

INTENTIONS DOCUMENT (Neighbourhood Plan)

The Process so Far

Our Neighbourhood Plan is looking to build on the work undertaken in 2012/13 where early efforts towards creating and agreeing a Walton village plan, for many understandable reasons, did not achieve the final stages and fell short of delivering a full and agreed plan. This current refocus has been active since the beginning of this year and we are determined to pull together your plan in a way that helps towards a more self-determined future and a better assured set of steps towards an even more thriving village. Thank you for your help!

So far, the Neighbourhood Planning Team has invited and hosted 3 village consultation events in the Village Hall. In each case there have been associated questionnaires and you will have had some opportunity to attend or to write your views. The discussions and the feedback have been really helpful and it has allowed us to pull together a summary of what we believe you have told us. It is your plan.

So, with this note, we want to test that thinking. It is a relative short *summary* of what we intend to pull together into a more fully formed and more detailed and evidenced Neighbourhood Plan. This summary document will also be forwarded to Leeds City Council and other important external interested parties, to allow them to comment before we conclude our work on the plan. We will also discuss it with our near Neighbour Parishes. We believe that a strong and positive relationship with our neighbours can only be helpful and beneficial. So, we welcome your views on the attached questionnaire, which can be posted through the letter box at Holly Cottage, Main Street, Walton or scanned direct and sent by e mail to: richard.prudhoe@gmail.com

The Vision for Walton's journey to 2031:

Throughout the consultation meetings there were a number of important conversations about the vision for the future of the village. This statement reflects the views put forward at those meetings and it has been formulated to ensure the best representation of those who offered a view.

To further develop Walton's unique identity, its beauty and its charm whilst enhancing its community spirit through existing and new facilities. In keeping with the modern world Walton will look to develop improved housing, a broad population mix and transformed transport and communications arrangements.

You also expressed some clear objectives for the village going forward:

- That future development will ensure village sustainability and a thriving community.
- That Walton's historical prominence and distinctive character will be fully recognised and enhanced.
- That there will be good access to health services, community facilities and retail and employment locations.
- That there will be a welcoming community which promotes the interest of all ages, abilities and diversity groups and which ensures a healthy and safe community.
- That businesses and local employment is welcomed.

Policy Intentions

A. Heritage & Green Spaces

Consultation Feedback

Walton is proud of its long and distinguished history which can be traced back to Anglo Saxon times. The village is characterised by its style of development and some particularly key aspects of its heritage - which should be preserved. Not least the array of *croft and toft* sites and its *ridge and furrow* fields. New developments should be appropriately designed with sympathetic materials and should seek to enhance the distinctiveness of the village. The views and aspects of the hilltop St Peter's church are key features, and the future of Walton must continue to respect, preserve and display these truly historical landmarks. In developing its historical prominence, Walton will welcome visitors and it will ensure that they have ready and easy access to a flavour and understanding of the historical legacy of this fine village.

Our objective:

Walton village is a conservation area which already offers a level of protection to key buildings and features of the village. A key objective is to recognise, respect and enhance the historical prominence & distinctive character of the village.

Policy A1.

To designate key approaches to the village as areas for protection (local green space) in order to protect the views of the church and maintain the village identity.

Policy A2.

To support future development, particularly where it enhances the provision of additional green spaces for the use of the community, such as a village green and further pathways.

B. Community Facilities

Consultation Feedback

Throughout the village consultations and questionnaires there has been a very clear theme of the need to progress and develop the existing village facilities. There is a strong desire for a more community centric use of the village hall; for lunch clubs and coffee mornings; for a play area, attractive to young families; for a more enterprising approach to recreational paths and cycle tracks; for greater creativity towards the addition of public benches and opportunities for shared community activities. Some of the contributions spoke of a stronger 'heart' to the village and the final plan would wish to explore progress and develop these proposals.

Our objective:

The community greatly values its church, the village hall, the cricket club and the village pub. A key objective is to improve and further develop these and other facilities to include additional leisure and recreational activities for all ages.

Policy B1.

Development which seeks to protect and enhance the following facilities will be supported

St Peter's Church

The Village Hall

The Fox and Hounds Public House

Walton Cricket Club

The Post Box

Policy B2.

Opportunities to improve/provide community facilities such as play areas, public footpaths, cycle tracks or village greens will be supported.

C. Transport

Consultation Feedback

There were well voiced concerns around transport issues for the village and many positive, thoughtful, and helpful contributions were made during the consultation discussions. Public transport access to neighbouring towns was poor, and in some cases absent. There were particular concerns about the village increasingly being used as a short cut between York Road and the trading estate. The morning and evening traffic, particularly, represented an unacceptable level of risk to the Walton community, often exacerbated with heavy goods vehicles.

Our objective:

The public consultation identified trading estate traffic using the village as a short cut, speeding cars, parking, and public transport as areas of concern. A key objective is to recognise and evidence the concerns – and as reasonable, mitigate the activities and the risk of harm that arises from them whilst also seeking improvements in public transport arrangements.

Policy C1.

New housing developments within the village should look to the provision of adequate off street parking.

Policy C2

Any future development, within the Parish should seek to include suitable measures to mitigate potential increased traffic volume through the centre of the village and on routes directly adjacent to the village, supporting the development of off road paths and cycle links.

Policy C3

To work with neighbouring communities and appropriate organisations, to improve the provision of public transport, in particular to York which currently has no service from the village.

D. Housing

Consultation Feedback

Particular and focussed discussions and consultation provided a clear direction for the future housing ambitions of the village. There was a strong consensus on the need for further housing – to build a stronger and more sustainable village for the future and there were very clear preferences for the siting of such developments. So, a clear interest and support for the addition of up to 20 home dwellings; an imperative on the requirements for sympathetic designs and materials and, thereafter, a range of preferences for family dwellings (new families); down size and retirement opportunities.

Our objective:

The public consultation indicated support for up to an additional 20 houses within the community. A key objective is to support such development and ensure, where possible, that future build is in keeping with the style of the village and the needs of the community.

Policy D1.

To allocate three sites for future housing development:

- 1. Opposite the Cricket Ground*
- 2. The Coal Yard*
- 3. Hall Park Road*

Policy D2.

To inform any future housing development in regard to the appropriate type of housing and the suitable types of design.

E. Business/Employment

Consultation Feedback

Walton has a number of home based businesses which have little or no adverse impact on the village environment. Such activity is clearly welcome. Outside of the village, but within the Parish there is a much wider range of business, industry and other commercial activities. Again, such is to be welcomed as it provides employment opportunities and scope for local diversification.

There are many concerns about the impacts of such close proximity to such a busy trading estate – not least concerns about traffic and the risks associated with speeding cars and heavy goods vehicles.

The consultations made clear that this was one of the most serious concerns. Any future major development must be carefully considered before it can unequivocally secure the support of Walton. Any subsequent payments arising from such developments (CIL or section 106) must be carefully identified and, where possible, be directed specifically towards facilities for the village.

Our objective:

Walton Parish already includes a large industrial area. A key objective is to ensure that there is a balanced approach to considering residential concerns when considering business / employment development.

Policy E1.

Future business proposals will be supported by the village as long as they are compatible with other stated Neighbourhood Plan policies.

Policy E2.

Proposals that enable home working, such as high speed broadband and improved mobile service, will be supported, provided that wherever possible, the location and design of any above ground network installations reflect the character of the area.