



Planning Focus

Issue 8 - July 2011

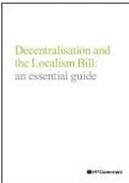
- Localism Update
- Parish Profiling
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- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
- Engaging with Young People

Planning Focus provides information on Craven District Council's local development plan - the new 'plan' for the area of Craven outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park - and other planning policy issues.

UPDATE - PLANNING AND THE LOCALISM BILL

The Government first published the Decentralisation and Localism Bill in December 2010, with a purpose to devolve power away from central Government and give local communities and individuals more power and responsibility to shape the places where they live. The Localism Bill received its second reading in the House of Lords on the 7th June and it is expected that the Bill will receive Royal Assent and become law by the end of 2011.

In preparation for the Bill becoming law, the Planning Policy team have approached Parish Councils across the District to discuss Localism in more detail. In these meetings the issue of Neighbourhood Planning has been raised to see if the Parish Councils are interested in producing their own plan to set out how they would like their local area to develop. The detail in relation to how Neighbourhood Plans are to be funded and resourced is not yet entirely clear, but the Government is committed to the concept of Neighbourhood Planning and further details are anticipated as the Localism Bill progresses through parliament.



The meetings have also helped to inform us of any local issues which are important in each Parish, which will allow us to produce a local development plan which addresses these issues and is distinct to Craven.

PARISH PROFILING

The Planning Policy team has created Parish Profiling leaflets for all the Parishes in Craven (outside the National Park) with 1000 or more inhabitants. The leaflets provide a snapshot of each Parish, providing details of their social, economic, environmental and transportation characteristics.

We have contacted all of the Parish Councils for which we have produced a leaflet to ask if we could attend one of their Parish Council meetings to present the profiles and to ask for feedback and further input.

The dates of the meetings which have been setup so far, which are open for the public to attend, are:

- Cononley - 19th July
- Sutton in Craven - 27th July
- Ingleton - 1st August
- Gargrave - 5th September
- Bentham - 3rd October

The dates of any further meetings which are setup will be published on the [Planning Policy](#) pages of the Council's website.

The aim of the meetings is to prompt discussion on the issues which are important in each Parish and aid in the preparation of a local development plan that addresses the distinct needs of towns and villages in Craven.



CRAVEN'S ECONOMY

Planning officers are approaching land agents and rural interest groups for the purpose of informing policies in a new local development plan relating to the economy and land use in the countryside.

It is anticipated that a focus group style meeting will be held in order to obtain the expert views of the attendees. To obtain a wide ranging opinion and to gain an understanding of the varying issues throughout Craven, agents have been invited from across the District. Local businesses are also being contacted to obtain their views on the economy in Craven. We want to know if they are happy with the existing business units which are present in Craven and whether they have any additional business needs to maintain the successful running of their firms.

UPDATE - STRATEGIC HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT

The North Yorkshire and York Strategic Housing Market Assessment is nearing completion. The assessment has been commissioned by the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Partnership, which is a partnership of all the local authorities in North Yorkshire. It will set out the current and future housing need, in terms of both affordable and market housing, in Craven.

The assessment has been informed by questionnaires completed by households in the District, along with population projections and other core data.

A presentation of the findings of the Assessment will be

given to Council members on the 18th July by GVA, who have produced the report. The members will have an opportunity to provide comment on the document, following which any final changes will be made in advance of the document being presented to the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board in September to be formally signed off.

The findings of the survey will help to inform the Council's housing policy in order to meet the needs of the community. For further information, please see the [Housing pages](#) of the Council's website.



STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

Work is currently being undertaken by the Planning Policy team to produce an updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The document will provide an update to the previous study which was published in draft in 2008.

The assessment will include a list of sites and associated maps detailing land which is potentially available for housing use across the District. This is the starting point for identifying preferred sites for development, which can then be allocated in a local development plan to provide a 5-year supply of housing land, as required by national planning policy.

Our next step in producing the report will be to contact the landowners and agents acting on behalf of landowners for each site to obtain information on whether the sites are available for development, and if so in what timescale.

This will help us to assess the deliverability of the sites.



ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Members of the Planning Policy team will be attending the July meeting of the Craven Youth Council.

The Youth Council is made up of young people, aged 12-19, and their aim is to represent the views and opinions of young people from across Craven. Their objective is to influence the way things work for the better.

As part of our first meeting with the Youth Council, the Planning Policy team want to discuss the role of the local development plan in guiding development in Craven in the future. We want to obtain the views of the youth council on how we can get more young people involved in the preparation of a new local development plan for Craven. It is hoped that by discussing the benefits of getting involved in the planning process and the influence that people can have in changing the places where they live through the planning system, more young people will be encouraged to become involved in planning.

Council planning policy officers are expecting to be able to liaise and consult with the Youth Council on a regular basis during the academic year 2011-2012.



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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