



# Planning Focus

Issue 10 - March 2012

- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment workshop
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment—finalisation
- Planning Gain Guide for Allotments—finalisation
- Parish Profiling
- Information gathering on planning permissions for housing
- Localism Act
- Release of National Planning Policy Framework

**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.**

## **STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP—31st January 2012**

The Planning Policy team is currently preparing a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The SHLAA is being prepared in order to ensure that sufficient housing sites are available to meet the needs of the communities within Craven District (outside the YDNP) and that a continuous supply of land is maintained. Whilst the SHLAA will not allocate land for housing it will provide the main mechanism for identifying potential housing sites and assessing their deliverability. The SHLAA also aims to provide a realistic total capacity of potential sites for housing.



In order to plug some gaps in information in the draft SHLAA a workshop was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 with land and property agents, housing developers, housing associations and other Local Authority officers. These groups provided a valuable source of locally based information on potential constraints on sites, realistic housing capacities for sites, and ownership information where necessary. Many thanks to all those who participated in the workshop.

## **FINALISATION OF THE STRATEGIC HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT (SHMA)**

All local authorities are required by statute to carry out regular assessments of housing need within their areas. Surveys are carried out to provide more detail about people's housing needs and aspirations and help shape the development of new homes - in particular low-cost affordable housing - in years to come. Responses to such surveys help influence housing and planning policies, and also ensure that investment in affordable housing matches local needs as closely as possible.



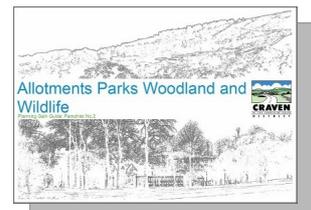
The North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was approved by the Local Government North Yorkshire & York Housing Board at its meeting on the 12th December 2011. The survey looked at all aspects of housing - including affordable housing, housing for older people and supported housing for vulnerable people as well as houses for sale on the open market. For further information and to read the study, please visit the [North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment](#) webpage.

## **UPDATE: PLANNING GAIN GUIDE PAMPHLET**

Following consultation at the end of last year (see November 2011 issue of Planning Focus) we've added a new pamphlet to our Planning Gain Guide.

The finalised version of Pamphlet No.3: Allotments Parks Woodland and Wildlife is now in use and available from the [Planning Gain Guide](#) page of the Council's website.

Thank you to everyone who participated in producing this pamphlet, which should help any local community looking to improve its environment, landscape and recreational facilities.



The Council has a new website. Take a look at the Planning Policy Pages and keep up-to-date with our latest news:

[www.cravencd.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.cravencd.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

[www.cravencd.gov.uk/latestplanningpolicynews](http://www.cravencd.gov.uk/latestplanningpolicynews)

## PARISH PROFILING

The preparation of Parish Profiles for those settlements within the plan area with a population of over 1000 has been progressing. The majority of the parishes profiled have provided comments to the District Council on the draft Parish Profiles. A number of helpful comments and information has come out of the process. For example Bradley Parish Council has established a Parish Profile Working Group; Glusburn Parish Council has an aspiration to designate the main historic parts of the settlement as a "Conservation Area", which has been included within the Parish Profile; and suggestions have been made as to how the statistical information included within the profiles might be improved. Final drafts of each Parish Profile are currently being prepared and will be agreed with each Parish and Town

Council. The Parish Profiles will be a useful tool in informing the new Local Development Plan and would form an important part of any future Neighbourhood Plans, prepared by Town and Parish Councils.

In January this year an event on Neighbourhood Planning was held in Gargrave by a planning consultant with experience in community planning, where Town and Parish Councils within Craven were invited to learn more about the process of preparing Neighbourhood Plans.



Any queries relating to any of the Parish Profiles, please contact the relevant Parish or Town Council.

## LOCALISM ACT

The Localism Bill received royal assent in November on 15 November 2011. The Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law). The Act will devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities more control over housing and planning decisions.

Part 6 of the Act relates to planning and regeneration and includes provisions to:

- abolish Regional Spatial Strategies
- return to a position where the Secretary of State takes the final decision on major infrastructure proposals of national importance
- amend the Community Infrastructure Levy, which allows councils to charge developers to pay for infrastructure. Some of the money raised will be available for the local community
- provide for neighbourhood plans (prepared by the community), which would be approved if they received 50% of the votes cast in a referendum
- provide for neighbourhood development orders to allow communities to approve development without requiring normal planning consent.

## INFORMATION GATHERING ON PLANNING PERMISSIONS FOR HOUSING

The Council is required by central Government to identify a 'five-year housing supply'. This means we must be able to show that there is enough development land available to meet the Districts housing needs for the next five years.

To help with this work, the Council has recently written to people who have received planning permission to build houses to ask for information on progress with the building work, and to see when the work may be completed. If the houses are likely to be built within the next five years, they will contribute to the Council's five-year housing supply. This work will also give an idea of how much the current economic climate is affecting building work in Craven.

If you have received a 'Sites with Consent' questionnaire and have not yet returned it, you can do so by using the freepost envelope provided. Alternatively, questionnaires can be completed online via the [Council's website](#)



## RELEASE OF NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

The NPPF was published on the 27th March 2012 and replaces the existing Planning Policy Statements and Guidance. The NPPF can be viewed via the [Department of Communities and Local Government](#)

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

## CONTACT THE PLANNING POLICY TEAM

T: 01756 706472 F: 01756 700658  
E: [ldf@cravencd.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@cravencd.gov.uk) [www.cravencd.gov.uk](http://www.cravencd.gov.uk)

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