement by a more bottom-up, community-based approach. Community planning is not a new idea, but the Coalition Government's apparent promotion of it as the new national planning culture is. Not everyone may agree, but there's a feeling that this new system could suit Craven rather well.

As things start to crystallise, first with the imminent Decentralisation and Localism Bill and then further with the heralded National Planning Framework, we'll begin to

know what the future of spatial planning in Craven might look like. For now, we're approaching parish councils in the hope that we can create individual working relationships, which enable us to communicate with each other in the best way possible. Ideally, we'd like each parish to nominate someone to act as our local point of contact - someone we can approach informally in person, on the telephone and by e-mail to exchange information and ideas about planning in their community. This role of "parish liaison" could be taken

on by the clerk, chair or a member of the parish council, for example. Whilst we don't expect that person to act as a representative or delegate for the parish council, we do need somebody on the ground to talk to, because good relationships will be the foundation of better, community-based planning.

We'll be writing to parishes and following-up with a telephone call to discuss the possibilities for future spatial planning in Craven. There's likely to be more in future editions of Planning Focus, too, so watch this space.

Team News... Laura Kennedy has been awarded a Masters degree in Town & Regional Planning after 2 year's part-time study at Leeds Metropolitan University. Laura received extra merit, too - so well done you!



STREET-LIGHTS IN SKIPTON

Skipton's out-dated and unattractive street-lights, including those with concrete columns, are being replaced by the local highway authority, North Yorkshire County Council. The new lamps are more efficient and provide better illumination with white light, whilst the new metal columns are neat and simple in their design, blending in well with the surroundings. Within Skipton Conservation Area the new columns are being painted black, instead of the usual grey. This follows discussions with the planning department, Skipton Town Council and property owners on Otley Street, who came forward with their views when they heard about the replacement programme. It's hoped that the new street-lights will be seen as a welcome enhancement of the conservation area and a good example of how to

accommodate a modern necessity into a historic setting.

Local student Polly Johnson (17) is interested in studying town planning at university. She came for a week's work experience at the planning department and, amongst other things, evaluated the replacement of street-lights along Otley Street.

"I think this project has been a great success. I live in this area, and walked past the old, unattractive street-lights everyday, accepting the fact they didn't fit in with the overall look of the street. The new ones are very subtle and much more attractive than the previous ones, simply because of their simple design. I think the regeneration of all street-lights in Skipton would be a great idea, providing a safer and more attractive place to live and work in. Not only has Otley Street had these new street-lights put in place, but the paint work on Craven

Court's entrance has also improved the look of the street. One thing I think could be done to improve Otley Street further, would be an increased number of litter bins, there are currently very few on a street with many shops. Overall, a great scheme that has worked really well on Otley Street, and one I think would be equally beneficial elsewhere in Skipton".



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

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