Addingham Neighbourhood Plan

Advice on Progress

The Parish Council has been passed copies of correspondence between MP John Grogan and senior planning officers at Bradford Council which comments on the delays associated with trying to progress a neighbourhood plan which seeks to allocate housing sites.

The MP was told:

“The matter of the content of the [Addingham] Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will have implications for the level of evidence and also timescales. If the NP progresses without allocations this can proceed more quickly than one which chooses to pick up allocations.  Notwithstanding the need for robust assessment of candidate sites and reasons for chosen sites it would be good practice for a NP to consult on any change to approach with their community before it is submitted to [Bradford] Council. In this respect timescales for a NP with allocations would need to address both evidence and further local consultation both of which have timetabling implications and also may raise issues which in their own right take longer to resolve depending on any consultation response from both community and landowners/developers and other stakeholders.”

Clearly, if the Parish Council had chosen to take forward a Plan with site allocations, there would have been a significant delay to allow time for the assessment of sites and the additional consultation process, as well as the processing of any consultation issues.

At its meeting held on 17 October, when the Parish Council heard this advice, members were pleased to note this affirmation of the decision made in the summer to proceed without housing site allocations, in order to have a set of approved Plan policies in place as soon as possible.

As it is, the Parish Council has been able to complete the next version of the Plan and submit it to the planning authority so that the next formal stage in the process can be initiated by Bradford.

Bradford Council will shortly be consulting on the draft for a 6-week period. Details will be published on our website and copies of the Plan will be available electronically and in paper form.