**Neighbourhood Plans**

Neighbourhood Plans are a relatively recent introduction in the planning process, designed to give communities a greater say in how their area should change and develop. Plans must be prepared in full consultation with local residents, and must take account of the community’s views and aspirations. Neighbourhood Plans are usually put to a local **Referendum**, and if supported by a majority, become part of the statutory planning framework. Neighbourhood Plans must comply with the Local Authority’s approved Local Plan, in our case Bradford Council’s Local Plan Core Strategy, which is expected to be formally adopted sometime next year.

**Bradford Local Plan**

Bradford’s Core Strategy for the District covers a wide range of policies and proposals for new housing development, economic growth, protection of the environment and so on. The document sets out the strategic planning framework for the District’s development between 2013 – 2030.

On new housing, Bradford’s plan requires provision for 42,100 new houses across the District by 2030. Most housing is to be located in Bradford City and the larger towns, but a significant amount in other areas including Wharfedale.

**The allocation for Addingham is 200 new dwellings over the period to 2030. Bradford’s plan also states that whilst the release of green-belt will be necessary in some parts of Wharfedale to meet the housing requirement, no release of green-belt is required in Addingham to meet the allocated dwelling requirement.**

 **Bradford Local Plan Core Strategy Publication Draft 2014 and Planning Inspector’s report 2016**

Bradford’s Core Strategy was recently examined at a public inquiry by an independent Planning Inspector. **The Inspector’s report confirms the allocation of 200 dwellings for Addingham** and agrees with Bradford Council stating that “**sufficient potential land can be identified to meet the proposed apportionment without using Green Belt or sites in flood risk areas”.**

Since 2013, around 50 dwellings have been built or are under construction in the village, leaving a remaining requirement for 150 dwellings over the Plan period to 2030. **The Bradford Plan states that Addingham is one of the least sustainable settlements in the District, and that “a much slower pace and scale of growth compared to urban areas forms the overall approach for Addingham…….”**

The recent event held by a major housebuilder showed one approach to meeting the village housing requirement. However there are alternatives to having one very large housing estate, such as a number of smaller sites in different locations, including brownfield (previously developed) land. There are arguments in favour of both approaches, and it is important to get residents’ views. There will be further consultation on this issue as the Neighbourhood Plan progresses. Of course, new housing development is not the only important issue to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. For example:-

* **How important are greenspaces and the landscape setting of the village**
* **Are highways, footpath and parking improvements required**
* **How can Main Street be revitalised, and businesses supported**
* **Conservation and Heritage – protection of village character**
* **Are any new facilities required – sports, recreation, community facilities**
* **Capacity of infrastructure – schools, drainage**
* **How can the village become more sustainable**

Work on these and other issues which residents feel are important will be progressed over the coming months, in full consultation with the village. See next page for more information on keeping up-to-date with the process and getting involved.