

BRAMHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Hello, I'm Paul Marshall and I've been Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group since the beginning of this year.

The Group has continued to meet on a regular 3 to 4-weekly basis since last year's report to this meeting. We present monthly reports to the Parish Council, a report to the Annual Parish Meeting in April and also occasional updates to Bramham Parish News.

Just to remind you, a Neighbourhood Plan is a new way for local people to influence the planning and development of the area in which they live. It lasts for 15 years and should: develop a shared vision for the Parish; choose where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built; influence how much housing should be built, and of what type; identify and protect important local green spaces or other treasured assets. Once approved, our plan will have legal force in setting out what development is acceptable in the Parish and for what reasons. Developers and Planners will have to take notice of it. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, we will have little control over any development that takes place and will receive less community funds from those developments.

This Group was appointed by the Parish Council in 2012 to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan on their behalf and to their approval.

You may recall that work started on the Neighbourhood Plan in 2012, but shortly after had to be put on hold for almost 2 years while the Group concentrated on putting together plans to fight off proposals for a very large housing development on the Headley site. As we now know however, Leeds University, which owns the land has withdrawn the site from any development proposals, so we now feel free to resume work on the Plan.

A Community Conference was held in May 2012 to inform residents and gather initial opinions on views for the village future. From the information gathered at that time, the intention was to prepare a questionnaire for issue to all residents in order to inform the content of the Plan itself. This information has now been reviewed and updated and, as things stand, the draft questionnaire is all but complete. But I'm sure it will come as no surprise to you to know that the Neighbourhood Plan must comply with various legal requirements, including strategic local policy and national planning policy. It must contribute towards sustainable development aims and also be compatible with European Union Obligations, including European Human Rights requirements.

So we are trying to ensure that we get it right first time, which requires research through the vast amount of information and assistance available and also, potentially, the appointment of professional consultants to assist with reviewing the data collected by the questionnaire and also with drafting the resulting Plan.

Financial assistance towards this is available from various sources, so we are preparing to apply for this while also consulting with Rural Action Yorkshire for their guidance and assistance.

Everyone on the electoral roll in the village has the right to contribute towards Bramham's Neighbourhood Plan, so we need to gather everyone's views. This will be an ideal opportunity for you, your family and everyone who lives in the Parish to influence the outcome whilst also responding to some key issues raised within Leeds City Council's Core Strategy.

As things stand, the Group comprises 2 Parish Councillors and 5 residents, but if anyone who has interest in the village feels they have skills which may be able to help us at all, we would be only too happy to welcome them aboard.

We currently anticipate that we should be in a position to issue the questionnaires to every household by the beginning of September.

Thank you and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Paul Marshall