

Report to Bramham Parish Council October 2015

Neighbourhood Plan Group update and requested actions

This note follows the latest Group meeting on 1st October 2015

Neighbourhood Plan preparation

Alongside the continuing focus on the City Council's Site Allocations, the Group has been reviewing the general progress on Plan preparation, with a view to forming a programme for the further stages. The offer from City Council officers for updated advice has been accepted and an invitation extended to (an) officer(s) to the next meeting on 29th October.

Almshouse Hill derelict site:-

The City Council response to the recent Parish Council enquiry is considered to be totally unsatisfactory and the Council is therefore requested to continue to pursue this matter, noting that in earlier exchanges of correspondence in 2012, the City Council was more informative and helpful in setting out possible courses of action which might be taken.

Request from Clifford Neighbourhood Plan Group re Mill area:

This request concerns land adjacent to Windmill Road, comprising the former mill pond site at the edge of Clifford, which is one of a number of sites being proposed via the Clifford Neighbourhood Plan as protected green space. Since part of the land is within the Bramham Parish, this has been referred for our comments. The Parish Council is recommended to express its support for Clifford's proposal.

Solar Farm application on Paradise Farm

The latest position is that the City Council considers that the level and quality of information accompanying the submitted application is inadequate and has asked for additional material to be provided. It is intended that a further process of third party consultation will be undertaken, in which interested parties will have the opportunity to make further comment. In passing, it is noted that a Wetherby Ward Councillor has declared his opposition to a similar proposal concerning land near Harewood.

LCC Site Allocations

These were published on September 22nd and can be seen on the City Council website. An exhibition of proposals is scheduled to take place on October 19th in Wetherby. Formal responses are required by November 15th and the Group intends to make recommendations accordingly to the November Parish Council meeting.

Headley Fields

It is confirmed that the proposed settlement at Headley is included in the Site Allocations proposals, referred to above. Although the recent announcement from the University that it no longer wishes to pursue this development is welcomed, the Group considers that this should be treated with caution, recognising the possibility that political influences may seek the reversal of this decision. It is therefore important to maintain the objection to the Headley settlement and respond accordingly to the City Council's consultation. The Group intends to issue further publicity on this matter and seek to maximise local support for its position. In the meantime, it has agreed to write to the Vice-Chancellor of the University to express support for the University's current stance, noting in particular that the University's statement has emphasised the importance of the agricultural quality of the area.

Conservation Area concerns

The Group has noted with concern that the City Council's recent planning permissions have not placed enough emphasis on preserving or enhancing the quality of the Bramham Conservation Area. The poor quality of detailing and use of materials, including upvc windows in the Bowcliffe Road housing scheme, currently under construction, is noted as an example. The Group invites the Parish Council to endorse its view on this matter and express concern to the City Council, with the request that the design quality of future applications should be given more careful scrutiny.

John Lynch

for Neighbourhood Plan Group

October 5th 2015