

# Discussion Paper No 1

## **What is a Neighbourhood Plan**

A Neighbourhood Plan ( NP) is a legal document which is prepared by a Parish Council and which, when formally adopted becomes part of the statutory development plan. A NP contains policies which are taken into account when the Local Planning Authority, ( Leeds City Council) are making decisions on planning applications or on amending their own Development Plan documents.

A copy of our existing NP has been circulated . Sections 2,3 and 4 explain what the Plan is for and how it works. Section 5 sets out the key themes and policies. Sections 6 and 7 provide for a review and implementation. There are a number of supporting documents listed in the Appendix.

## **Why is a Review being carried out now?**

You will find attached a note supplied to us by Leeds City Council which sets out some of the factors to take into account when deciding whether or not to review the NP. You will see in the Plan that a Review is not due to start until 2022. However there has been a material change in circumstances as the boundaries of the Parish Council have been changed to include additional land to the west of Scholes which will include the bulk of the land earmarked by Leeds City Council as the northern quadrant. This is part of the East Leeds Extension and lies between the new East Leeds Orbital Road ( ELOR) and the eastern urban fringe of Leeds north of the A64. The implications of this will be discussed in my discussion paper 3.

## **What is the Steering Group For?**

The Steering Group is composed of volunteers and members of the Parish Council Planning Committee. Its task is to look at the Neighbourhood Plan and to examine the policies to see if they need amending to take account of changed circumstances and to advise whether new policies need to be introduced to address changed circumstances. The Steering Group can also advise whether it feels any sites should be allocated for development and if so what type and how it should be controlled.

## **Do I have to be an expert in Planning to participate?**

We are not looking for expert opinion. Your opinion is just as important as the person next to you and will be given as much attention. Care does need to be taken when wording policies as they may be looked at in great detail at a public inquiry for instance. The Parish Council will be applying for funding to appoint a consultant in due course to advise the steering group on the matters it needs to look at and any amendment to policies. So your opinion as to what is best for the Parish is important and if it finds general support will be incorporated into the Plan.

## **What can I do to help?**

I will be asking you for details of your skills, but only so I can find out if you have a special skill which can be utilised to help the group. If you have no such skills, ( like me!!) then your opinion is still important and you are encouraged to participate.

If you have any questions or just want a chat, please do not hesitate to give me a ring.

Phil Maude

Chair – Barwick and Scholes Parish Council

6 January 2021

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