

NPG Report for APM 2015

The Group has continued to meet regularly throughout the year and has presented monthly reports to the Parish Council, a report to the Annual Parish Meeting in April and occasional updates to Bramham Parish News.

Work on the formal preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has had to be put on hold, pending Leeds City Council's progress on its Local Plan for the city and, in particular, the proposed development Site Allocations, which have significant implications for Bramham. However the anticipated content of our Neighbourhood Plan, linked to its published Vision and informed by public comments at previous consultation events has been kept under review, so that formal progress can be resumed as soon as circumstances allow.

The major issue arising from the City Council's development site allocations is the expected inclusion of a large new settlement of up to 5000 houses, based on land owned by the University of Leeds at Headley Lane. The Group's opposition to this proposal has been well documented throughout the year and has been fully endorsed by the Parish Council. Opposition to the new settlement has been backed by all local residents who responded to the leaflet consultation of every household during April this year, in which the reasons for our objection were stated. On the assumption that the Headley proposal will be included in the City Council's forthcoming next stage of formal consultation, it is intended to maintain our objection and pursue it via the eventual Examination in Public, to be conducted by a Planning Inspector. Our objection will refer to the significant loss of green belt and high quality, productive agricultural land, the absence of suitable infrastructure and the lack of relevance for identified local housing needs. These are matters of interest beyond Bramham itself and we are developing links with other interested parties who share our concerns about the Headley proposal.

During the year, the Group made comments to the Parish Council concerning the possible 5MW solar development on part of Paradise Farm, which was the subject of local consultation by the scheme's promoters. Whilst we support renewable energy as a matter of general principle, there are concerns about this particular scheme, based on its likely visual impact and the direct loss of productive agricultural land, as well as for the longer term implications for the farm as a whole.

John Lynch