

Report to Bramham Parish Council May 2015

Neighbourhood Plan Group update.

1 The report to the Annual Parish Meeting outlined the work of the Group to date and summarised the particular background to the possible proposal for a new settlement at Headley Fields. The reasons for opposing this development, as set out in the recent local consultation exercise, were explained.

2 A substantial number of responses to this consultation, which concluded at the end of April, has been received. The responses are summarised as follows:-

a) No expression of support for the new Headley Fields settlement has been received and all the respondents have agreed with the Parish Council's opposition to the scheme.

b) In general, the responses have fully endorsed the NP Group's rationale for opposing the settlement, as set out in the consultation leaflet. In addition, a number of responses have reinforced the arguments against the development by emphasising a number of the points, such as:-

- The fact that the scheme contradicts Leeds' Core Strategy provisions concerning settlement hierarchy.
- The quality and extent of the agricultural land which would be lost
- The impact on particular species of wildlife
- The concern that a developer / market led scheme would fail to provide for identified local housing needs.
- The serious lack of adequate local infrastructure for development on this scale and concern that any claims that the development would be sustainable are unrealistic.
- Concern that this scale of development would divert resources from surrounding existing communities, such that they would be less able to meet their own future local needs.

c) Also, some responses criticised the promotion of the Headley Fields settlement, by the local MP and Councillors, in order to appease residents in other villages.

3 The Group is continuing to meet, to further develop the case against Headley, in the light of the strength of the local opposition and will be considering early liaison with other relevant organisations (eg CPRE), as well as further publicity. Leeds City Council's progress relating to proposed development allocations will continue to be monitored.

John Lynch, on behalf of Neighbourhood Plan Group.

12-05-2015