

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 31st August 2021

Title of report: Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan Independent Examiner's Report and next steps

Purpose of report: To seek Cabinet approval to progress the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to a local referendum. Subject to more than 50% of votes in the referendum supporting the Holme Valley NDP, the officer recommendation is for the Cabinet to recommend to Full Council that they 'make' the Holme Valley NDP at which point it forms part of the development plan for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes. If yes give the reason why Affects Holme Valley North and South Wards
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	David Shepherd (Strategic Director - Growth and Regeneration) 14 th August 2021 Eamonn Croston (Service Director – Finance) 17 th August 2021 Julie Muscroft (Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning) 17 th August 2021
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr McBride 16 th August 2021

Electoral wards affected: Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South

Ward councillors consulted:

The following ward councillors have been consulted/briefed on this item:

- Portfolio Holder briefing: Cllr McBride, Cllr Mather, Cllr Simpson (26th July 2021)
- Leader of the Council: (16th August 2021)
- Holme Valley North and South Ward Members, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee, Chair of Huddersfield Planning Sub Committee (29th July 2021).

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, no personal information is recorded in the report.

Summary

The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan has now been through an independent examination process. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval that the recommendations outlined in the independent Examiner's Report on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) are acceptable and that subject to the Examiner's recommended modifications that the Plan proceeds to a referendum in the area affected. Further to this approval, that the Cabinet approves the referendum ballot question, decision statement and statutory specified documents for the referendum.

Subject to a successful local referendum supporting the Holme Valley NDP (which is classed by the relevant planning legislation as more than 50% of the votes choosing to accept the Plan), the officer recommendation is for the Cabinet to recommend to Full Council that they 'make' the Holme Valley NDP at which point it forms part of the development plan alongside the Kirklees Local Plan. If the referendum does not support the Holme Valley NDP, the plan will not form part of the development plan therefore no further decision would be required.

1. Information required to take a decision

Background

Holme Valley Parish Council has prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the whole of the Holme Valley parish which includes part of the Peak District National Park (PDNP).

On 18th November 2020, Cabinet gave delegated authority to the Head of Planning and Development to carry out publicity (consultation) for an 8-week period commencing 8th December 2020 on the submitted Holme Valley NDP, to appoint an independent examiner and to progress the examination through the submission of the council's representations on the NDP and representations received through publicity (consultation). A summary of the representations submitted to the independent Examiner is attached at **Appendix 1**.

An independent Examiner was appointed with agreement of Holme Valley Parish Council and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) through the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service. The NDP and accompanying documents and representations were submitted on 1st March 2021.

The independent Examiner's clarifying questions and information requests were made to Holme Valley Parish Council, Kirklees Council and PDNPA on 18th March 2021.

Further to the Examiner's clarifying questions, the Examiner invited Holme Valley Parish Council, Kirklees Council and PDNPA to do further work on Policy 1 (Protecting and enhancing the landscape character), Policy 2 (Protecting and enhancing the built character) and the policy justification at 4.1.17 of the Holme Valley NDP. The Examiner also requested further responses and joint working on Policy 3 (Conserving and enhancing local heritage). All parties agreed the outcomes of the requested work which has been incorporated into the Examiner's modifications.

The Examiner's report was received on 15th June 2021. A copy is attached at **Appendix 2**.

The purpose of the Independent Examiner's report is to make recommendations based on an assessment of whether the plan meets "Basic Conditions" as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) and section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA) and whether the Plan should be submitted to a referendum, with or without modifications, and on the area for the referendum.

The Basic Conditions are that: having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan; the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development; the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority; the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

The Examiner's Report sets out 22 main recommendations which are further subdivided to address issues in relation to the theme/policy being examined.

The most significant of the recommendations is Recommendation 22 which states:

I recommend to Kirklees Council that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan, modified as specified, should proceed to a referendum based on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area as approved by Kirklees Council on 27 January 2015 and the Peak District National Park Authority on 13 February 2015.

It is a requirement of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) (Regulation 17A) for the council to prepare a decision statement which considers each of the recommendations set out in the Examiner's report and decide what action to take in response to each one. A decision statement is set out at **Appendix 3** and contains a schedule of all the Examiner's recommendations and the council's responses for consideration.

In summary, the focus of the Examiner's recommendations is to:

- a) Provide modified policy wording/policy justification so that they are "clearly written and unambiguous so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals" in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.
- b) Improve the clarity of the Plan by making the policies clear, concise, and precise.
- c) Ensure consistency with Kirklees Local Plan policies.
- d) Address areas where the Holme Valley NDP repeated policy advice already contained in the Kirklees Local Plan or the Peak District National Park Authority Plan and/or where it was inconsistent.
- e) Recommendations 5 to 8 in relation to Policy 1, Policy 2 and Policy 3 based on jointly produced policy wording and policy justification between officers and Holme Valley Parish Council Steering Group addresses the extensive representations made by the council on these policies.
- f) Deletion of Policy 14 reflects the position that the council is not proceeding with Community Infrastructure Levy at the current time.

Officers support the Examiner's view that with the recommendations outlined in the Examiner's report that the plan does meet Basic Conditions and recommend that all

the Examiner's modifications are approved to enable the Plan to proceed to referendum.

If members are minded to approve the Examiner's recommendations, a copy of the amended Plan to form the Referendum version is attached at **Appendix 4.**

Referendum

Subject to Cabinet approval for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan to progress to referendum, it is proposed that the referendum would take place on 4th November 2021.

The referendum will be managed by Kirklees Council electoral services. The proper officer of the Council must ensure that an information statement and specified documents are published on the website at least 28 days before the referendum (not including Weekends, Bank holidays, and any day appointed as public thanksgiving or mourning in England). They must be made available during the referendum period for inspection at the Council's principal offices and at least one premise in the referendum area in council control which is considered appropriate to achieve geographical distribution. Copies would be made available in Holmfirth Library, Honley Library, Huddersfield Library and the council's offices Civic Centre, Huddersfield subject to council COVID-19 measures for the opening of public buildings.

The specific documents are:

- a) summary of representations submitted to the examiner (Appendix 1);
- b) examiners report (Appendix 2);
- c) the draft neighbourhood plan (Appendix 4);
- d) a statement that the council is satisfied that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with 38A and 38B of the 2004 Act (contained in Appendix 3);
- e) a statement that sets out general information as to town and county planning (including neighbourhood planning) and the referendum, which is prepared having regard to any guidance issued by the secretary of state.

Three referendum ballot questions are set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 of which only 1 should be used. The first directly applies to neighbourhood plans and Cabinet are asked to approve the use of question 1 for inclusion on the ballot paper.

1. Do you want Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority to use the neighbourhood plan for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?
2. Do you want the type of development in the neighbourhood development order for [*insert name of neighbourhood area*] to have planning permission?
3. Do you want the development in the community right to build order for [*insert name of neighbourhood area*] to have planning permission?

The decision to progress to referendum is a joint one with Peak District National Park Authority who are seeking approval via its Committee system. Both decisions will be made available to view on the council's Neighbourhood Planning website and as part of the referendum materials.

Options

The decision to prepare a NDP is for a relevant qualifying body (defined in statutory regulations as a Parish or Town Council or a designated Neighbourhood Forum). The council has a duty to support the process. The council and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) have supported Holme Valley Parish Council and its steering group through the process and all parties jointly appointed an independent Examiner to consider representations made on the Holme Valley NDP (Submission Plan). It is considered that based on the independent Examiner's assessment of the representations made on the Submission Plan and the subsequent recommendations that Cabinet approve the Examiner's recommendations and that the Holme Valley NDP should proceed to referendum. The alternative option is not to proceed to referendum contrary to the recommendations of the Examiner with the risk that this decision would be subject to challenge.

The report outlines a recommendation that following a successful referendum the Cabinet recommend that Full Council 'make' the Holme Valley NDP at which point it forms part of the development plan for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan. This is in accordance with content of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (Section 38a), if more than 50% of those voting are in favour of 'making' the NDP.

Expected Outcomes

Following a successful referendum, the NDP would form part of the development plan for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan and would carry full weight in planning decisions.

2. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

The Holme Valley NDP is a plan produced by Holme Valley Parish Council and its steering group informed through consultation with the local community. Holme Valley Parish Council undertook early engagement on the NDP to inform the vision, objectives and the content of the NDP and has consulted the local community throughout the process through informal and formal consultation. Details of the engagement is set out in the Holme Valley NDP Consultation Statement which is available to view via the Holme Valley Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning website at: [Neighbourhood Plan - Holme Valley Parish Council](#) The council has undertaken all statutory consultation/publicity requirements in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

- **Working with Partners**

The Holme Valley NDP will provide a policy framework alongside the Kirklees Local Plan to enable housebuilders, developers, agents and external partners to further understand the policy requirements for delivering planning proposals in the Holme Valley area. It provides a framework for the council to work with Holme Valley Parish Council.

- **Place Based Working**

The Holme Valley NDP places a strong focus on the protection and enhancement of the built and landscape character and a policy framework based on eight landscape character areas which reflect the key characteristics of each of these areas.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The independent Examiner considered that climate change was woven throughout the Holme Valley NDP. Additionally, the plan contains a policy on air quality. The Holme Valley NDP was considered by the independent Examiner to accord with the strategic policies as set out in the Kirklees Local Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework – Core Strategy 2011 and the Development Management Policies – Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park 2019 which also contain policies which contribute to improving climate change and air quality. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been produced.

- **Improving outcomes for children**

The Holme Valley NDP contains a suite of policies aimed at protecting and enhancing the area for the benefit of all the community including children.

- **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Financial – The cost of the referendum will be £35,000 based on the electorate and the size of the Plan area. This cost will be met from the following sources: £20,000 from central government, £3,000 from Peak District National Planning Authority and £12,000 from an existing council Neighbourhood Planning Budget.

Costs incurred will be for venues for polling stations, staff, printing and postage of ballot and referendum information.

Human resources – Existing staff resources will progress the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan through the referendum and statutory stages.

Communications – Details of what a neighbourhood development is and details on the Holme Valley NDP can be viewed on the council's website. 22,674 polling cards will be sent out by the Electoral Services Team. The council's communications team will support Electoral Services in the delivery and timing of key messages on the details of the Holme Valley NDP referendum.

Do you need an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

An Integrated Impact Assessment (Stage 1) has been undertaken in relation to the Holme Valley NDP. This revealed that a Stage 2 assessment was required on the basis that the Holme Valley NDP would introduce new policy. The Integrated Impact Assessments can be viewed at: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/integrated-impact-assessments.aspx>

3. Consultees and their opinions

- **Internal (officers)** - Consultation has taken place internally with council officers who input into council's comments to Holme Valley Parish Council and the independent Examiner on the plan content and to share the plans objectives with services responsible for project delivery in the area.
- **Internal (members)** - the following briefings have occurred:
 - 21st September 2020 – Portfolio holder Briefing (Cllr McBride and Cllr Mather) briefed on the Submission Plan, publicity, and next steps for independent Examination.

- 2nd November 2020 – Holme Valley North and South Ward Members, Cllr McBride and Cllr Mather briefed on the Submission Plan, publicity, and the next steps for independent Examination.
- 26th July 2021 – Portfolio holder Briefing (Cllr McBride, Cllr Mather, Cllr Will Simpson) briefed on the independent Examination, Examiner’s Report and the next steps to proceed to referendum
- 29th July 2021 - Holme Valley North and South Ward Members, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee, Chair of Huddersfield Planning Sub Committee
- briefed on the independent Examination, Examiner’s Report and the next steps to proceed to referendum
- 31st August 2021 - Leader of the Council
- **Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA)** – as part of the Holme Valley NDP lies within the Peak Park, PDNPA has been involved in all stages of the plan preparation.
- **Holme Valley Parish Council** has confirmed that it supports the Examiner’s recommendations.

4. **Next steps and timelines**

Following Cabinet approval of the next steps for the Holme Valley NDP to proceed to referendum, and approval by PDNPA, Kirklees Council and PDNPA publish its decision statement (Regulation 18), the Examiner’s report, and details of where and when they may be inspected, on the website and ‘in such another manner to bring to the attention of people who live, work, carry on business in the area’. Those who have requested to be notified contained on the Local Plan database will also be informed (Regulation 18). Holme Valley Parish Council will update its website.

Electoral Services to commence the statutory process to hold the referendum including required periods of notice, sending out polling information, setting up polling stations to hold a referendum on 4th November 2021.

Following the outcome of a successful referendum, a decision should be made by Kirklees Council and the PDNPA within 8 weeks from the date of the referendum to ‘make’ the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be a decision for Full Council to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 38a). The council’s website will be updated, notifications to interested parties and for the Holme Valley NDP to become part of the development plan to be used in planning decision making.

If the referendum does not support the Holme Valley NDP, the plan will not form part of the development plan therefore no further decision would be required.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 1) Approve the independent Examiner's recommendations (Appendix 2, 3) to amend the Holme Valley NDP as set out at Appendix 4 and for the plan to proceed to referendum in accordance with the requirements set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012.

Reason: The Holme Valley NDP has been examined by an independent Examiner who has concluded that subject to the proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum based on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area as approved by Kirklees Council on 27 January 2015 and the Peak District National Park Authority on 13 February 2015 (**Appendix 5**).

- 2) Approve the following ballot question to be asked at the local referendum: *Do you want Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority to use the neighbourhood plan for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?*

Reason: The wording of ballot questions is specified in the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012. The question above is the relevant question in relation to a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 3) Approve the Decision Statement on the Examiner's recommendations and its publication as set out at Appendix 3.

Reason: To accord with the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Regulation 17A.

- 4) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Growth & Regeneration to make any further minor modifications to the Holme Valley NDP that relate exclusively to factual updates, grammatical and formatting corrections for the purposes of finalising the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Reason: To ensure that the Plan is up-to-date, and to address any grammatical/formatting issues.

- 5) Subject to a referendum result which supports the Holme Valley NDP (more than 50% of votes are in favour of the plan), Cabinet to recommend that Full Council 'make' the Holme Valley NDP at which point it forms part of the development plan for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan.

Reason: To accord with the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 38a).

6. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Cllr McBride was briefed on 26th July 2021.

7. Contact officer

Jo Scrutton
Planning Policy Team Leader
Johanna.scrutton@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221000

8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

- Holme Valley Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan website contains all the documents relating to the production of the referendum plan: [Neighbourhood Plan - Holme Valley Parish Council](#)
- Cabinet Report 18th November 2020 Holme Valley NDP submission by Holme Valley Parish Council to Kirklees Council for publicity and independent Examination:
[Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday 18th November 2020, 3.00 pm | Kirklees Council](#)
[Decision - Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan | Kirklees Council](#)

Appendices to the report

- Summary of representations made on the Holme Valley NDP (Submission Plan) – Appendix 1
- Independent Examiner's Report June 2021 – Appendix 2
- Kirklees Council Decision Statement on the Holme Valley NDP and Examiner's Report – Appendix 3
- Proposed Holme Valley NDP (Referendum Plan) - Appendix 4
- Map of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood area – Appendix 5

9. Service Director responsible

Edward Highfield, Service Director Skills & Regeneration
Edward.highfield@kirklees.gov.uk
01484 221000

Appendix 1 Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) (Submission Plan) Summary of representations

Kirklees Council is required under Regulation 4 (3)(b) of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 to provide a summary of any representations submitted to the independent examiner pursuant to paragraph 9 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act.

Kirklees Council undertook publicity on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (Submission Plan) between 8 December 2020 and 2 February 2021. This is required by Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

75 representations were received in response to the publicity and are summarised below:

Electronic copies of the full representations on the Plan are available to view at: [Kirklees Council - Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan \(objective.co.uk\)](http://Kirklees Council - Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (objective.co.uk))

All representations were submitted by the council to the independent examiner for consideration as part of the examination of the Holme Valley NDP.

Respondent	Summary of representation
The Coal Authority	There are recorded risks from past coal mining activity at shallow depth in the Neighbourhood area including; mine entries, shallow mine workings and past reported surface hazards. The Neighbourhood Plan does not appear to allocate sites for future development, no specific comments to make.
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)	General The DIO consider the NDP is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Kirklees Local Plan and NPPF. Policy 9 Protecting and Enhancing Local Community Facilities Part 3 should be deleted to ensure that any re-use of community buildings can be appropriately assessed and to ensure that the policy would not be a constraint to bringing forward suitable development.
Forestry Commission England (Y and NE Forestry Commission)	The Forestry Commission is not able to input into the consultation process for Local Plans. The representation does, however, provide a list of information sources to assist in assessing the appropriateness of sites for future development, and to highlight opportunities for achieving renewable energy obligations.
Natural England	Natural England does not have any specific comments on the Regulation 16 Neighbourhood Plan.
National Grid	An assessment has been carried out with respect to National Grid's electricity and gas

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>transmission assets which include high voltage electricity assets and high-pressure gas pipelines. No record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area have been identified.</p>
<p>Peak District National Park Authority</p>	<p>General PDNPA concurs with the comments made by KMBC regarding the use of HVNP as a development management tool.</p> <p>Many of the policies do not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park (PDNP). However, the exclusion is phrased with reference to the planning authority, not the physical reality of the national park. In order to ensure that the PDNP remains protected from possibly harmful development in the (however unlikely) event of planning powers being transferred to constituent authorities; this should be amended.</p> <p>Policy 1 Protecting and enhancing the landscape character of Holme Valley The policy 'applies to that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local Planning Authority.' However, Holme Valley Parish Council, via the Neighbourhood Plan, has a duty under section 62 of the Environment Act to have regard to the purposes of a national park in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a national park. One of the 'valued characteristics' listed on paragraph 9.15 of the PDNPA's Core Strategy (CS) is 'the flow of landscape character across and beyond the national park boundary, providing a continuity of landscape and valued setting for the national park.' For this reason, simply 'excluding' the national park part of the neighbourhood area from the operation of the policy may not be sufficient. The neighbourhood policy is a confusing mix of spatial strategy & design code, does not have sufficient clarity to meet the NPPF test (para 16d) and therefore risks undermining strategic policy.</p> <p>Policy 2 Protecting and enhancing the built character of the Holme Valley and promoting high quality design Neighbourhood policy 'avoid any adverse impacts' is weaker than CS L3 'development will not be permitted where it is likely to cause harm to the significance of any cultural heritage asset.' Neighbourhood policy could undermine strategic policy therefore is not in general conformity. Does not satisfy NPPF para 16 d due to lack of clarity.</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>Policy 3 Conserving and enhancing local heritage assets PDNPA concurs with the comments offered by KMBC but additionally would require that any non-designated heritage assets within the national park part of the neighbourhood area be considered under Development Management Policy DMC5.</p> <p>Policy 4 Design codes for high quality shopfronts and advertisements PDNPA has a 'Detailed Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document for shop fronts'. It also has detailed Development Management Policies with regard to shop fronts (DMS4) and outdoor advertising (DMS5). The direct conflicts between neighbourhood and strategic policy (regarding roller shutters and illuminations, which were allowed by the (reg 14) neighbourhood plan but not by strategic policy) were addressed in accordance with comments submitted by PDNPA at regulation 14. However, the policy as submitted does not meet the NPPF requirement for clarity and it is not evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals when confronted with neighbourhood policies, development management policies and supplementary planning documents that are all contain very detailed policies that may or may not be (but on the face it not) working together as a coherent package.</p> <p>Policy 5 Promoting high quality public realm and improvements to gateways and highways The neighbourhood policy does not satisfy the NPPF requirement for clarity. It confuses transport, public realm and provision of open space, and contains non-planning matters. The policy duplicates many of the requirements of the PDNPA's Transport Design Guide Supplementary Document.</p> <p>Policy 6 Building homes for the future The issues of non-conformity with strategic policy have been addressed in accordance with comments submitted by PDNPA at regulation 14. Policy as submitted now does not apply to the national park part of the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>Policy 7 Supporting economic activity It is noted that the issues of non-conformity of neighbourhood policy with PDNPA's strategic planning policies has been addressed by stating "Policy 7 only applies to that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority."</p> <p>The policy does not meet the NPPF requirement for clarity. It covers business expansion, farm</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>diversification, home working, tourist and visitor facilities and tourist and visitor accommodation.</p> <p>If this policy were to be re-written into separate policies for each type of development, then the following strategic planning policies would apply: CS L1. Most of the neighbourhood within the PDNP is 'natural zone' and protected from development other than in exceptional circumstances. CS E2 (and DMP DME 2,5 and 7) which deal with business development in the countryside CS RT3 which sets out the principles for camping and caravan sites</p> <p>Policy 9 Protecting and enhancing local community facilities Replicates strategic policy except the definition of a community facility is different so this would be confusing for the decision-maker.</p> <p>Policy 11 Improving transport, accessibility and local infrastructure The policy does not meet the NPPF requirement for clarity. It is a confusing mixture of design guide, parking standards and traffic management, and in most cases replicates – and therefore risks undermining – strategic policy.</p> <p>Policy 12 Promoting sustainability The policy is constructed in a confusing way. The first part is a requirement for a sustainability statement for major development, but the associated list does not contain elements of sustainability that could be assessed but fragments of policy.</p>
Planning North Sport England	<p>The representation sets out a series of issues that neighbourhood plans can consider and sources of guidance and advice. No specific issues were raised in relation to the Holme Valley neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The issues covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with national planning policy for sport as set out in the NPPF with reference to paragraphs 96 and 97. • Sport England's statutory consultee role in protecting playing fields and the presumption against the loss of playing field land. • Assessments of need and strategies for indoor and outdoor sport facilities. • Design guidance for new or improved sports facilities. • Implications of new housing development on the demand for sport and links to healthy

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>lifestyles and creating healthy communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Design principles
Theatres Trust (Mr Tom Clarke)	<p>The Trust is supportive of HVNDP Policy 9 which provides protection for the area's valued facilities, although for clarity we suggest the list of facilities is amended to include theatres and performance venues. The Trust would recommend inclusion of 'cultural/performance' facilities within the defined list for the avoidance of doubt and to add greater clarity, enhancing the protection of the area's valued facilities including the Southgate Theatre and Picturedrome. This will ensure better consistency with paragraph 92 of the NPPF. We would consider this to be justifiable given theatres and music venues help provide access to culture and the arts for local people and provide opportunities for participation and engagement. This is particularly true of the Southgate as the home of the Honley Players group.</p>
Trans Pennine Trail	No comment.
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Miss Laura Hobbs)	<p>Encouraged to see the theme of climate emergency and targets to reduce emissions running through the document. However, some aspects could be strengthened.</p> <p>4.9 Sustainability and Biodiversity, greater emphasis could be had for local biodiversity assets, outside of key Biodiversity Opportunity Zones. Holme Valley contains 2 internationally designated sites, a nationally designated site and a number of locally designated sites. Their value and need for protection should not be underestimated.</p> <p>Local wildlife sites (LWS) play a critical conservation role by providing wildlife refuges, acting as stepping stones, corridors and buffer zones to link and protect nationally and internationally designated sites. With no statutory status, the only form of protection is good planning policy and decisions. Together with SSSI, LWS support locally and nationally threatened species and habitats. They are essential building blocks of ecological networks. Absolutely paramount that core sites for biodiversity are protected from developmental loss and damage if to avoid a net loss in biodiversity. Strengthening of such sites and their buffering habitat within policy 13 is encouraged.</p> <p>Encourage the consideration of measurable biodiversity net gains for developments to include 10% aspiration net gain as expected in the emerging Environment Bill.</p> <p>Clear from the plan that climate emergency, sustainability and local character are important to the community. This could be supported by consideration of an additional policy to support</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>better placemaking under the use of Building with Nature standards.</p> <p>Support for the use of sensitive lighting schemes and green infrastructure should be encouraged.</p>
Holme Valley Vision Network	<p>Support Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan. Recognise amount of hard work put into its production. Holme Valley Parish Area is one of the largest in the country, this and the diversity of the parish (nature of settlements, landscape and population) has meant the compilation of the plan has been a complex exercise.</p> <p>Reassured the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been compiled by a group of people drawn from a number of different interest groups. The plan has been founded on research and consultation exercises carried out over the last ten years. Confident the plan addresses matters that most people care about including provision of housing that reflect the needs of people who live and work in the valley, provision of local employment opportunities, a vibrant local economy, development that respects and works with our heritage and landscape, taking action to mitigate the impact of climate change and reduce carbon emissions, provision of facilities that most people's everyday needs and enhance strength of our local communities including the identified local green spaces.</p> <p>Regret not been permissible to allocate sites and have greater influence over factors such as density. These matters are contained in the Local Plan but this does not reflect fully the needs of the valley. The need for lower cost, smaller dwellings not properly taken into account and other factors particularly accessibility and impact of traffic on unsuitable roads and proximity of employment opportunities. The extent and amount of consultation carried out is evidenced throughout the plan. In the main part, the plan is acceptable and addresses these matters. Consider plan could have gone further requiring actions from developers. Complying with National Planning Policy Framework and planning professional's requirements by providing flexibility has led in places to ambiguity and weakness in places which could make enforcement more difficult.</p>
Holmfirth Transition Town (Ms Frances Bennett)	<p>Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT) are very keen that the NDP reflects the determination of Holme Valley to become carbon neutral by 2030 by reducing carbon footprint and installing more sustainable energy. This has only been referenced in the last NDP objective Sustainability, should be in the vision as well.</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>The NDP should include support for both local councils Climate Change Emergency declarations. Sustainability must be considered in all policies to mitigate climate change.</p> <p>HoTT endorses the NDP where it encourages protecting and enhancing the landscape and built character of Holme Valley, promoting high quality design for new development, shops and public realm and conserving heritage and non-designated assets. Important now, as government going to introduce 'beauty' as a criterion for judging planning applications for new developments, placing greater emphasis on locally popular design, quality and access to nature through national planning policies and introducing model design codes.</p> <p>Important to protect the landscape but not be at the exclusion of renewable energy projects such as wind turbines. Any construction which can reduce our carbon footprint must have equal consideration as the landscape. Further comment should also be included on retaining and restoring peat bogs to retain their carbon sink and on tree planting to mitigate carbon footprints.</p> <p>Important to protect built character and conservation areas but policy should not exclude developments to promote renewable energy. Agree non designated assets should be preserved but not listed as this will prevent buildings adding energy efficient measures.</p> <p>The NDP should include provisions for supporting building of live/work housing units to encourage and provide for people to be able to work from or near to home and for a sustainable economy.</p> <p>Community led housing/self-build/housing associations and affordable housing should have a high priority.</p> <p>NDP policy of encouraging use of brownfield sites over greenfield, recycling of mills for apartments is endorsed.</p> <p>Old and new build housing should incorporate significant insulation to be more energy efficient and where possible renewable energy for heating and hot water. NDP does not go far enough, only encourages such actions which developers are likely to override to save costs. All new buildings should be zero energy rated and older buildings should be encouraged to attain a better energy efficiency.</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>Renewable Energy must be better supported through the NDP.</p> <p>Proposed support for local businesses, town centres to retain their uniqueness, provision of services and goods for the local population, encouragement of home working to reduce carbon footprint and tourist facilities to assist local economy welcomed.</p> <p>Providing allotments and other initiatives to encourage well-being of community by protecting community facilities and local green spaces welcomed.</p> <p>Idea of a cycleway between Holmfirth and Huddersfield and other areas supported. The Plan should be looking at ways to prevent or discourage HGVs from coming through Holmfirth/Honley. Hierarchy of traffic management interventions welcomed.</p> <p>Policy that new developments should install district heating from renewable resources or prove why it is unviable welcomed.</p> <p>On the whole HoTT supports the NDP although it would like to see firmer action required of developers of housing and infrastructure for promoting sustainable living.</p>
Private Individual	Comments relate to Kirklees Local Plan allocation HS183 Land to the west of Bankfield Drive, Holmbridge and sets out reasons why this site should not be developed.
Private Individual	<p>Wooldale Chapel Field It is understood that the owner of Wooldale Chapel Field does not support its designation as a Local Green Space.</p> <p>Sandygate Fields Support the designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space on the grounds of its historic and field patterns and views.</p> <p>Cross Lane Development Due to soil and surface drainage issues the height of the development is raised from the original plan and its design is out of keeping with the area.</p>
Scholes Future Group	<p>Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space.</p> <p>Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.</p>
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.

Respondent	Summary of representation
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden, Marsh Road and Sandygate Fields as Local Green Spaces.
Private Individual	Well Garden and Sandygate Fields should be protected from development.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	The Plan is incompatible with the Climate Emergency Kirklees declared in 2019. In particular, the sites for housing allocation place the majority of sites on greenfield locations, this is in conflict with one of the reports stated aims and is in conflict to responding to the climate emergency. The plan fails to consider any change to work patterns as a result of the Covid pandemic, and how this might impact work from home and the changes necessary to support such changing work patterns.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	The area to the west of Wesley Ave should be set aside as a local Green Space and a habitat for the growth of Wild flowers and rich in wild life and bird life which is slowly being pushed towards busy roads and being killed by traffic
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.

Respondent	Summary of representation
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	The description of the area is largely nostalgic and does not reflect current development and traffic issues. The Plan does not address what is Holme Valley and Holmfirth which lacks a physical centre. The Plan does recognise economic activity and the role of small independent businesses but there is no plan of how this might be supported and the role of broadband. There is no plan for supporting the Picturedrome. The Plan does not address the damage to the character of the area through housing development and road schemes and it is not considered that the policies could enhance the environment or wildlife.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space. Concerned about the level of traffic and the safety of pedestrians.

Respondent	Summary of representation
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	References to Community Infrastructure Levy should be deleted from the HVNDP as this is not being progressed by Kirklees Council.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	There should be no more building in the Holme Valley due to pressures on infrastructure. Designate all untouched land in the Holme Valley as green belt. No more new builds.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Well Garden as a Local Green Space. Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	I have no confidence in the HVNDP process due to existing new builds in the area. The consultation is undertaken in the context of decisions already taken including government housing targets which the Plan cannot stop.
Private Individual	Support the HVNDP designation of Sandygate Fields as a Local Green Space.
Private Individual	The Neighbourhood Plan needs to recognise the fields to the west of Wesley Avenue as being Local Green Space. These fields are of particular local significance and should be protected from new development in a similar way to Green Belt protection. These fields are a) reasonably close proximity to the community they serve; b) demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance because of their beauty, tranquillity and the richness of their wildlife; and c) they are local in character and are not an extensive tract of land. The Plan should be amended to state that all new build houses will be carbon zero houses, both at the point of construction and throughout their lifetime.
Private Individual	The policy intentions to protect and enhance the landscape and built character and promote

Respondent	Summary of representation
	high quality design are good but must be implemented. This comment is also made in relation to conserving and enhancing local non designated heritage assets and design codes for high quality shop fronts.
Private Individual	Although the documents are well prepared to put cases forward, in the light of the pandemic do certain items not need a re-think? People will be working from home now, the high street will change forever, is it not possible to look at this with fresh eyes? High Street premises could be redeveloped for housing with innovative architectural approaches, this cuts down on emissions and the need to gobble up our valuable green spaces which have proved to be ever-more needed when outdoor activities have been encouraged and taken up. New accommodation/housing, whether development on Brownfield or conversions should be environmentally sustainable at the point of build/conversion. There will be no returning 'normal' but there will be 'different' and this is a great opportunity for infrastructural change.
Private Individual	There should be a focus on tackling dog fouling in the area and tackling illegal dumping in the area.
Private Individual	It's a very good document, well done to all those involved in putting it together. I would like to see a little more emphasis on the need to keep the valley sides around Holmfirth Town Centre free of development. If areas like Cliff or the area below Holt Lane were ever to be developed then I fear that the town itself would start to lose its distinctive semi rural character and become much like many other towns
Kirklees Council	<p>Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan could not be interpreted with certainty as it lacks clarity of meaning and in places is inconsistent, repetitive, unreasonable and overly prescriptive. The complex policies would result in applicants and the planning service finding it difficult to navigate them to produce development schemes that would accord with the HVNDP as a whole.</p> <p>There is a significant degree of overlap with Kirklees Local Plan policy which risks confusion for both applicants and officers, Officers are also concerned that Neighbourhood Plan policy as written would significantly undermine Local Plan policies, in particular LP35 'Historic Environment' and LP52 'Protection and Improvement of Environmental quality' with respect to the protection of heritage assets and protection from pollution.</p> <p>There is significant amount of overlap within the NDP with the same issues repeated within and between policies.</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>The HVNP needs to clearly identify which policies apply within Kirklees and the Peak District National Park.</p> <p>Policy 1 and 2 There is overlap between policy 1 and 2 which leads to duplicated criteria and some inconsistency of approach.</p> <p>Policy 1 Protecting and enhancing the landscape character of Holme Valley The policy is overly detailed which may make it difficult for applicants and decision makers to identify the key characteristics in each of the 8 landscape character areas which make them unique and need to be protected and the requirements of applicants to ensure protection and enhancement of the landscape character. Clarity is also required as to how applicants should use the supporting evidence and Appendix 7 to inform potential planning applications.</p> <p>Policy 2 Protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the Holme Valley Title of policy and supporting text implies that policy 2 applies only to conservation areas but the policy does not distinguish between development within or outside conservation areas. Issues of high quality design and management of conservation areas is not the same. Wording in the policy will undermine Local Plan policy LP35. Policy conflicts with NPPF.</p> <p>Policy 3 Conserving and enhancing local heritage assets An agreed list of non-designated heritage assets is required and should be listed in the policy.</p> <p>Policy 4 Design codes for high quality shopfronts and advertisements In general conformity with NPPF. Many principles repeat Local Plan policy LP25. Length and complexity of policy makes it more suited to a design code. It is prescriptive in parts, imprecise and difficult to apply. Undermines Local Plan policy LP52 in respect to light pollution.</p> <p>Policy 5 Promoting high quality public realm and improvements to gateways and highways Unclear what type of development the public realm part of the policy is aimed at. Significant focus given to this area of policy most of which is likely beyond the scope of development proposals. Little supporting text to justify or evidence the policy. It is ambiguously worded or repetitive.</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>Policy 6 Building homes for the future Significant overlap with local plan policy including LP7 Efficient and Effective use of land and Buildings, LP11 Housing Mix and Affordable Housing, LP20 Sustainable Travel and LP21 Highways and Access. There is very little in part 1 'General Principles' that addresses any issue specific to the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>Policy 7 Supporting economic activity There is nothing in Policy 7 that provides any local distinctiveness to policies already contained within the Local Plan.</p> <p>Policy 8 Facilitating development in Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District centre and Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres There is very little in the policy that addresses any issue specific to the neighbourhood plan area. The Retailing and Town Centres section of the Local Plan Strategy and Policies Document sets out a strategy that seeks to protect all defined centres and facilitate new growth including Holmfirth, Honley, Brockholes and New Mill.</p> <p>Policy 9 Protecting and enhancing local community facilities Overlaps, repeats and undermines Local Plan policy LP48.</p> <p>Policy 10 Protecting Local Green Space Well Garden, Marsh Road, Scholes - Designation of this site as Local Green Space (LGS) meets the NPPF and NPPG criteria for LGS designation as it performs the function of a village green within Scholes village and has a particular local significance based on its community use.</p> <p>The proposed designation of Wooldale Chapel Field and Sandy Gate Scholes as Local Green Space (LGS) which would have similar protection to green belt is not supported as officers do not consider that they meet the criteria as set out in NPPF paragraph 100 as to what constitutes a LGS.</p> <p>The Triangle, Hade Edge - the site comprises an area of amenity greenspace which has a particular local significance based on its use by the community and is considered to meet the NPPF criteria for LGS designation.</p>

Respondent	Summary of representation
	<p>Policy 11 Improving transport, accessibility and local infrastructure Duplicates Local Plan policy, LP20, LP21, LP31 and undermines LP20 by focusing on car share or carpooling facilities only.</p> <p>The Council welcomes policy to encourage access improvements to the River Holme footpath network.</p> <p>Policy 12 Promoting sustainability No information in supporting information to justify why only major development must prepare a sustainability statement, could undermine the Local Plan and not be as supportive as intended to achieve the Parish Council's target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>Duplication of Local Plan policy LP24 and LP26 in some parts.</p> <p>Reference to install district heating from renewable resources and deliver an on-site heat network and clauses 5 to 7 should be supported by viability evidence. Evidence is also needed to support the requirement that 50% of energy must come from renewable sources.</p> <p>Policy 13 Protecting wildlife and securing biodiversity net gain Inconsistencies with Local Plan policy LP30. NDP policy 13 is generic and does not add local detail. In view of emerging technical note and anticipated Environment Act consider deleting policy.</p> <p>Policy 14 Community Infrastructure Levy Areas highlighted for funding need further evidence to support community views. Unclear what gaps are being filled in relation to new and existing infrastructure to accommodate new development.</p>

**HOLME VALLEY
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2020 - 2031**

SUBMISSION PLAN

**A Report to Kirklees Council
of the Examination into the
Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan**

by Independent Examiner, Peter Biggers BSc Hons MRTPI

Argyle Planning Consultancy LTD

June 2021

Contents:	Page
Summary and Overall recommendation	
4	
1. Introduction	6
1.1 Background Context	6
1.2 Appointment of Independent Examiner	6
1.3 Role of the Independent Examiner	7
2. The Examination Process	8
3. Public Consultation	10
3.1 Background	10
3.2 Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan Consultation	10
4. Preparation of Plan and Legislative Requirements	
11	
4.1 Qualifying Body	11
4.2 Plan Area	12
4.3 Plan Period	12
4.4 Excluded Development	12
4.5 Development and Use of Land	12
4.6 Plan Publication Following Submission	13
5. The Basic Conditions	13
5.1 National Policy and Advice	13
5.2 Sustainable Development	13
5.3 General Conformity with the Development Plan	14
5.4 European Union Obligations	14
6. The Neighbourhood Plan Assessment	
17	
6.0 The General Form of the Plan	17
6.1 Executive Summary, Introduction and Background	18
6.2 Planning Context	19
6.3 Holme Valley NDP Vision and Objectives	20
6.4 Holme Valley NDP Planning Policies	21
6.4.1 Protecting Local Character	21
6.4.2 Conservation Areas and Promoting High Quality Design in New Development	25
6.4.3 Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets	28
6.4.4 Design in Town and Local Centres and Public Realm	32
6.4.5 Building Housing for the Future	37
6.4.6 Helping the Economy to Prosper	40
6.4.7 Community Education, Health and Well-being	46
6.4.8 Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure	50
6.4.9 Sustainability and Biodiversity	53
6.4.10 Developer Contributions	57
7. Other Matters	59
7.1 Reg 16 Representations Regarding Local Plan Allocated Housing Sites	59
7.2 Reg 16 Representations from Sport England	59
7.3 Reg 16 Representations from Forestry Commission	59
7.4 Appendices	60
7.5 Typographical and Formatting Corrections	60
8. Referendum	61

Appendices	62
Appendix A - Clarifying Questions put to KC, PDNPA and HVPC During the Examination	62
Appendix B – Recommendation 5 - Modified Text for Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan Paragraphs 4.1.16 and 4.1.17	69
Appendix C - Recommendation 8 – Revised Text for Section 4.3 Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets	78
Appendix D – Recommendation 21–Table of Typographical and Formatting Corrections	80
Appendix E1 – Recommendation 8 – Revised text for Appendix 2 of Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan	
Positive Contributors to the Conservation Areas	
Appendix E2 – Recommendation 8 – Revised text for Appendix 2 of Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan	

(Note Appendix E1 and E2 are separate to the Main Examination Report)

Summary and Overall Recommendation

0.1 Following my examination of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (HVNDP), including a site visit to the Neighbourhood Area on 12 March 2021, it is my view that, subject to modifications, the HVNDP reflects the views of the community and will set out a clear vision and suite of policies and proposals for the Neighbourhood Area.

0.2 My report highlights a number of areas where I consider the wording of the plan as submitted is not in accordance with one or more of the Basic Conditions. The more significant of these relate to the sections in respect of Policy 1 - landscape character, Policy 2 – built character and Policy 3 - heritage assets. In these and many other areas the policies do not comply with the *National Planning Policy Framework* at Paragraph 16 where it states that policies should be “*clearly written and unambiguous so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals*”. And the advice in the *Planning Practice Guidance* where it states that: “*A policy in a neighbourhood plan should be clear and unambiguous. It should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence*”.

0.3 In many cases the policies are not clear nor are they concise and precise and in a number of cases they repeat policy advice already in the Local Plan policies of Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority. Repetition of itself whilst not necessary is not always problematic. It becomes an issue however where it contradicts or undermines established policy elsewhere of which there are some examples within the HVNDP.

0.4 I have therefore recommended a significant number of modifications to the Plan which should be made before the plan can proceed to Referendum. These are intended to ensure that, first and foremost, the Plan can meet the Basic Conditions.

0.5 The number and extent of the modifications will no doubt be disappointing to the Parish Council as qualifying body and its Steering Group. However, in proposing the modifications I have tried to ensure that the integrity and value of the HVNDP and its vision is retained and that the intention of neighbourhood planning, where the community's wishes should be central to the plan, is honoured.

0.6 By its nature the examination has to be rigorous. Any criticism is not at all to undermine the significant community effort that has gone into the plan. Rather the purpose of the examination is to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and is as robust as possible and that it can better play its part in planning decisions and managing change in Holme Valley in the future in an effective way.

0.7 In addition to the recommended modifications it should also be noted that there may be a number of consequential changes for example to referencing and numbering that will inevitably be needed as a result of making a significant number of modifications. It will also be necessary to ensure all references to the plan-making procedure and to current local planning documents are up to date. I have captured some of these but not necessarily highlighted all such minor consequential changes.

0.8 Subject to the recommended modifications in the report being completed I am satisfied that:

- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
- the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority.
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the plan.

0.9 The HVNDP also complies with the legal requirements set out in Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

0.10 With the modifications in place the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan will meet the Basic Conditions and can proceed to a Referendum.

0.11 When that referendum takes place I also recommend that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area, which covers the administrative area of the Parish, is taken as the area for the Referendum.

Peter Biggers MRTPI AIHBC

Independent Examiner

**15 June
2021**

Argyle Planning Consultancy Ltd

1. Introduction

1.1 Background Context

1.1.1 This Report provides the findings of the examination into the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (referred to as the HVNDP throughout this report).

1.1.2 The HVNDP was produced by Holme Valley Parish Council (HVPC) in consultation with the local planning authority for the majority of the Neighbourhood Area – Kirklees Council (KC) and with the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) as local planning authority in the area within the National Park. The local communities, interested parties and local stakeholders were also consulted as set out in section 3 below.

1.1.3 The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area equates to an area of approximately 7046 hectares covering all of the administrative area of the Parish and with a population of 27,146 living in 12,039 households at the 2011 census. The majority of the Parish is located in the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees in West Yorkshire, but part of the Parish in the southwest lies within the Peak District National Park (PDNP).

1.1.4 The administrative centre and main town is Holmfirth. Other settlements in the parish include Brockholes, Cinderhills, Hade Edge, Hepworth, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmbridge, Holme, Honley, Jackson Bridge, Netherthong, New Mill, Scholes, Thongsbridge, Totties, Upperthong and Wooldale.

1.1.5 The centre, north east and south of the Parish is a very settled agricultural landscape strongly defined by dry stone boundary walls and woodland belts with settlements close to each other particularly along the flatter land of the valley floors whilst the west and south west part of the parish is comprised of the uplands of Dark Peak and the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe - a wild and isolated moorland landscape.

1.1.6 The Parish has a highly distinctive landscape and built character and a strong sense of place as a result of its rich agricultural and industrial past.

1.1.7 This Examiner's Report provides a recommendation as to whether or not the HVNDP should go forward to a Referendum. Were it to go to Referendum and achieve more than 50% of votes cast in favour of it, then the HVNDP would be '**made**' by KC and the PDNPA. In the event of a successful referendum result the HVNDP would immediately carry full weight in the determination of planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.

1.2 Appointment of the Independent Examiner

1.2.1 I was appointed by KC, with the consent of HVPC and the PDNPA, following

a competitive procurement process, to conduct the examination and provide this report as an Independent Examiner. I am independent of the Qualifying Body and the Local Planning Authority. I do not have any interest in any land that may be affected by the HVNDP nor do I have any professional commissions in the area currently and I possess appropriate qualifications and experience. I have planning and development experience, gained over 39 years across the public and private planning sectors and am a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, an Affiliate of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and a member of the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiners Referral Service run by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

1.3 Role of the Independent Examiner

1.3.1 It is the role of the Independent Examiner to consider whether a neighbourhood plan meets the “Basic Conditions.” The Basic Conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA). They are that *:

- a)** Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
- d)** The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- e)** The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority;
- f)** The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and
- g)** Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

1.3.2 Pursuant to Basic Condition g) above, Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended by the *Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018* effective from 28 December 2018) prescribes the following additional basic condition for the purpose of paragraph 8(2)(g) of Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990:

“The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017”.

Regulation 106 (1) of Chapter 8 states that: *“a qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 105 (that assessment is necessary where the neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone*

or in combination with other plans or projects) or to enable it to determine whether that assessment is required”.

** NB Basic Conditions b) and c) relating to the desirability of preserving or enhancing listed buildings and conservation areas are also included in the basic conditions but as these only concern neighbourhood development orders and not neighbourhood plans they are not included in this report.*

1.3.3 In examining the neighbourhood plan, I have also considered whether the legislative requirements are met namely:

- The neighbourhood plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body as defined in Section 61F of the TCPA as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the PCPA;
- The neighbourhood plan has been prepared for an area that has been designated under Section 61G of the TCPA as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the PCPA;
- The neighbourhood plan meets the requirements of Section 38B of the PCPA (the Plan must specify the period to which it has effect, must not include provisions relating to ‘excluded development’, and must not relate to more than one Neighbourhood Area); and
- The policies relate to the development and use of land for a designated neighbourhood area in line with the requirements of the PCPA Section 38A.

1.3.4 I have examined the HVNDP against the Basic Conditions and legislative requirements above and, as Independent Examiner, I must make one of the following recommendations:

- a)** that the Plan should proceed to Referendum, on the basis that it meets all legal requirements;
- b)** that the Plan, once modified to meet all relevant legal requirements, should proceed to Referendum;
- c)** that the Plan does not proceed to Referendum, on the basis that it does not meet the relevant legal requirements.

1.3.5 If recommending that the neighbourhood plan should go forward to Referendum, I am also then required to consider whether or not the Referendum Area should extend beyond the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area to which the neighbourhood plan relates. I make my recommendation on the Referendum Area at the end of this Report.

1.3.6 The role of the independent examiner is not to comment on whether the neighbourhood plan is sound or how it could be improved but rather to focus on the compliance with the Basic Conditions.

2. The Examination Process

2.1 It is a general rule that neighbourhood plan examinations should be held without a public hearing i.e. by written representations only. However, according to the legislation, when the Examiner considers it necessary to ensure adequate examination of an issue, or to ensure a person has a fair chance to put a case, a public hearing may be held.

2.2 I have considered the representations received at the Regulation 16 publicity stage and, whilst there were a considerable number relating to the proposed Local Green Space in Scholes and a very comprehensive set of representations from KC, I am satisfied that there is no need for a public hearing in respect of the HVNDP and I confirm that *all* representations on the Neighbourhood Plan received at the Regulation 16 stage have been taken into account in undertaking this examination. Where appropriate I have made specific reference to the person's or organisation's comments in section 6 of this report.

2.3 I undertook an unaccompanied site visit around the Neighbourhood Area on 12 March 2021 during which I looked at its overall nature, form, character and appearance and at those areas affected by policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan in particular.

2.4 Subsequent to my reading for the examination I asked a number of factual clarifying questions of HVPC as Qualifying Body and the two authorities KC and PDNPA relating to the context and intent of policies and proposals of the plan and requested additional content and justification in respect of the principles underpinning Policies 1 and 2 and the proposed local heritage assets and Appendix 2 listing these. This exchange was carried out by email and the questions and the responses received from the Councils are set out in Appendices A, B and C to this report and have been uploaded to the Neighbourhood Plan webpages on the KC website. I am grateful to the Councils and the PDNPA for responding on these matters.

2.5 In undertaking this examination, I have considered each of the following documents in addition to the Submission Version of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan:

1. National Planning Policy Framework (Feb 2019)
2. National Planning Practice Guidance 2014 (as amended)
3. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
4. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)
5. The Localism Act 2011
6. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017
7. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) (as amended)
8. The Kirklees Local Plan – Strategy and Policies 2019
9. The Kirklees Local Plan - Allocations and Designations 2019
10. The Peak District National Park Local Development Framework – Core Strategy

2011

11. Development Management Policies - Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park May 2019
12. Holme Valley NDP Basic Conditions Statement June 2020
13. Holme Valley NDP Consultation Statement June 2020
14. Holme Valley NDP Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report September 2020
15. Holme Valley NDP Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Opinion July 2019
16. Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment Oct 2016
17. Holme Valley NDP Planning Policy Assessment and Review of Evidence Base July 2019
18. Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area Designation Report – February 2015
19. Representations received during the Regulation 16 publicity period post submission 08/12/2020 to 02/02/2021.

3. Public Consultation

3.1 Background

3.1.1 An accessible and comprehensive approach to public consultation is the best way to ensure that a neighbourhood plan reflects the needs, views and priorities of the local community.

3.1.2 HVPC submitted a Consultation Statement, as required by Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, to KC and PDNPA on 6th July 2020.

3.1.3 Public consultation on the HVNDP commenced with early consultations in 2016. The initial consultation was followed by various consultation stages, including:

- Issues and options consultation Summer 2017
- First Draft Plan Consultation June and July 2018
- The pre submission consultation under Regulation 14 from 15/07/2019 to 15/09/2019
- The formal, publicity stage, as required by Regulation 16, (the consultation period post submission of the plan) from 08/12/2020 to 02/02/2021.

The regulation 16 stage resulted in consultation responses from 75 respondents. Most of these related to the proposed Local Green Space in Scholes but both authorities (KC and PDNPA) raised detailed criticisms of the plan and the ability to meet the Basic Conditions. The representations raised are considered as necessary within my assessment of the plan in Section 6 below.

3.2 Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation

3.2.1 The HVNDP Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group was set up in 2016 and has carried out consultation with the community and stakeholders throughout the process of plan preparation. The communication methods used involved the local paper (The Holme Valley Review), the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan website - together with the KC website, press releases, flyers and posters, email drops and Facebook as well as a presence at community events, drop-ins and questionnaires. Copies of the First Draft Plan, Pre-Submission Draft Plan and Submission Plan were uploaded to the websites and links provided via email. The first Draft Plan and Pre-Submission Draft Plan were made available locally in hard copy at Holmfirth and Honley Libraries and at the Parish Council Offices. Due to Covid 19 restrictions hard copies of the Submission plan were posted out on request.

3.2.2 The first official consultation stage of the plan, sounding out the community on the plan and the issues and options ran from 10 May 2017 to 18 July 2017. A questionnaire was prepared which achieved 475 responses including 228 responses from the High School. In addition, 6 drop-in sessions were held attended by a total of 150 people.

3.2.3 Based on the feedback from this early stage work the steering group developed the vision and objectives and a first draft of the plan and consulted on these in advance of the formal Pre-Submission Draft stage, in summer 2018 between 11 June and 27 July. The plan was publicised as above and a summary booklet *Your Valley Your Voice* circulated to all households and businesses. The feedback questionnaire received 409 responses as well as responses from local stakeholders which were used in working up the Pre-Submission Draft of the Plan.

3.2.4 The Consultation Statement sets out the form and content of these early consultations. It is clear that full opportunities were available to the community to be involved and that the consultations gave a good basis for the preparation of the plan.

3.2.5 The Pre-Submission Draft consultation on the plan, as required by Regulation 14, involved a 9 week period from 15/07/2019 to 15/09/2019 and included consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment. The HVNDP was made available online on the Parish, PDNPA and KC websites and links to the plan provided via email to statutory consultees, local businesses, individuals and groups. Hard copies were made available in the local area and the plan was publicised by posters and flyers and on Facebook. Four drop-in sessions were arranged to help explain the Plan with 40 people attending. 72 responses from the local community were received, 2 from community groups, 1 from a developer and 5 from statutory consultees. The residents' responses were generally supportive.

3.2.6 Following the pre-submission stage and the analysis of results, the plan was finalised for submission including an initial draft of the submission plan discussed

with KC and PDNPA in April 2020.

3.2.7 The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations are part and parcel of the 1st Basic Condition and Regulation 15 (2) sets out clearly what the Consultation Statement should include. Having reviewed the Consultation Statement and its appendices particularly Appendix 11 setting out the representations at the Regulation 14 stage and how these were answered I am satisfied that the consultation statement is compliant with Reg 15 in demonstrating who was consulted, how they were consulted, what the main issues and concerns were and what action has been taken in response to these to arrive at the Submission Draft Plan. The interest and participation by residents in the plan has been facilitated throughout the process at the various stages and I am satisfied from the evidence that the communication and consultation which took place provided sufficient opportunity for the community's participation.

4. Preparation of the Plan and Legislative Requirements

In terms of the procedural tests set out in paragraph 1.3.3 of this report my findings are:

4.1 Qualifying Body

4.1.1 Home Valley Parish Council (HVPC), as the duly elected lower tier council, is the qualifying body for preparation of the Plan.

4.1.2 I am satisfied that the requirements set out in the Localism Act (2011) and in Section 61F(1) and (2) of the TCPA (as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the PCPA) have been met.

4.2 Plan Area

4.2.1 An application was made by the HVPC in September 2014 to designate the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area. The area sought covered the administrative area of the Parish. This Neighbourhood Area was approved by Kirklees Council on 27 January 2015 and by the Peak District National Park Authority on 13 February 2015.

4.2.2 This satisfies the requirement in line with the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan under section 61G (1) (2) and (3) of the TCPA (as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the PCPA) and Regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations as amended.

4.3 Plan Period

4.3.1 A neighbourhood plan must specify the period during which it is to have effect. The HVNDP clearly states on the title page and in paragraph 5 that it covers the period 2020 - 2031.

4.3.2 The plan period aligns with the end point of the Kirklees Local Plan which sets out the strategic policies for that part of the neighbourhood area within Kirklees Council's administrative area. The intended time period satisfies the requirements of Section 38B of the PCPA as amended.

4.4 Excluded Development

4.4.1 The Plan does not include policies or proposals that relate to any of the categories of excluded development – county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any matters set out in Section 61K of the TCPA 1990. The HVNDP, as proposed to be modified in Section 6 below, relates solely to the neighbourhood area and no other neighbourhood and there are no other neighbourhood development plans in place within the neighbourhood area. This satisfies requirements of Section 38B of the PCPA as amended.

4.5 Development and Use of Land

4.5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan should only contain policies relating to development and use of land. Subject to the modifications proposed below in section 6, the HVNDP policies would be compliant with this requirement of Section 38B of the PCPA as amended and all relate to development and the use of land.

4.6 Plan Publication Following Submission

4.6.1 Kirklees Council and PDNPA undertook a validation check of the HVNDP following submission in July 2020 and were satisfied that the Plan could proceed to be publicised under Regulation 16 and proceed to this independent examination.

5. The Basic Conditions

5.1 National Policy and Advice

5.1.1 The main document that sets out national policy is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (the NPPF). A revised version of the NPPF was published on 24 July 2018 with a further version including minor clarifications in February 2019. The HVNDP was prepared in this context and I have therefore based my consideration of the extent to which the HVNDP meets Basic Condition a) in section 6 below against NPPF 2019 along with legislation and regulations.

5.1.2 The NPPF explains that neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies and set out non-strategic policies and plan positively to shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development that is outside the strategic elements of the Local Plan.

5.1.3 The NPPF also makes it clear that neighbourhood plans should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. In other words neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan. They should not promote less development than that set out in the strategic policies of the development plan or undermine those strategic policies.

5.1.4 The NPPF indicates that plans should contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous so that it is clear how a decision maker should react to development proposals. They should serve a clear purpose and avoid unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area. This is an issue which arises as a significant matter in the assessment in Section 6 below.

5.1.5 National advice on planning is set out in the *Planning Practice Guidance* (PPG) which includes specific advice regarding neighbourhood plans. The PPG has also been reviewed in tandem with the NPPF and I have considered the advice of the PPG as at the time of submission at July 2020.

5.2 Sustainable Development

5.2.1 A qualifying body must demonstrate how a neighbourhood plan would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The NPPF as a whole constitutes the Government's view of what sustainable development means in practice for planning. The NPPF explains that there are three overarching objectives to sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.

5.2.2 There is no legal requirement for a formal Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to be carried out in respect of neighbourhood plans. However, SA is an

established method of demonstrating how a neighbourhood plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development.

5.2.3 In this case HVPC has only included in the Basic Conditions Statement a commentary in tabular form (Table 1) on how the plan meets the 3 main sustainability objectives in the NPPF. This has not been done against a suite of sustainability objectives (reflecting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability) to test the HVNDP policies, which would have been the more usual procedure. However, the table includes sufficient information to confirm at a high level that the effect of the policies of the plan would be generally positive in terms of sustainability. I consider the contribution of specific policies to sustainable development in more detail below in Section 6.

5.3 General Conformity with the Development Plan

5.3.1 The HVNDP has been prepared in the context of two development plan systems. The first relates to the majority of the neighbourhood area within the Kirklees Council Area namely the *Kirklees Local Plan – comprising ‘Strategy and Policies’ and ‘Allocations and Designations’ Feb 2019 (KLP)*. The second relates to that part of the neighbourhood area falling within the Peak District National Park namely the *Peak District National Park Local Development Framework – Core Strategy 2011 (PDCS)* and the *Development Management Policies - Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park May 2019 (PDDMP)*.

5.3.2 I consider the extent to which the policies and proposals of the HVNDP are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the two development plans in detail in Section 6 below.

5.4 European Union (EU) Obligations

5.4.1 A neighbourhood plan must be compatible with European Union (EU) obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. Notwithstanding the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union these obligations continue to apply unless and until repealed or replaced in an Act of Parliament.

Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment

5.4.2 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment has a bearing on neighbourhood plans. This Directive is often referred to as the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive. Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively) aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species and can have a bearing on neighbourhood plans.

5.4.3 Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations as amended in 2015 requires either that a SEA is submitted with a Neighbourhood Plan proposal or a determination obtained from the responsible authorities (KC and PDNPA) that the plan is not likely to have 'significant effects'.

5.4.4 A screening opinion was prepared by KC in consultation with the statutory bodies in 2018. The screening concluded that full SEA was required of the plan. SEA was therefore carried out and the Environmental Report prepared and finalised in September 2020.

5.4.5 The SEA concluded that the HVNDP performs well overall against all the SEA themes with the policies offering mechanisms to control the growth proposed in the Kirklees Local Plan (KLP) in a positive and sustainable way. The plan offered potential benefits to the local community and the natural and built environment. Some minor adjustments to the plan were proposed including a specific policy requiring Biodiversity Net Gain in development (discussed further in Section 6 below) but the overall conclusion was that the plan was unlikely to have any significant adverse effects. I am satisfied that any effects from additional development beyond that allocated through the KLP (already subject to SEA) would be likely to be small scale, local and limited and offset by the positive benefits of the policies within the neighbourhood plan.

5.4.6 Regarding Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) the test in the additional Basic Condition under Regulation 32 now essentially mirrors that in respect of SEA and requires an Appropriate Assessment to be carried out where a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) or a determination is obtained from the responsible authorities (KC and PDNPA) that the plan is not likely to have a 'significant effect'. A screening opinion was carried out by consultants LUC on behalf of Kirklees Council in July 2019 and a determination prepared.

5.4.7 A number of European sites occur either within the western section of the Neighbourhood Area or within a 15 kilometre radius of it namely Peak District Moors

Special Protection Area (SPA) and South Pennine Moors SPA and Special Area For Conservation (SAC), Denby Grange Colliery Ponds SAC and Rochdale Canal SAC. However, the conclusion of the Council's determination was that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, the HVNDP was unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites. This was because there were no allocated sites proposed in the plan area not already considered through HRA of the KLP and such local development that may take place under HVNDP Policies 6, 7 and 8 would be in settlements and guided by the HVNDP's policies to ensure sustainable outcomes. Consequently, the plan is not considered to require Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive.

5.4.8 Both the conclusion of the SEA Environment Report and the screening conclusion for the HRA have been confirmed by Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England as the statutory consultees and I have no reason to reach a different view. Natural England did suggest that a protective policy for the SAC and SPA in the plan area be included but as these areas are already explicitly protected by KLP Policy LP30 this is not necessary.

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

5.4.9 The Human Rights Act 1998 encapsulates the Convention and its articles into UK Law.

5.4.10 An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment has not been specifically carried out for the HVNDP. Instead, the Basic Conditions Statement briefly reviews the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the ECHR.

5.4.11 In respect of Article 1 of the first protocol - the right of everyone to the peaceful enjoyment of possessions - although the HVNDP includes policies that would restrict development rights, this does not have a greater impact than the general restrictions on development rights provided for in national law. The restriction of development rights inherent in the UK's statutory planning system is demonstrably in the public interest by ensuring that land is used in the most sustainable way, avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts on the environment, community and economy.

5.4.12 In respect of Article 6 of the Convention's Rights and Freedoms - the right to a fair hearing in determination of an individual's rights and obligations - the process for preparing the HVNDP is fully compatible with this Article, allowing for consultation on its proposals at various stages, and incorporating this independent examination process.

5.4.13 In respect of Article 14 of the Convention's Rights and Freedoms - the enjoyment of rights and freedoms without discrimination on any ground - the policies and proposals of the HVNDP have been developed in consultation with the community and wider stakeholders to produce as inclusive a document as possible.

5.4.14 I conclude that, given the nature of the plan policies and proposals, there would be unlikely to be any detrimental impact on the 'protected characteristics' set out in the Equality Act and generally the plan would bring positive benefits. Whilst the plan does not directly address needs in respect of particular protected characteristics within the plan area, the HVNDP generally is not prejudicial to any group in its policies. No concerns or objections on the grounds of human rights or equalities have been raised during the consultation stages of the plan. I am satisfied on the basis of the above that, across the plan as a whole, no sectors of the community are likely to be discriminated against. The policies together would generally have public benefits and encourage the social sustainability of the neighbourhood.

5.4.15 I am satisfied therefore that the Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, the ECHR.

5.4.16 I am not aware of any other European Directives which apply to this particular Neighbourhood Plan and no representations at pre or post-submission stage have drawn any others to my attention. Taking all of the above into account, I am satisfied that the HVNDP is compatible with EU obligations and therefore with Basic Conditions f) and g).

6. The Neighbourhood Plan – Assessment

The Neighbourhood Plan is considered against the Basic Conditions in this section of the Report following the structure and headings in the Plan. Given the findings in section 5 above that the plan as a whole is compliant with Basic Conditions f) (EU obligations) and g) (Other prescribed conditions including that under Regulation 32), this section largely focusses on Basic Conditions a) (Having regard to National Policy), d) (Contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development) and e) (General conformity with strategic policies of the Development Plan).

Where modifications are recommended, they are presented and clearly marked as such and highlighted in bold print, with any proposed new wording in italics.

6.0 The General Form of the Plan

6.0.1 The structure of the HVNDP is generally logical and clear with early sections setting the context, vision and objectives and then policy sections.

6.0.2 The plan distinguishes between the policies themselves and their justification

by boxing and shading the policies. Each policy is accompanied by supporting text setting out the purpose of the policy and its aims as well as the strategic policy context.

6.0.3 The NPPF at paragraph 16 requires the plan to be “*clearly written and unambiguous so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals*” and to “*serve a clear purpose avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area*”.

6.0.4 KC and similarly the PDNPA have raised concerns at the Regulation 16 stage that there are many instances where the general form of policies in the plan does not comply with these requirements and that policies are not concise and precise or adequately evidence based as required by the PPG.

6.0.5 I consider in detail these points in each relevant section of the plan below and propose modifications to resolve these matters to ensure Basic Condition a) is met. I have not in all circumstances where there is overlap with other development plan policies recommended that this be removed dependent on the effect this would have on the sense and context of the HVNDP policy. However, I have recommended removing repetition when it is expressed in a slightly different way to existing development plan policies and as a result is likely to lead to confusion or undermining of the strategic policy.

Generally, as regards policies being evidence based, for the most part, the supporting text is adequate, albeit not well arranged. The exception to this is in respect of Policies 1, 2 and 3 where the relationship between evidence base in the text and policy currently means the policies would be, at best, difficult to operate.

6.0.6 Another general aspect where the format of the plan is not consistent is where the policies should not apply to the Peak District National Park part of the Plan Area. In some cases this is expressed at the start of the policy and at other times in the supporting text. Whatever is the chosen method it must be clear and consistent. It is probably clearer to insert a note in the policy immediately following the policy title and before the actual policy text. The PDNPA had indicated in its Regulation 16 representation that the manner in which this referencing was dealt with was itself unclear. In the examiner’s questions (see Appendix A below) I therefore asked PDNPA to confirm how the policies should be worded in this respect. They have confirmed that the preference is for the wording to simply refer to the Peak District National Park thus ‘*Policy 1 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.*’

6.0.7 Neighbourhood Plans are not to include matters that do not relate to the development and use of land. The HVNDP, as with many neighbourhood plans, has in the course of its preparation attracted many comments and proposals from the community which they would like to see the Parish Council take action on but which are not directly to do with the development and use of land. Whilst HVPC has

acknowledged that these Holme Valley Parish Actions are not matters the neighbourhood plan can address they are nevertheless presented in the body of the plan and are part of it potentially leading to confusion. They should be separated out and relocated in an Appendix to the plan with a simple reference to the Appendix from each topic section.

6.0.8 I recommend the following modifications.

Recommendation 1	
1A	<p>In all policies where it is not intended that the policy should apply within the Peak District National Park the following wording should be used in the form of a note immediately below the policy title and before the start of the policy:</p> <p><i>“Policy X does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.”</i></p> <p>In the supporting text preceding the policy where the status of the policy in respect of the National Park is also mentioned the same wording should be used.</p> <p>Where the relevant development plan policies are listed, ensure that where the policy is not to apply in the National Park that no PDNP policies are listed in the relevant policy boxes.</p>
1B	<p>Relocate all proposals in blue shaded Holme Valley Parish Action boxes to a new Appendix 1 at the end of the plan.</p> <p>In each case simply include a cross reference to the Appendix at the end of the appropriate section to read for example:</p> <p><u><i>“Holme Valley Parish Actions 1</i></u></p> <p><i>Parish Actions relating to the built environment and design are set out in Appendix 1 (1)”</i></p>

6.1 Executive Summary and Introduction and Background

6.1.1 These sections of the HVNDP set out a summary to the plan and a general introduction describes the purpose and intent of the neighbourhood plan and the process involved in the plan’s preparation.

6.1.2 The Executive Summary is not a normal feature of Neighbourhood Plans and in this case means the early parts of the plan are very repetitious and there is overlap in particular with what is included in the Consultation Statement. Its removal would assist in making the plan more concise. However, inasmuch as it does not raise any specific issues in respect of the Basic Conditions, I make no formal recommendation to remove it. If it is to remain then there will be a need for updating with regard to the procedure and stage reached and the first paragraph will need to be amended where it refers to a 15 year life of the plan as this is no longer the case. In addition, the references to the Community Infrastructure Levy in the section ‘*What are the Benefits*

in having an NDP' will have to be removed as this is no longer being progressed in the Kirklees area. (See also section 6.10 below).

6.1.3 With regard to the Introduction and Background section this is largely a factual section and there is no need for any changes to meet the Basic Conditions. Again, however, there is a need to update paragraphs 1.1, 1.4 and the timeline on P12 to reflect what will be the stage reached post examination.

Recommendation 2	
2A	Make consequential updates to the Executive Summary (if retained) and to paragraphs 1.1, 1.4 and the Timeline on P 12 of the Introduction as a result of the plan moving forward a stage - post examination.
2B	If retaining the Executive Summary - delete the words 'over the 15 years 2016-2031' in the first paragraph. Insert instead "<i>over the next 10 years to 2031</i>".
2C	If retaining the Executive Summary - in the 'Benefits of Having a NDP' section - add at the end of the first sentence: <i>"...and help shape the nature of future developments."</i> Delete the rest of the paragraph.

6.2 Planning Context for Holme Valley NDP

6.2.1 Section 2 provides background to the neighbourhood area, the planning context and introduces the issues facing it to be resolved in the plan. This is largely a factual section and there is no need for any changes to meet the Basic Conditions. The only change necessary is a factual one to delete the reference to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in Paragraph 2.18 as no CIL applies in Kirklees and proposals for one have been abandoned for the time being.

Recommendation 3	
3	In paragraph 2.18 Line 11 – Delete the words 'including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding'.

6.3 Holme Valley NDP Vision and Objectives

6.3.1 Section 3 of the plan sets out the community's vision and community objectives for the plan to deliver the vision and provide the basis for the policies.

6.3.2 Being able to demonstrate the thread from issues to vision and objectives and from objectives to policies is an important part of evidencing the neighbourhood plan as required in the PPG and it is clear in the HVNDP that the key issues lead into the vision for the valley and the objectives.

6.3.3 The vision looks to protect the beautiful rural landscape as a place where culture and heritage is celebrated and where the valley is home to vibrant, welcoming and sustainable communities in thriving settlements.

The plan has regard to the PPG advice in respect of neighbourhood planning that it *“provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people.”*

6.3.4 The vision and objectives also encapsulate and generally reflect the vision and objectives set out in the KLP at section 4.2 and 4.3 in particular objectives 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 for that part of the neighbourhood area within Kirklees. It also reflects the Peak District National Park Management Plan vision and the spatial portrait and its objectives set out in the PDCS for that part of the neighbourhood area falling within the National Park. Moreover, the impact of pursuing the vision and objectives would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

6.3.5 Holmfirth Transition Town in its Regulation 16 representation asked for sustainability and the emphasis on climate change to be built into the vision. However, as the vision was arrived at through community consultation it would not be reasonable to seek to change it at this stage and any alteration in the vision will need to wait until the plan is reviewed and there is an opportunity for the community to express their opinions on any revision. In any event the commitment to climate change and sustainability is quite clearly expressed in objective H.

6.3.6 The vision and objectives section therefore raises no issues in respect of the Basic Conditions. However again there is a need for two minor clarifying corrections. First paragraph 3.1 refers to the vision being achieved over 15- 20 years when in fact there is only 10 years left of the plan period. Secondly, in view of my findings above see Recommendation 1 regarding the Parish Community Actions, paragraph 3.4 should cross reference to the proposed new Appendix 1.

Recommendation 4 –	
4A	In paragraph 3.1 Line 4 delete the words ‘next 15-20 years ‘ and replace with the words <i>“neighbourhood plan period”</i>.
4B	Add the words <i>“See Appendix 1”</i> at the end of paragraph 3.4

6.4 Holme Valley NDP Planning Policies

This section of the plan sets out the policies contained in the plan.

6.4.1 Protecting Local Character

- i. This first section of the plan is designed to protect the exceptional local landscape and built character of the Holme Valley. The text covers both landscape character and built character. However, section 4.1 only leads into Policy 1 Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley even though both Policies 1 and 2 are dependent on content of the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment (HVHCA) and particularly the evidence in paragraph 4.1.17 to operate.
- ii. The structure of these 2 policy sections is unclear and inconsistent in the terminology used and I am not satisfied that the operational relationship between the policies and various sections of text is sufficiently clear or precise or would be easily navigated and understood by either a developer or a decision maker in order to meet the requirements of the NPPF or Planning Policy Guidance and therefore Basic Condition a).
- iii. This being the case I invited HVPC and their Planning Consultant in consultation with Kirklees Council, who have significant concerns about this matter in their Regulation 16 representation, to review the principles in section 4.1.17. This was to ensure the key characteristics and character management principles for each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCA) and for both 'landscape character' and 'built character' are clearly set out and so that these provide the evidence necessary for Policies 1 and 2 to operate.
- iv. It was made clear to the parties that procedurally nothing could be added that was not in the public domain already in respect of - the plan itself, the HVHCA and the Conservation Area Appraisals completed for the Holme Valley. All the key characteristics and character management principles considered important in respect of each LCA should be brought together in one section of the supporting text. There should be consistency in the terminology and formatting used, no ambiguity as to which principles apply as a result of some being in emboldened text and that plan users should not have to refer to a number of different sources to operate and apply the two policies.
- v. KC, HVPC and myself as examiner agreed the format for the revised section 4.1.17 to provide a consistent and clear basis for the policies and I have attached at Appendix B the revised text for paragraph 4.1.16, the introduction to paragraph 4.1.17 and 4.1.17 itself regarding key characteristics and character management principles for each of the 8 LCAs.
- vi. Given the critical importance of the LCAs to the operation of these 2 policies it is vital that a plan user is clear in which LCA a development falls. To that end Map 2 defining the LCAs should be as clear as possible in digital versions of the plan and in printed versions of the plan the map should be printed as an A3 fold out.

Recommendation 5

5A	Delete paragraphs 4.1.16 and 4.1.17. Incorporate the revised and agreed text at Appendix B below to form a new section 4.1.17 of the neighbourhood plan.
5B	Ensure Map 2 in digital versions of the plan is as clear as possible and in printed copies arrange for the Map to be available at A3 size.
5C	Make any consequential adjustments to numbering, referencing and linking text in the supporting text following the revisions at Recommendation 5A.

vii. With the modifications to paragraph 4.1.17, the supporting text will provide clear and concise evidence to ensure Policies 1 and 2 can operate and therefore Basic Condition a) will be met.

Policy 1 Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley

viii. Policy 1 seeks to protect and enhance landscape character. With Section 15 of the NPPF encouraging plans to protect and enhance valued landscapes and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside the Policy has regard to the NPPF and the principle of the Policy therefore meets Basic Condition a).

ix. However, in addition to the fundamental concern set out in the section above, as stated already, the NPPF requires plans to be clear and unambiguous and to be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. In a number of respects the policy fails to achieve this and the need for conciseness and precision.

- First, the beginning of the Policy in the first 4 paragraphs is confused and repetitive. The start needs to be revised to clearly relate to the character management principles that are going to be used in assessment.
- Second, the list of landscape character areas omits LCA2 part of which falls outside the National Park and therefore would be subject to Policy 1. However, the list of LCAs does not actually need to be repeated in the policy itself.
- Third, the Policy, in a number of locations, introduces built form or built environment considerations when that is not what Policy 1 is about. Policy 1 is focused on landscape character whilst Policy 2 is focused on built form albeit that they work together to ensure the valley's character is protected.
- Fourth, clause 4 introduces pedestrian linkages which are unrelated to landscape character and are already covered adequately in another policy of the plan.
- Fifth, the Policy uses ambiguous wording such as 'where appropriate' when this is not necessary and simply introduces doubt as to whether a requirement is appropriate or not.

x. KC in its Regulation 16 representation also expresses concern in respect of two other points:

- First, the Policy in clause 1 is complex, unclear and ambiguous. I share the concern that this clause needs to be clarified with respect to what the intention is regarding respecting views of the upland areas, where the significant local landmarks would be found and the whole clause made more precise. Subsequent rewording suggested by HVPC removes the referencing to significant local landmarks in the absence of evidence.
- Second, clause 5 is considered not to be clear and unambiguous. I have already referred above to the need to remove wording such as ‘where appropriate’ but the final sentence of the clause in dealing with ‘living’ and ‘green’ and ‘blue’ roofs would more appropriately be part of built design in Policy 2.

xi. The HVNDP makes it clear that Policy 1 will not apply in the National Park in the main because it was dealing with development and the impacts on landscape character and the section of the Park that lies within Holme Valley is in the Natural Zone where other than in exceptional circumstances development will not be permitted. PDNPA in its Regulation 16 representation initially suggested that simply excluding the National Park from the Policy may not be the correct solution as there was a flow of landscape character across and beyond the National Park boundary. In the light of this, as part of the Examiner’s Clarifying Questions (See Appendix A) the PDNPA was asked to clarify their position. PDNPA in response has confirmed that the policy should not apply to the Park and the comment was intended to ensure that Policy 1 properly protected landscape character immediately adjoining the National Park. The changes proposed in their entirety for Policy 1 and the supporting text do address this.

xii. HVPC in putting forward its initial response to the examiner request for revisions to paragraph 4.1.17 submitted a proposed revised wording for Policy 1. Whilst this has been helpful, most of the specific concerns set out above remain. The recommended modifications below seek to resolve these concerns. What has been useful however is the clarification that clauses 1-4 of Policy 1 are those that will apply across the Neighbourhood Area and therefore in many of the Landscape Character Areas and I have added this to the proposed modifications.

xiii. Finally, in the interests of clarity in the supporting text, a new subheading reflecting the title to Policy 1 should be added in place of the subheading on page 35 and the text at 4.1.19 – 22 and its subheading should be moved to follow paragraph 4.1.27.

Recommendation 6	
6A	After the revised note at the start of Policy 1 confirming that the policy does not apply in the National Park replace the 1st, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of the policy with the following wording:

	<p><i>“All development proposals should demonstrate how they have been informed by the key characteristics of the LCA in which they are located. Proposals should be designed in accordance with the character management principles in respect of landscape set out in paragraph 4.1.17 for each of the LCAs in order to avoid detrimental impact on the LCA”.</i></p>
6B	<p>Delete the 4th paragraph of Policy 1 beginning ‘Applicants also should have regard’ as the parts of these elements relevant to landscape character will be covered in the modified character management principles in paragraph 4.1.17 and therefore covered by the modified first paragraph above.</p>
6C	<p>In the 5th paragraph of Policy 1 beginning ‘Overall, proposals ’ Line 2 – delete the words ‘built and’ as the built environment is addressed in Policy 2.</p> <p>In line 3 delete the words after ‘unsympathetic’ and replace with the following: <i>“...unsympathetic to the landscape character of the relevant LCA”.</i></p> <p>In the sentence following amend the start to read: <i>“Throughout the neighbourhood area the design and siting of new development....”</i></p>
6D	<p>In Policy 1 clause 1 lines 1-3 reword to read: <i>“Development should respect long distance public views of the upland areas (LCA1 Wessenden Moors, LCA2 Holme Moorland Fringe and LCA3 Hade Edge Upland Pastures) and...”</i></p> <p>In line 4-5 delete the wording: ‘...and protect public views towards the significant local landmarks as identified in the HCA report’.</p>
6E	<p>Delete clause 4 of Policy 1 in its entirety and renumber clauses accordingly.</p>
6F	<p>In Policy 1 clause 5 - line 2 delete the words ‘where appropriate’ and replace with the words <i>“for new buildings”.</i></p> <p>In lines 4-5 delete the words ‘or other species where appropriate’.</p>
6G	<p>Cut and paste Policy 1 clause 5 final sentence into Policy 2.</p>
6H	<p>Replace the subheading on Page 35 with the following: <i>“Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley”.</i></p> <p>Cut and paste paragraphs 4.1.19-22 and their subheading on Page 34 to follow after paragraph 4.1.27. Renumber all paragraphs accordingly.</p>

xiv. With these modifications the Policy will be in accordance with Basic Condition a). Policy LP2 on place shaping and Policy LP32 on landscape in the KLP seek to protect the character, views and vistas of the Kirklees landscape. Policy 1 of the HVNDP as modified would add local detail to the strategic policies and would be in general conformity with them. The Policy, in protecting local landscape character, is

likely to have a strongly positive contribution to achieving sustainable development. Accordingly, the Policy also meets Basic Conditions d) & e).

6.4.2 Conservation Areas and Promoting High Quality Design in New Development

i. Policy 2 is designed to ensure all new development is appropriate in its context and protects and enhances the distinctive local character of the area. In this respect it has regard to section 12 of the NPPF and, in particular, the requirements for planning policies set out at Paragraph 127.

ii. Policy LP24 of the KLP sets out the strategic policy in respect of design and sustainable construction and Policy LP35 the approach to preserving and enhancing the historic environment. The criteria in Policy 2 reflect the objectives of these policies. The opportunity is taken through the Policy to add local detail and it does not merely replicate the scope of the strategic policy.

iii. The aspirations of Policy 2 applied to new development will also contribute to design in the local area that is sustainable.

iv. Therefore the principle of the Policy would meet Basic Conditions a), d) and e).

v. However, as with Policy 1, success of the Policy relies on its implementation. The NPPF and PPG require policies to be clear and unambiguous and to provide clear guidance to developers. In this respect the policy as currently worded and presented fails and, as with Policy 1, Policy 2 and the supporting text needs to be modified if it is to operate as intended.

- First, the Policy sits in a section entitled Conservation Areas and Promoting High Quality Design in New Development. Both this and the supporting text e.g. at 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 coupled with the 18 pages of text and maps on conservation areas (Pages 39-57) gives the strong impression that Policy 2 is aimed at development within Conservation Areas only, yet in the Policy itself that is clearly not the case. The Parish Council were asked in one of the Examiner's Clarifying Questions (see Appendix A) to confirm that it is intended to apply to all development. They have confirmed this is the case and therefore adjustments are needed both to the title of this section and paragraph content. Whilst I understand the fundamental importance of the conservation areas to the neighbourhood plan's objectives the section and the Policy would be clearer if paragraphs 4.2.5 to 4.2.45 inclusive were to be relocated to an Appendix in the plan. However as this is not wholly necessary to meet the basic conditions, I do not include it as a formal recommendation. If, however, the Conservation Area descriptions are moved, the appendix would need to be cross referenced for example from paragraph 4.2.2.
- Secondly, Policy 2 incorporates elements of Policy 1 particularly at the start. As discussed above the recommendation is that the section of the plan at 4.1.17 setting out the key characteristics of each LCA would list those

character management principles that are important in respect of settlement and built character and that these would be the basis against which Policy 2 would operate. Therefore, the start of Policy 2 under Local Character needs to be rewritten.

- Thirdly, Paragraph 2 of the Policy is contrary to legislation (*Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*) and the NPPF when it states that harm or damage to a heritage asset should be minimised or mitigated. This is not part of the tests in Section 16 of the NPPF that development affecting a heritage asset must go through and as such the statement fails to have regard to national advice and undermines KLP policy LP35 and must be deleted.
- Fourthly the last sentence of clause 2 'Sense of Place' overlaps unnecessarily with the public realm Policy 5 and should be removed in the interests of conciseness.

Also in the interests of conciseness clause 3 after the second sentence either repeats KLP policy LP 24 or overlaps with HVNDP Policy 12 and the clause 4 reference to energy efficiency is also satisfactorily covered in HVNDP Policy 12.

- Fifthly, as with other policies, ambiguous requirements signposted by the use of wording such as 'where appropriate' and 'wherever possible' is used in clauses 3, 7 and 8. This wording does not provide precise guidance and needs to be modified.
- Lastly, Clause 8 refers to 'locally characteristic buildings' which are not necessarily clearly defined in the HVHCA although it is referenced. What I suspect is meant is simply development in keeping with buildings in the locality and the site setting which is what should be said. Clause 9 repeats clause 8 in large part and could simply be amalgamated with it.

vi. KC in its Regulation 16 representation also expresses concern in respect of Policy 2:

- First it is also concerned about what appears to be a policy that is to apply primarily to Conservation Areas but also points out that paragraph 4.2.3 talking about the limited number of CA appraisals implies that the absence of an appraisal weakens development management in conservation areas when in fact this is not the case. Inasmuch as the responsibility to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area is unaffected by whether a conservation area appraisal has been carried out or not, I agree the reference needs to be modified.
- Secondly, regarding clause 4, KC is concerned that the clause mixes a number of different strands, in particular the last sentence is a matter more relevant to 'Sense of Place' than to 'Innovation and Responding to Local Context'. Inasmuch as moving this part of the clause would contribute to a clearer, more precise policy and would not remove content, I recommend the policy is modified.
- Thirdly, in clause 7 KC is concerned that it is not clear what this section relates

to when a separate Policy 5 exists in respect of the public realm and also on the grounds that it is not clear what is meant by a 'sequence of spaces' in the second bullet. KC considers that the last bullet point of clause 7 overlaps with KLP Policy 63 and undermines it. I discuss below in the context of Policy 5 a clearer split between Policies 2 and 5 which I am satisfied resolves any lack of clarity. Moreover, in respect of KC's last point, having reviewed the 2 policies, I can see nothing in clause 7 that specifically undermines KLP Policy LP63. The clause makes the perfectly valid point, not covered by LP63, that the function of the space does require some thought in respect of where best to site it. Thus, for example an older children's play area is not always welcomed immediately adjacent to housing.

I do however consider that the bullet referring to a 'sequence of spaces' could be more clearly expressed.

- In clause 8 KC express concern that the Policy involves elements from other clauses and as the nub of Policy 2 should perhaps be located earlier in the Policy text. However, as I propose to modify the clause and amalgamate with clause 9 it will be clearer and the matter of whether it is set 'higher' in the Policy is not a matter that is necessary to meet the Basic Conditions.
- Finally, with respect to clause 11, KC considers this is unclear and potentially undermining when it is compared with KLP Policy LP52. I agree that in this case repetition is not helpful and the clause would be more clearly expressed by reworking the first sentence and leaving Policy LP52 to provide the main policy control.

vii. HVPC in putting forward its response to the examiner request for revisions to paragraph 4.1.17 submitted a proposed revised wording for Policy 2. Whilst this has been helpful most of the specific concerns set out above remain. The recommended modifications below seek to resolve these concerns.

Recommendation 7	
7A	<p>Retitle section 4.2 as “<i>Protecting and Enhancing Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting High Quality Design</i>” – consistent with the Policy 2 title.</p> <p>Delete the last sentence of paragraph 4.2.3.</p> <p>Delete Paragraph 4.2.4 in its entirety.</p>
7B	<p>Reword clause 1 of Policy 2 ‘Local Character’ to read:</p> <p><i>“Building designs in proposals for new development and alterations to existing buildings should respect the key characteristics and character management principles, relating to built character, of the Landscape Character Area in which they are located as set out in paragraph 4.1.17. They should protect and enhance local built character and distinctiveness and avoid any harm to heritage assets including conservation areas.”</i></p>
7C	<p>In Policy 2 clause 2 in line 1 after the word ‘place’ insert the words:</p> <p><i>“... by designing the site layout to respect the existing grain of development in the surrounding area and through use of local materials and detailing”.</i></p>

	(This wording is relocated from clause 4 see recommendation 7E below) Delete the last sentence which overlaps with Policy 5.
7D	Delete the words ‘Wherever possible’ at the start of Policy 2 clause 3 and replace with the word ‘Any’. End the clause at the end of line 4 on the word ‘shelter’ and delete the rest.
7E	In Policy 2 clause 4 - lines 3-4 delete the words ‘or opportunities are identified for greater energy efficiency’. Relocate the last sentence to clause 2 (See recommendation 7C above).
7F	In Policy 2 clause 7 – 2nd bullet – revise the start to read: “<i>A design of public spaces that connects with...</i>” In clause 7 - 3rd Bullet - delete the words ‘Where appropriate’ at the start of the bullet.
7G	Delete Policy 2 clause 9 and reword clause 8 to read: “<i>Designs should respect the scale, mass, height and form of existing buildings in the locality and the site setting. Development should fit in with and neither dominate nor have a detrimental impact on its surroundings and neighbouring properties.</i> Materials must be chosen to complement... environment. Local millstone grit and stone flags should be used <i>where these are the prevailing material</i>”.
7H	Reword the first sentence of Policy 2 clause 11 to read: “<i>Proposals should be designed to minimise harmful impacts on general amenity for present and future occupiers of land and buildings and prevent or reduce pollution as a result of noise, odour, light and other causes</i>”.
7J	Renumber clauses to reflect the modifications.

viii. With these modifications Policy 2 will meet the requirement for a policy to be clear, unambiguous, concise and precise and therefore be in accordance with Basic Condition a). As modified the Policy will also be in general conformity with KLP Policies LP24, LP35, LP52 and LP63. The Policy, in protecting and enhancing a sense of place and local distinctiveness, is likely to make a strongly positive contribution to achieving sustainable development. Accordingly, the Policy will also meet Basic Conditions d) & e).

6.4.3 Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets

Policy 3 Heritage Assets

i. The neighbourhood plan at section 4.3 considers the matter of conserving and enhancing heritage assets. Given that the NPPF and local development plan policies provide effective control in respect of designated assets, the plan does not seek to replicate this but does acknowledge that there are many locally important non-designated heritage assets (NDHA) in the valley which should be afforded protection. Hitherto these have not been identified, although KC has, along with other West

Yorkshire authorities, started the process of preparing a local heritage list following Historic England Advice Note 7 guidance and the plan takes the opportunity to advance the local list of assets in Holme Valley. The candidate list is set out in Appendix 2 of the Submission Plan and Policy 3 is then intended to apply to these assets.

ii. The identification of local heritage assets is advantageous and has regard to the NPPF at section 16 giving local property owners and developers (who are often oblivious to any heritage value) advance notice of the significance of the assets and assisting decision makers to understand impacts of development on the assets. However, progressing this through the vehicle of a neighbourhood plan is difficult particularly where, as in this case, the list as currently presented in Appendix 2 to the HVNDP is incomplete and has not been agreed.

iii. My initial intention as can be seen from the Examiner's qualifying questions at Appendix A was that the local heritage list could be completed in time for the final list of agreed local heritage assets to form part of the modified plan as and when it progressed to the local referendum stage. However, the response from the Council makes it clear that the timetable for the Kirklees-wide project, now under way, will not allow this. Agreeing selection criteria, assembling, researching and agreeing the list, even if Holme Valley was to be prioritised as a pilot, would mean that the agreed local list would not be ready prior to a referendum.

iv. This being the case it is very unclear what Policy 3, as it is currently worded, will achieve. I am not satisfied that the Policy is currently workable, in that a developer or property owner with proposals affecting a locally important building or structure and indeed the decision maker, would not be able to assess any development proposal in the light of a building's significance. This is because the listing at Appendix 2 of the HVNDP, which is cross referenced from Policy 3, does not make it clear what the significance or importance of the buildings are or why they have been selected for the local heritage list. The impact of development on them cannot therefore be adequately assessed. Moreover, it is likely that not all the locally important, NDHA are currently identified in Appendix 2 or that they are listed consistently. The Honley and Holmfirth buildings are, for example, presented in different ways and there are locally important buildings identified in the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment that do not appear in Appendix 2 at all.

v. In addition to these difficulties, Kirklees Council in its Regulation 16 representation has expressed concern that there is a need to draw a distinction between local heritage assets within conservation areas (because these are within an area that is itself a designated heritage asset) and those local heritage assets outside a conservation area. It proposes in line with Historic England guidance that these are referred to as 'positive contributors to the conservation area' which would carry greater significance as a result of the designation of the conservation area. I accept that there is a de facto distinction that needs to be made between a local heritage

asset within a conservation area and one outside but the implication of this means that the current Appendix 2 and Policy 3 also needs to draw that distinction.

vi. To resolve these issues, and as part of the examiner's clarifying questions and requests, the Parish Council in consultation with Kirklees Council and Peak District National Park conservation teams were asked to produce a revised local heritage list of candidate local heritage assets in the Valley. The purpose of this would be to arrive at an agreed list of candidate local heritage assets on a consistent basis and indicate for each a name or identifier, location, description, value and significance. This could be in tabular form as currently set out for Holmfirth in Appendix 2. Procedurally, as the local heritage list had progressed through the HVNDP the list should only include those buildings already set out - namely the so called 'key buildings' in Holmfirth, the 3 Honley Civic Society non-designated assets and those proposed in the HVHCA.

vii. In response HVPC has submitted revised Appendices setting out first the assets identified within conservation areas as positive contributors and second those other local heritage assets outside of conservation areas. I have reviewed these and am satisfied that they meet the requirements of presenting the necessary information in a clear and unambiguous manner. These are set out at Appendix E1 and E2 which are attached as separate documents to this main report and should be incorporated into the plan in a revised Appendix 2A and 2B going forward to the referendum.

viii. As a consequence of the above my recommendation is that Policy 3 is modified and simplified from its current form which is an unclear mix of proposal, policy and possible future intention. HVPC and KC have provided a suggested revised wording as part of their response on this topic. However, the revised Policy suggested is still a confused mix of proposal, intent and policy. Having set out the process of identification in the revised supporting text (see below) there is no need for this to be repeated in the Policy. I recommend that Policy 3 is simplified to ensure the intent is clear, namely that the plan has identified both buildings which are positive contributors to the conservation areas and how proposals will be assessed in respect of these **and** a candidate list of NDHA and how proposals will be assessed in respect of these. I also recommend that the Policy directs owners and developers to take account of the significance of the assets identified in designing development proposals affecting the assets.

ix. In addition to the changes necessary to the Policy and the supporting Appendix 2 there are consequential changes to the supporting text which are required.

- First, the exercise to produce a local heritage list needs to be understood in the context of the protection given to heritage assets generally and the distinction between positive contributors to the character of conservation areas and other NDHA needs to be set out to clarify the hierarchy/status of protection afforded to such assets within and outside of conservation areas.
- Secondly, the text setting out the process of preparing the local heritage list

needs to be updated to reflect the fact that work is starting on the joint approach within West Yorkshire and to explain how the Holme Valley work will fit with that.

- Thirdly ‘signposts’ to sources of information also need to be included to help the plan user such as Historic England’s Advice Note 7 giving guidance on local heritage lists.

x. HVPC together with Kirklees Council have proposed revised supporting text as part of preparing the revised appendices. I have reviewed this text and it would satisfactorily respond to these issues and I will recommend it is used to replace the existing supporting text.

xi. Finally, there is a detailed section in the preamble to Policy 3 about Article 4 directions which bears no relation to the content of this section of the plan or Policy 3. I understand that HVPC do want to see Article 4 directions used and enforced but this is not a matter the HVNDP can directly influence and as there is already a proposed community action dealing with Article 4 directions this could be developed and the section of text at paragraphs 4.3.8-10 should be deleted to avoid confusion.

Recommendation 8	
8A	<p>Delete Policy 3 and replace with an amended policy to read as follows:</p> <p><i>Policy 3 Conserving and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets</i></p> <p><i>“A list of buildings and structures which are identified as positive contributors to the designated conservation areas in Holme valley is set out at Appendix 2A. All development proposals affecting these character defining components of the designated conservation areas or their settings will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Part 1.</i></p> <p><i>A candidate list of buildings and structures identified as non-designated heritage assets is set out at Appendix 2B. All development proposals affecting these locally important heritage assets, (once formally identified), or their settings, will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Parts 2 and 3a and Policy DMC5 of the Peak District National Park Authority Part 2 Local Plan (Development Management Policies)</i></p> <p><i>When designing development proposals for all local heritage assets (positive contributors and (once formally identified) non-designated heritage assets), owners and developers should have regard to conserving the significance of the asset and the components which positively contribute to its character or appreciation as a heritage asset.”</i></p>
8B	<p>Replace Appendix 2 of the HVNDP with the revised Appendices of local heritage assets shown at Appendix E1 and E2 attached as separate</p>

	documents to this report numbering them Appendix 2A and 2B and incorporating them in the modified HVNDP.
8C	Replace the supporting text at paragraphs 4.3.1 to 4.3.7 with the revised text 4.3.1 - 4.3.8 set out in Appendix C to this report.
8D	Delete the text relating to Article 4 directions in paragraphs 4.3.8 to 10 inclusive.

xii Although these modifications represent a significant change to Policy 3 and related elements they maintain the overall purpose and intent of the plan and nothing that has not already been in the public domain in previous versions of the plan has been added. With these modifications in place Policy 3 and Appendix 2 plus the supporting text would be clear and unambiguous and Basic Condition a) would be met. The Policy and local list when modified and implemented will help protect local heritage assets in the neighbourhood area maintaining a sense of place and contributing to the achievement of sustainability. The Policy, as modified above, would also be in general conformity with the KLP. It therefore also meets Basic Conditions d) and e).

6.4.4 Design in Town and Local Centres and Public Realm

Policy 4 Design Codes for High Quality Shopfronts and Advertisements

i. The importance of shopfront design and related advertising in the townscape of town and village centres within the valley is recognized in this section of the HVNDP and Policy 4 looks to control change to shopfronts with a detailed design policy. Although the NPPF does not include policy specifically on this aspect of design, the principle of the Policy has regard to the policy elements of section 7 (Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres), section 8 (Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities) and section 12 (Achieving Well Designed Places).

ii. However, again there are a number of elements with this policy which are not clear and unambiguous. Moreover, the complexity of the Policy is not helped by repetition and its structure.

- First, the structure at the beginning of the policy is confusing and unclear as the first paragraph under General Principles should be part of the principles at a) to g) and not separated out.
- Second, section 1 of the Policy sets out detailed design principles which include fascias and doors and windows and yet the policy returns to these aspects at sections 4 and 5 when otherwise the policy has moved on to other elements of accessibility and security. This is confusing and unclear and

needs to be modified.

- Third, section 3 on accessibility seeks to ensure the special interest of **historic buildings** is not compromised by changes to improve accessibility but many town centre buildings, not just historic buildings, may have aspects of special interest which should not be compromised.
- Fourth, section 6 on Shutters and Grilles is unclear in the way it is presented. Sub-clauses a-c are the acceptable alternatives in both Kirklees generally and the National Park. Sub clauses d and e relate only to the Kirklees section of the neighbourhood area and for clarity should be in an unnumbered paragraph following clause c)
- Fifth, in the section on shopfront advertisements, the general principles and the more detailed advice in respect of fascia signage should apply to both Kirklees area and the National Park except in respect of illuminated adverts which would not be allowed in the Park. The structuring of this section needs to be modified to clarify this and move the section on illumination to the end of section 2.

iii. The policy is in general conformity with KLP Policy LP25 on advertisements and shop fronts and, whilst there is a degree of overlap, Policy 4 adds policy advice to be applied locally and does not undermine the general more strategic nature of the KLP policy. KC in its Regulation 16 representation criticises the Policy as being too detailed, too prescriptive and complex in the way it is structured. Whilst I accept it is a long and detailed policy I am satisfied that the guidance it seeks to give is not overly prescriptive and there is flexibility as required in national policy advice in the way in which it is worded. With the modifications recommended below the structure of the policy will be simplified and made clearer and it will be able to be operated successfully.

iv. KC make the following more detailed points:

- First, KC is concerned that the requirement that bold bright lettering should be avoided is overly prescriptive and unclear. I share the Council's concern in this case in that the requirement is highly subjective – would 'Royal Blue' for example quite common on fascia lettering be classed as a bold bright colour and who decides? In any event the first part of the clause says all that needs to be said on the matter in asking for sensitive colours which reflect the local character and appearance.
- Second, although KC is concerned that the section on illuminated signage in Policy 4 undermines KLP Policy LP 52 on protecting environmental quality I am not persuaded that this is the case. I acknowledge that Policy 4 does not specifically refer to the possibility of mitigation which is covered in Policy LP52 but as a starting point those seeking to use illuminated signage should be considering the impact on residential amenity and on the wider environment and that is all that Policy 4 is seeking to ensure.

v. PDNPA also raise similar issues to KC in their Regulation 16 representations. Most are covered by the proposed modifications below but the relevant policies box on Page 75 should include Policy DMS4 of the PDNP Part 2 Local Plan which relates to shopfronts.

Recommendation 9	
9A	<p>Cut and paste the first paragraph of Policy 4 to form design principle a)</p> <p>Delete current principle b) which largely repeats the new a).</p> <p>Renumber current principle a) as new b).</p>
9B	<p>Cut and paste section 4 of the Policy on Fascias (minus the subheading) to follow on from principle c) as new principle d).</p>
9C	<p>Renumber current principle d) as e). Insert after it as new principle f) section 5 to the Policy (minus the subheading) which deals with stallrisers, doors and windows.</p>
9D	<p>Renumber and reorder the principles as necessary to create a clear and unambiguous section of policy.</p>
9E	<p>Amend the second sentence of section 3 on accessibility to read :</p> <p><i>“Accessibility should be improved where there is the opportunity to do so provided any special interest of the building is not compromised”.</i></p>
9F	<p>In section 6 of Policy 4 – stop the listing of alternatives at c).</p> <p>Reword the remainder of the section (without reference lettering) as follows:</p> <p><i>“In that part of the neighbourhood area outside the National Park the following additional alternatives will be acceptable:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- External shutters that are removed during working hours – decorative options for these themed on the shop’s trade may be applicable.</i> <i>- Externally mounted open mesh roller shutters provided that the box housing is concealed behind the fascia and the projection from the face of the building does not result in an increase in depth to the detriment of the appearance of the shopfront.”</i>
9G	<p>In the section on Advertisements – General Principles paragraph 2 delete the first part of the sentence. Start the sentence at ‘Where planning consent...’</p>
9H	<p>Delete the last paragraph in the general principles dealing with illuminated signage so that the principles can apply to the whole neighbourhood area including the National Park and to avoid repetition with section 2.</p>
9J	<p>In paragraph 1 of section 2 on fascia signs delete the last sentence</p>

	regarding illumination as the general advice on fascia signs will apply within the National Park. Relocate this sentence at the end of the paragraph following clause f). Renumber clauses accordingly.
9K	In clause e) stop the clause at the word ‘area’ in line 2 and add the words “<i>particularly within conservation areas</i>”. Delete the remainder referring to ‘bold bright colours’.
9L	In the paragraph following clause f) insert in Line 1 after the word ‘proposed’ the words “<i>outside the National Park</i>”.
9M	In the relevant policies box following Policy 4 add “<i>Policy DMS4 Shopfronts</i>” before ‘DMS5 Outdoor advertising’ in the last line.

vi. With these modifications Policy 4 will be much clearer in its intent and more precise and more concise. As above it is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the KLP and as it is designed to improve quality of life for local communities and the built environment in town and village centres it does contribute to achieving sustainable development and Basic Conditions a), d) and e) would therefore be met.

Policy 5 Promoting High Quality Public Realm and Improvements to Gateways and Highways

vii. The importance of the public realm in the towns and villages of the valley is understood and, inasmuch as the HVNDP is seeking to improve the public realm, the principle of Policy 5 has regard to the relevant elements in the NPPF at section 9 (Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities) and section 16 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment).

viii. However, the Policy is confusing in its intent, repeats elements of policies elsewhere in the HVNDP, in particular Policy 2, and as a result is unclear.

ix. It would appear from the supporting text that the principal objective is to ensure that work by public sector agencies (including highway works) and by community and voluntary groups within the public realm, enhances and benefits its character and appearance. However, this main objective is muddled by inserting in the middle of the policy a section relating to public realm enhancement as part of general development schemes. For the most part this simply repeats Policy 2, in particular section 7 dealing with public spaces. It is not required in Policy 5 as well and including it is simply confusing resulting in an unclear and ambiguous policy. It therefore fails to meet Basic Condition a).

x. In the light of this concern one of the examiner questions to the parish in Appendix A below sought clarification on this point. HVPC has confirmed that the intention was

for Policy 5 to embrace public realm improvements as part of general development. However, for the reasons above, in particular the fact that this aspect is already better covered in Policy 2, or, as confirmed by KC, the requirement in terms of waste is covered in KLP Policy 24 and in the Highways Design Guide and Waste Management Design Guide, I recommend that the two paragraphs following clause c) are deleted.

xi. The Policy in other respects also fails the tests of being clear and unambiguous and precise:

- First, paragraphs 1 and 2 to the Policy need to be modified to clarify how the Policy will work and KC make the point that as the Kirklees Highways Design Guide provides significant advice on the matter of design in the public realm it should be referred to as a major contributory source.
- Using phrases such as 'where possible' and 'where appropriate' are unhelpful and unnecessary. As with all policies assessment across a range of policies will be required and so the 'balance' is always present.
- The paragraph before clause d) is unclear both in itself and its impact on the Policy as a whole as it is unclear whether criteria d) to l) apply only to highway schemes or more generally to public realm improvements which may not have the objective of enabling a safe and sustainable highway. HVPC in response to a follow up Examiner's clarifying question see Appendix A has confirmed that criteria d) to l) are intended to apply not just to highway schemes.
- In clause f – the use of the word 'limited' is unhelpful and unclear. Surely if the problem is clutter it should be avoided.
- In the section on Gateways and Highways, KC has pointed out in its Regulation 16 representation that most of the Map 17 gateways are in the Green Belt or National Park meaning the opportunity for any major development is extremely restricted. In response to a clarifying question to HVPC in the Examiner's questions at Appendix A, HVPC has responded that this section is intended to apply also to gateways into settlements within the valley and as this is much more likely to be where such public realm benefits could be secured this should be stated along with the means by which this will be achieved. The examples indicate that what is expected are likely to be off site works in the public realm and it should be made clear in the clause how these will be achieved remembering always that if secured by S106 the work must be reasonable and directly related to the development.
- Finally, although KC is concerned in respect of repetition in some clauses between Policy 5 and Policy 2, if Policy 5 is intended to apply in the main to works by the public sector and other community and voluntary agencies to improve the public realm, whereas Policy 2 is predominantly related to the design of built development in the valley then the slight repetition of themes is not unduly problematic.

xii. PDNPA also raise similar issues to KC in their Regulation 16 representations but these are covered by the proposed modifications below.

Recommendation 10	
10A	Amalgamate the second paragraph to Policy 5 with paragraph 1 to read as follows starting in the last line of paragraph 1: <i>“...settlements and villages. Such improvements will be supported where they are consistent with advice in the Kirklees Highways Design Guide SPD and where they:”</i>
10B	In clause b) delete the words ‘Where possible’ insert in their place the words – <i>“Take opportunities to enhance or....”</i>
10C	Delete the two paragraphs following clause c)
10D	Delete the paragraph before clause d) and revise to read: <i>“Where works are being carried out in the public realm to improve highway safety and efficiency the character of a place should be maintained and the following principles will be applied:”</i>
10E	In clause f) change the word ‘limited’ to the word ‘avoided’.
10F	In clause i) delete the words ‘where appropriate’ and revise wording to read <i>“...should be built into design in the public realm.”</i>
10G	Amend the section on Gateways and Highways as follows: <i>“Settlement ‘Gateways’ Where major new residential or commercial development is close to ‘gateways’ into Holme Valley settlements, or at route convergence points or rail and bus stations, consideration should be given to public realm improvements around the ‘Gateway’ including welcome signage and interpretation and landscaping and planting.”</i> (Or similar wording)

xiii. With these modifications Policy 5 will be much clearer in its intent to those carrying out work in the public realm. It is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the KLP and as it is designed to improve quality of life for local communities and the built environment it does contribute to achieving sustainable development and Basic Conditions a) d) and e) would therefore be met.

6.4.5 Building Housing for the Future

i. This section of the plan starts with a discussion about the housing requirement, proposed housing provision and the communities’ concerns about the impact of new housing. The HVNDP makes no allocations because significant provision is made through the Kirklees Local Plan. Rather the HVNDP seeks to manage additional housing, prioritising development of brownfield sites and managing the provision of smaller affordable properties.

Policy 6 Building Homes for the Future

ii. The first part of Policy 6 sets out the general principles establishing the circumstances in which additional housing development in the neighbourhood area will be acceptable over and above KLP allocations. The principle of this section of the policy has regard to the NPPF.

iii. The second part of Policy 6 seeks to secure a mix of housing within the neighbourhood area where recent housing development has been dominated by larger dwellings. The Policy draws on evidence from the Kirklees Strategic Housing Market Assessment which includes an assessment of the size of houses and which identified a need for a better range of house size and in particular provision for the elderly. The Neighbourhood Plan survey findings and consultation throughout the plan preparation also endorses the objective of Policy 6 which seeks to respond to concern that housing in the community is dominated by larger detached dwellings of 4 or more bedrooms and that a mix of units including 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units is required to support a sustainable community. The NPPF at paragraph 61 encourages planning for a mix of housing based on the assessment of housing need from different groups in the community and reflecting this in planning policies. Essentially that is what the Neighbourhood Plan has done. Moreover, as required in the NPPF, flexibility is built into the policy and it stresses that the mix should be based on the latest evidence of housing need. To that end the principle of this second part of the policy has regard to the NPPF and is not inappropriate in terms of Basic Condition a).

iv. There are though, as with a number of policies in the plan, problems in respect of how Policy 6 is structured and worded which means it is not clear and unambiguous as required by the NPPF and PPG.

- First the introduction to the first part of the Policy and the principles is unclear. The requirement for the housing to be in an existing settlement is a principle but is not part of the list. Moreover, the principles section mixes up what are requirements that would apply to all proposals and the aspiration to see the reuse of previously developed land (PDL) and the reuse of mill buildings rather than demolition. Clearly a proposal under the policy may not relate to PDL and mill buildings and therefore these clauses 1 and 3 should not be included in the requirements but separated out as policy objectives.
- Second, clause 2 merely states that housing should be suitable in terms of design, size, etc with no guidance as to how this will be assessed. In any event the matter of building design is covered in Policy 2 and house size, type and tenure covered in the second part of Policy 6. Inclusion at clause 2) is unnecessarily repetitive and unclear.
- Third, in the second part of Policy 6 on page 92 it is clear that the intention is that all of clauses 1, 2 and 3 should apply but the policy does not make this clear. Each clause needs to be linked by the word 'and'.

- Fourth, the reference at clause 4) in the second part of the policy implies that community right to build schemes would be expected as part of all new major developments. This is not how CRTB would work. The community would identify a site and willing landowner through which a CRTB scheme would be progressed and then proceed through the process as set out in legislation and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. As such this clause cannot be a requirement of all major developments and should be separated out at the end as a policy objective.

v. Policy 6 in the way in which it sets out the principles for additional 'windfall' housing and the requirements in respect of housing type and size is in general conformity with KLP policies LP3, LP7 and LP11. I acknowledge the concern KC expresses in its Regulation 16 representation that the HVNDP policy adds little to elements already covered in the KLP. However, other than where the repetition is undermining, I do not consider repetition per se would justify policy deletion for two reasons. First, Policy 6 covers ground that otherwise is spread over a number of KLP policies and secondly, there are some additional local elements particular to the vision and objectives of the HVNDP which would otherwise be lost.

vi. KC however raise a number of specific matters in addition to the matters already covered above in my assessment in terms of basic condition a) which I consider below.

- First, in respect of clause 4 in the first part of the Policy KC have suggested the reference to the Local Plan should name the policy (Policy LP22 Parking) and indicate that the most up to date guidance is contained in the Highways Design Guide. The point is made that it is unclear whether the Policy expects additional visitor parking over and above standards as the first line of the clause already refers to visitors. I agree these factual changes are justified in the interests of clarity.
- KC is concerned that, in respect of clause 5, a different message is given to that in Policy 1 clause 4) but I have already recommended deletion of that clause see Recommendation 6E above.
- In respect of clause 6 KC argues that the requirement on density is prescriptive. However, inasmuch as the clause is simply seeking efficient use of land in a manner that reflects the existing settlement character, I do not agree. It has regard to the NPPF and is in general conformity with KLP Policy LP7.
- More significantly in respect of the second part of Policy 6, KC objects that the Policy undermines KLP Policy LP11 in that the HVNDP policy only requires **major** housing developments to demonstrate how they meet local housing need in terms of size, tenure, type etc. Given that major development is defined as 10 and more dwellings this threshold is too high and Policy 6 should relate to all housing development. In addition, there is a further potential undermining of KLP Policy LP11 in respect of the clauses 1 -3 which Policy 6 states will apply to major development. For specific evidence-based reasons KC has stated in Policy LP11

that the affordable housing requirement will apply to developments of more than 10 dwellings or on a site of more than 0.4 has. The Neighbourhood Plan needs to apply the same threshold.

- KC has also pointed out that the rural West Sub Area for the SHMA may not necessarily be a sub area in the future and therefore better that the plan refers to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Supplementary Planning Document on Housing Mix and Affordable Housing currently in production. I agree to these factual changes and the SPD could be referred to in a footnote.

vii. Finally, in respect of the supporting text there is a correction that needs to be made in paragraph 4.5.5 where it states that the HVNDP can influence the inclusion or exclusion of allocated sites. This is not correct and as stated later in paragraph 4.5.7 the allocation of sites was fixed when the Local Plan was found to be ‘sound’ by the examining Inspector and was adopted. What the HVNDP can do however is to influence how these allocated sites are developed and that is the statement paragraph 4.5.5 should make. In addition, paragraph 4.5.10 would be better not to refer to small additional sites as infill development as this has a very specific meaning usually of one or two dwellings in a contained gap which will not necessarily be the format of development that would be supported under Policy 6.

viii. I recommend the following modifications.

Recommendation 11	
11A	<p>Reword paragraph 2 of Policy 6 to read: <i>“In addition to the housing sites allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan new housing development will be supported subject to the following considerations being met:”</i> Delete paragraph 3 beginning ‘Proposals are required....’</p>
11B	<p>Delete current clauses 1 and 3 of Policy 6 and include in an unnumbered paragraph following the final clause of the general principles section to read: <i>“Proposals for residential development involving the redevelopment of previously developed (brownfield) sites or the conversion of mill buildings and other suitable buildings to create low-cost housing and apartments is particularly encouraged.</i> <i>Proposals for the conversion of former mill buildings to residential accommodation should take opportunities to include provision for suitable commercial or employment uses as part of mixed-use schemes including live/work type accommodation.”</i></p>
11C	<p>Insert new clause 1 to read: <i>“The proposed housing is located within existing settlements not overwashed by green belt or is for housing acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy”.</i></p>

11D	Delete clause 2 as it unnecessarily overlaps with Policy 2 and with the second part of Policy 6.
11E	Reword clause 4 line 2 onwards to read: <i>"...accordance with Local Plan Policy LP22 Parking and the Council's most up to date parking guidelines in the Highway Design Guide SPD. Additional parking provision to accommodate delivery vans is encouraged to minimise additional on street parking on nearby roads."</i> Delete Appendix 4 or if retaining ensure these are the current standards from the SPD.
11F	Renumber clauses in the first part of the policy accordingly.
11G	In the second section of Policy 6 – House Types and Sizes – Delete the word 'major' in line 1 and the words 'of the Rural West Sub Area' in line 2.
11H	Amend the start of the paragraph in Policy 6 on page 92 which starts 'In particular...' to read: <i>"New Housing developments of more than 10 houses or on sites of more than 0.4 hectares will be supported"</i> .
11J	Insert the word <i>"and"</i> after clauses 1) and 2) in the second section of Policy 6 dealing with house types and sizes.
11K	Delete clause 4) in the second part of the Policy and relocate in an unnumbered paragraph following clause 3) reworded to read: <i>"New housing provided through a Community Right to Build Order (following the procedure set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations) or other community led housing project, including self-build schemes, will be particularly encouraged."</i>
11L	Reword the last sentence of paragraph 4.5.5 to read: <i>"However, through its policies the NDP can influence how housing sites allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan are developed."</i>
11M	In paragraph 4.5.10 line 4 delete the words 'infill building' replace with the words <i>"building within settlements"</i> .

ix. With these modifications Policy 6 would be clear and unambiguous and would meet Basic Condition a). As above it will be in general conformity with the KLP at Policies LP3, LP7 and particularly LP11 which seeks a housing mix and affordable housing. Moreover, the Policy is likely to result in a more sustainable form of development to meet community needs and therefore Basic Conditions d and e) are also met.

6.4.6 Helping the Economy Prosper

Policy 7 Supporting Economic Activity

i. Policy 7, in supporting development for new small-scale business and employment opportunities subject to criteria and provision for home working, has regard to section 6 of the NPPF seeking to build a strong competitive economy and encouraging sustainable economic growth. The Policy sets criteria to assess proposals against, as required in NPPF paragraph 81 although, as I come back to below, these are not in all cases clear and unambiguous, concise and precise as the NPPF also requires.

ii. In three respects however the Policy conflicts with national policy and as such fails to meet Basic Condition a).

- First, the Policy restricts business development to that part of the neighbourhood area excluded from the Green Belt. This is incompatible with the NPPF as there are a number of circumstances set out in paragraphs 145 and 146 where development would not be inappropriate in the Green Belt. Although the paragraph following clause 7 suggests development in the Green Belt would be accepted in certain circumstances it is unclear why clauses 1-7 should not be applied. A modification to correct this is essential. For consistency, a similar wording should then be used in clause 1 of the section on tourism development in respect of Green Belt locations.
- Second, the NPPF does not pose a restriction that development of an existing business should be within an existing site. If new business development is acceptable on any site within the terms of the Policy it is wholly unreasonable that an expanding business has to stay within its existing site.
- Third, no part of the NPPF restricts business development to the reuse of existing buildings or previously developed land. Even in rural areas well-designed new buildings to accommodate business development are acceptable. If HVPC wish to indicate a preference for this it should be deleted at clause 3) and instead a more general statement, that reuse of existing buildings and previously developed land is particularly encouraged, inserted after clause 7).

iii. In addition, to these major issues the policy conflicts with the PPG requirement for policies to be concise and precise in a number of respects.

- First, the Policy taken at face value could include retail businesses introducing a tension and lack of clarity in Policy 7 vis a vis Policy 8. This needs to be clarified to remove the phrase in all business sectors in the first paragraph of Policy 7 and specifically exclude retail.
- In terms of clause 4 the site may not have existing access to the highway network the appropriate test is that it **can be** connected. Moreover, in the same clause almost all new development will result in additional traffic. The test in the NPPF is whether that traffic results in an unacceptable impact on highway safety or that residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.
- Clause 6 repeats the provisions of HVNDP Policy 1 and in the interests of conciseness should be deleted.

- Similarly, at clause 2f of the section relating to tourism development the same provisions of Policy 1 are repeated. The clause also unnecessarily requires other policies to be considered. This all just adds to inconcise and complex policies.
- At clause 2g) the same criterion as at clause 4) regarding impact on the highway network is repeated and needs to be modified as above. Moreover, clause 2g ends with a requirement that traffic movements do not have an adverse impact on (*unspecified*) 'other users of the highway network'. This is unclear, unreasonable and unenforceable and needs to be removed.
- Finally, in clause 2h) the wording in the last part of the clause unnecessarily repeats clauses 2d) and 2e) and can be deleted.

iv. KC in its Regulation 16 representation expresses concern that there is little content in the policy not already covered by the KLP and in fact that Policy 7 makes business development more difficult. I agree that as submitted the Policy has significant flaws however, as proposed to be modified to resolve the conflicts with national policy and advice, Policy 7 will achieve its objective of encouraging economic development of an appropriate scale in the valley in general conformity with KLP Policy LP10.

v. KC in addition to raising most of the matters already discussed above make three further points.

- First re clause 5 KC point out that there is not currently a parking standard for commercial uses and the clause is therefore unworkable. This being the case and in the interests of precision in the policy, the clause will have to be modified to refer to parking provision being appropriate to the scale of the business.
- Second, in the section regarding homeworking there is no reason why extensions to houses to accommodate home working should be small scale. I share the concern in that what is important with extensions is that they are proportionate to the house and subsidiary. This qualification is already expressed in the clause. There is no in principle reason why a large house should be restricted to having a small-scale extension to accommodate a home office for example.
- Finally, in the section on tourism development the Council is concerned that the addition of the requirement that development should add to the tourism 'offer' in the valley is prescriptive and prevents the planning balance being applied. However inasmuch as this is just one criterion in a list of requirements which a developer of tourism facilities should consider I am not persuaded that it unduly skews the planning balance for a decision maker. It would after all be normal good practice in commencing a business to consider how a proposed development could establish a niche or unique selling point in the market because it adds to the offer already available. The policy is otherwise in general conformity with KLP Policy LP10.

vi. PDNPA in its Regulation 16 representation appeared to be suggesting that if Policy 7 was structured in a different way, elements could have applied within the

National Park. Because the point was not developed to any extent I sought clarification from the National Park Authority as part of the Examiner's clarifying questions (See Appendix A). In response the Authority has confirmed that Policy 7 should not apply within the National Park section of the neighbourhood area.

Recommendation 12	
12A	In the paragraph after the heading Supporting Businesses in the Holme Valley in Policy 7 delete the words 'in all business sectors' in the last line. After the word 'businesses' in line 3 add the words "(other than retail businesses covered in NDP Policy 8)"
12B	Add to the end of clause 1 in Policy 7 the following: "...or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy". Delete the paragraph immediately following clause 7).
12C	In clause 2) line 2 delete the words 'within its existing site'.
12D	Delete clause 3). Replace with the following wording instead in a new unnumbered paragraph following clause 7): "Business development which involves the sensitive conversion or redevelopment of existing buildings or makes use of a previously developed site will be particularly encouraged".
12E	Reword clause 4) to read: "The site can be connected to the existing highway network and will not result in severe adverse traffic impacts on surrounding roads."
12F	Reword clause 5) to read: "The site is large enough to accommodate car parking, service areas and landscaped areas appropriate to the scale of the business."
12G	Delete clause 6 as it unnecessarily repeats Policy 1.
12H	In the paragraph entitled 'Supporting Homeworking' of Policy 7 line 4 delete the words 'small-scale'.
12J	In the section entitled 'Encouraging tourist and visitor facilities' of Policy 7 at clause 1) replace the current wording with the following: "The site is located outside the Green Belt or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy".
12K	Delete clauses 2a) and 2f).
12L	In clause 2g) delete the word 'additional' in line 1. Delete the word 'material' and replace it with the word 'severe' in line 2. Delete the words 'neighbouring properties and other existing users of the area' in lines 3-4.
12M	In clause 2h) delete all the words after the word 'infrastructure' in line 2.
12N	Renumber the clauses to reflect the modifications.

vii. With these modifications the Policy would meet Basic Condition a). As modified it is also in general conformity with KLP Policy LP10. In promoting local employment opportunities that enable people to live and work locally it is also likely to contribute to sustainable living. Basic conditions d) and e) would also therefore be met.

Policy 8 Facilitating Development in Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District Centre and Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres.

viii. Policy 8 of the HVNDP seeks to support proposals for retail and other town centre uses in Holmfirth and Honley where they enhance the vitality and viability of the centres and supports development here and in local centres subject to criteria. The Policy also seeks to retain retail floorspace in the primary shopping areas of the main centres.

ix. Inasmuch as paragraph 85 of the NPPF encourages planning policies to support the role town centres play at the heart of their communities, the thrust of Policy 8 has regard to national policy.

x. However there are major problems with the Policy and in its current form it fails to meet Basic Condition a)

- The first major problem arises from a change to the Use Classes Order which came into force in September 2020. The order introduces a new use class E which includes all the former A class uses and former use class B1 and allows change of use within the use class without the need for planning permission. The implication of this is that a use in class Ea) (retail) can now change to Ec) financial and professional services without the need for planning permission.

For Policy 8 this means that the last 2 paragraphs of the Policy on Page 103 beginning 'Within the primary shopping areas...' and 'Proposals which would lead ...' are now inoperable. There was, in any event, an issue with the lack of evidence supporting this part of the Policy but as these paragraphs cannot be operated I recommend they are simply removed.

- Second, the Policy is not clear and unambiguous in how it would operate, with clauses 1 to 5 not always clear whether they are relating to just town centres or all centres. This is accentuated by a second set of clauses 6-9 just relating to local centres on Page 104 resulting in a confused disjointed policy. Phraseology used is also ambiguous for example in clause 2 what is meant by 'adequate provision', 'sufficient parking', 'walking distance' and 'useful signage' for example. In addition, no plan of the primary shopping areas is provided in the neighbourhood plan to clarify where the Policy applies to.
- Third, repetition in the Policy of subject matter already more than adequately covered in other HVNDP policies leads to an inconcise policy. Examples of this are at clause 5 and the paragraph following, along with clause 6 which needlessly states that proposals must satisfy policies elsewhere and clauses 7 and 9 which repeat themselves.

- Fourth, the Policy is not supported by adequate justification and evidence which is a requirement of the PPG. In particular, the supporting text makes almost no mention of the local centres and certainly does not set out a justification for the policy content that follows. As stated above, the removal of the section of Policy relating to retaining retail floorspace in primary shopping areas at least means the absence of justification for the percentages of floorspace does not need to be resolved.

xi. I recommend modifications to resolve these matters below.

xii. The Policy is in general conformity with Policy LP13 of the KLP but KC in its Regulation 16 representation argues that the Policy adds little if anything to the KLP policies. I accept that there is some overlap but in respect of clause 2 for example content in the Local Plan is spread across a number of policies where in the HVNDP policy it is within one clause. KC is also concerned about repetition in clause 4 regarding use of upper floors and considers the clause undermines the Local Plan in not making it clear that uses on upper floors must be compatible with ground floor commercial use. I accept that a modification to clarify this is necessary.

In respect of KC's point about repetition in the section on Local Centres with KLP Policy LP16 this is only partially true. The section in Policy 8 refers to retail in local centres and not just food and drink uses. With regard to clause 5 the reference to Policy 4 only relates to the architectural features of shop fronts and Policy 2 should also be included.

xiii. In essence, whilst there is repetition of local plan policy, if this places policy all together in one NDP policy and provided it does not undermine the Local Plan some overlap is acceptable. I am satisfied that the modifications I propose below resolve the issues in respect of the Basic Conditions and the policy can be retained.

Recommendation 13	
13A	Delete the last 2 paragraphs of Policy 8 on page 103 beginning 'Within the primary shopping areas...' and 'Proposals which would lead...' which are no longer operable. Delete the related footnote 16.
13B	Reword clause 2 to read: "Proposals should be designed to secure easy pedestrian access and cycle and car parking to standard (including electric vehicle charging points). The development should be within easy walking distance of public transport facilities, use clear signage and provide facilities for the disposal of litter."
13C	Reword clause 3 to read : "Retail development should be located in the primary shopping areas of Holmfirth and Honley as defined in map/plan x. If retail development is to take place outside the primary shopping areas proposals will be subject to the sequential test¹⁵".

13D	Reword clause 4 to read: <i>“The reuse of upper floors for residential use will be supported subject to the use being compatible with ground floor commercial uses”</i>
13E	In clause 5 change the policy reference in line 2 to read <i>“HVNDP Policies 2 and 4”</i>
13F	Delete the third from last paragraph in Policy 8 on page 103 beginning ‘Businesses premises should...’and clause 6 on page 104 which are unnecessarily repetitive.
13G	In clause 8 after the word ‘the’ insert the words <i>“ other units within the local centre”</i>
13H	Delete text in clause 7 and add it at the end of clause 9 after a linking word ‘or’
13J	Renumber clauses in Policy 8 accordingly.
13K	<p>Insert after the section in the supporting text on the night time economy a subsection entitled <i>“ Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres”</i> with text which describes these centres and their role and provides justification for how Policy 8 seeks to control development in these centres and what is the objective and intent.</p> <p>The following text has been agreed between the two Councils and is acceptable:</p> <p><i>“Within Brockholes and New Mill, there are small shops and services concentrated together which perform an important function serving each of the local areas. These have both been defined as Local Centres in the Kirklees Local Plan. They include a convenience store for top-up shopping along with a mix of other services such as health and beauty salons, hot food takeaways and pubs.</i></p> <p><i>The role of Local Centres is to provide for top-up shopping and local services particularly food and drink as set out in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13. Development within them should be appropriate in scale to complement and support existing businesses in the centre and the visitor experience.</i></p> <p><i>Residential areas are immediately adjacent to these local centres and there are some residential properties intermixed with the shops and services. It is therefore important that any development protects or mitigates against any impacts on residential amenity.”</i></p>

xiv. With these modifications Basic Conditions a) and e) would be met. With regard to Basic Condition d) the intent of Policy 8 in seeking to encourage local retail and service provision close to homes in vital and viable town,

district and local centres will contribute to more sustainable development and the Basic Condition is met.

6.4.7 Community, Education, Health and Well-being

- i. Policy 9 of the HVNDP seeks to protect and enhance local community facilities in the Holme Valley and support future additional provision. In that respect the principle of the Policy has regard to paragraph 92 of the NPPF which requires plans and planning decisions to similarly protect and support community facilities.
- ii. Whilst the Policy, in terms of intent, is in general conformity with KLP Policy LP48, the first section of the Policy in setting out how proposals involving the loss of community facilities will be assessed almost entirely duplicates the local plan policy. At best this is unnecessary as both the NPPF and PPG are clear that policies at different levels in the planning policy hierarchy do not need to repeat elements adequately covered elsewhere. At worst there is the danger of policies requiring slightly different things, which is the case here with respect to the fourth bullet point in the first clause 2 and the text in the first clause 3.
- iii. In respect of the fourth bullet in clause 2 the requirement is unclear. If the HVNDP definition of a community facility is one that is of value to the local community the implication is that it should be protected in that use whether or not the replacement use is another community facility. Under the Policy for example a valued local pub could be allowed to change to a shop or doctors. It is not clear what the community is seeking to achieve. With respect to clause 3 this is hinting at the rights communities have to bid to acquire community facilities if they are listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) on a Community Assets Register (CAR) but neither the Policy nor the plan refers specifically to this and it is unclear from the clause how it could be operated in accordance with legislation. Modified to refer to ACV and CAR however the clause could remain.
- iv. In respect of the first section of the Policy a modification to remove the repetition and simply depend on KLP Policy LP48 would achieve the plan's objective.
- v. In respect of the second section of the Policy encouraging provision of education, health and community greenspace learning, the policy essentially simply supports this type of provision.
- vi. KC in its Regulation 16 representation expresses two concerns with this section. The first relates to clause 1 where it is not at all clear what the second part of the clause is trying to achieve. Accordingly, I have asked the Parish to confirm the intention as part of my clarifying questions (See Appendix A). The parish has replied confirming that the encouragement is to apply particularly where the proposals would aid the retention of small community-based schools. The second concern is that the

last clause is ambiguous in saying that support will be given subject to proposals being in accordance with other policies without saying what these other policies are. Either the sentence should be stopped after the word 'supported' or relevant policies listed. It appears to me that NDP Policy 12 supporting sustainability is relevant along with policies LP31 (Strategic Green Infrastructure) and Policy LP63 (New Open Space) of the KLP.

vii. Finally, in respect of Policy 9, the Theatre Trust in its Regulation 16 representation expresses concern that the list of community facilities does not refer to the venues like the Picturedrome in Holmfirth and Southgate Theatre in Honley. I acknowledge that the list of facilities at paragraph 4.7.10 is not intended to be a full listing of every facility but rather categories of facility. However, none of the current categories would cover the facilities the Trust is concerned to protect and therefore the addition of cultural and performance venues to the list would be justified in view of their importance to the valley.

Recommendation 14	
14A	Replace the first parts of Policy 9 and clauses 1 and 2 with the following paragraph: <i>“Community facilities of value to the local community as listed in paragraph 4.7.10 will be protected and retained for community use. Development or change of use proposals involving their loss will be managed in accordance with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP48”.</i>
14B	Replace Clause 3 of Policy 9 with the following paragraph: <i>“Where the proposal involves a community facility listed as an Asset of Community Value on a Community Assets Register the community must first be given the opportunity to acquire the asset to continue its operation before planning permission for an alternative use or development can be granted.”</i>
14C	Second section of Policy 9 clause 1 delete wording after the word ‘supported’ in line 1 add: <i>“...particularly where the proposal will assist the retention of small community-based schools”.</i>
14D	Second section of Policy 9 clause 3 last line delete the words ‘other policies’ and replace with “HVNDP Policy 12 and Policies LP31, and LP63 of the Kirklees Local Plan”.
14E	Add “Cultural and performance venues” to the list of facilities at paragraph 4.7.10 of the plan.

viii. With these modifications in place Policy 9 would better reflect the national policy and guidance seeking clear and unambiguous policy advice and would meet Basic

Condition a). The Policy will contribute to achieving sustainable development by ensuring the communities retain and add community facilities improving quality of life within the parish. It is also in general conformity with Policy LP48 of the KLP seeking to sustain community facilities. It therefore also meets Basic Conditions d) and e).

Policy 10 Local Green Spaces

ix. The HVNDP at Policy 10 takes up the opportunity offered in the NPPF to identify and designate Local Green Space (LGS) in accordance with NPPF paragraphs 99-101. Such spaces can only be designated at the time the neighbourhood plan is being prepared and development within them will be treated in the same way as development within the Green Belt i.e. only permitted where very special circumstances apply.

x. The 4 sites considered and proposed to be designated as LGS are mapped in Maps 19-22 and described in Appendix 3 to the HVNDP together with the results of the assessment in terms of the tests set out in Paragraph 100 of the NPPF. The NPPF tests are:

- Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?
- Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and of local significance?
- Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land?

xi. There is general support for the designation of the Well Garden, Marsh Road Scholes and for the 'Triangle' at the north end of Hade Edge and having assessed these on site I am satisfied that both spaces meet the requirements of Local Green Space.

xii. However Kirklees Council in its Regulation 16 representations has objected to the designation of both Sandygate Fields in Scholes and the Chapel Field in Wooldale. The landowner of the Chapel Field has also indicated that they do not support the designation.

Sandygate Fields

xiii. Sandygate Fields is made up of 5 field parcels towards the north end of Scholes divided by and surrounded with dry stone walling. The site is open agricultural grazing land with wide open distant views to the north and it provides an open green setting to the listed buildings at Sandygate Farm and The Olde House Ryecroft Farm.

xiv I acknowledge that there is no public access to the land, for example public rights of way and to that extent it does not provide **public** open space. However, the tests

in the NPPF do not require LGS to have public access in order to be demonstrably special to a community. That explicitly is not part of the tests.

xv In respect of the tests, the site is local to the Scholes community being surrounded on two sides by continuous development including to the south by an allocated housing site. On the other two sides it is fronted by intermittent development. The site although open is not an extensive tract of land being bounded by development and the road network. From my observations on site the site is of high amenity value and part of the landscape setting of Scholes and is peaceful and tranquil countryside at the edge of the village. It is also reportedly an asset as wildlife habitat although not protected as such. The site has been assessed in detail, including on appeal, as to its historic significance both in the setting to the listed buildings at Sandygate Farm and Ryecroft Farm and in its own right as fields and field boundaries which relate to the farm and which have not changed in form and nature in over 100 years. Thus, whilst I understand the Council's concern that as private grazing land it should not be designated, it is my view that the area is demonstrably special to the community as green, tranquil open space which very much establishes the character of Scholes at this point and which forms a focus and context in local walking routes around Scholes.

xvi The NPPF makes clear that designation should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. There is no evidence before me to suggest that designation would be incompatible with this objective.

xvii In conclusion, it is justified that the site be protected as LGS.

Chapel Field

xviii. In many respects there are similarities between Chapel Field and Sandygate Fields as to the reasons why Kirklees Council is concerned regarding the proposed designation.

xix. The field is located at the north end of Wooldale between the Methodist Chapel and the main road west to Holmfirth. Again, as with the Sandygate Fields site it is walled around by stone walling and is not accessible to the general public.

xx. Nevertheless, it is clearly local to its community and is not an extensive tract of land. It plays a key role and is demonstrably special in amenity and townscape terms being a key gap in development along the Holmfirth Road and forms a tranquil green break in development. Moreover, it has historic significance as the setting to the listed Methodist Free Chapel. It also sits within the Wooldale Conservation Area and is important in the setting of the Conservation Area from the North. I am satisfied for these reasons that it is demonstrably special to the community.

xxi. As with the Sandygate site there is no evidence before me to suggest that designation would be incompatible with the objective set out in the NPPF that designation should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.

xxii. Policy 10 itself, in simply setting out which sites are designated, is however slightly at odds with the supporting text in paragraphs 4.7.29 which implies the purpose of the designation is protection. In order that the policy is clear and unambiguous as required by the NPPF and PPG there is a need for a minor modification so that the purpose of protection is made clear.

Recommendation 15	
15	Insert after the word ‘designated’ in line 1 of Policy 10 the words “<i>and protected</i>”.

xxiii. With this modification Policy 10 and the proposed designations will be in accordance with Basic Condition a). Equally, the policy is also in general conformity with KLP Policy LP62 seeking to protect local green space. None of the spaces are within the National Park and therefore the Park policies are not relevant. The Policy is likely to make a strongly positive contribution to achieving sustainability. Accordingly, the designations and policy would also meet Basic Conditions d) & e).

6.4.8 Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure.

i. Section 4.8 of the plan seeks to respond to the issues arising through the transportation of people and goods to, through and around Holme Valley. Policy 11 focusses on those elements that the plan can influence through development namely traffic management and highways design as part of development, accessibility focusing on sustainable transport and parking provision for development. However, many matters have been raised through the plan preparation process that are not directly related to the use and development of land and HVPC has rightly channelled these into an extensive list of community actions.

ii. The principle of what Policy 11 seeks to achieve has regard to section 9 of the NPPF and is complementary to its policy objectives. However again, as with other policies, the NPPF and PPG require policies to be clear and unambiguous. Policy 11 does not wholly meet this requirement in a number of respects.

- First, the source of Kirklees highway design guidance should be provided in clause 1 or at least in a footnote so that a developer knows which specific documents provide the detailed current guidance.
- Second, the Policy uses ambiguous phrases such as ‘wherever possible’ or ‘where appropriate’. This is unclear and would make it too easy for a developer to seek to argue that it was impossible thus undermining the objective of the policy and alternative phrasing should be used.

- Third, as with a number of the HVNDP policies, reference is made to the Green Belt in clause 9. This is unnecessary where it is located in the Policy in the context of parking provision and its inclusion simply contributes to a policy that is inconcise and confusing. In any event, the statement does not have to be said. The approach in the Green Belt is clearly set out in the NPPF and does not have to be restated in a part of the Policy that is focusing on parking provision.
- Fourth, in clauses 2, 3 and 6 some of the phrasing used is unclear in its intent and needs to be more clearly stated. In clause 2 ‘minimal interventions’ needs to be clarified. In clause 3 it is not clear what ‘new schemes’ relates to and in clause 6 references to ‘nodal points, frequent changes of direction and enclosure’ is potentially ambiguous.
- Fifth, in clause 3 there is a reference back to the HVHCA and the Parish Council in its submission, regarding new text for paragraph 4.1.17, proposes that the text in Policy 11 should refer to revised paragraph 4.1.17. However, I am not persuaded that this should be done in respect of clause 3 as neither the HVHCA nor revised paragraph 4.1.17 include detail about what the key characteristics are of the transport corridors which contribute to local distinctiveness. In any event clause 3 itself goes on to give examples of what these characteristics are.
- Sixth, in clause 11 some park and ride schemes if provided on a temporary basis will not require permission. The clause therefore needs to clarify that it will apply where planning permission is required. Also, in that clause, there is no need to state that proposals must comply with other policies of the plan as this is taken as read.
- Finally, in clause 12 HVPC again proposes, in its revised text to paragraph 4.1.17, that clause 12 is cross referenced to the new paragraph 4.1.17 for clarification of suitable materials. However, 4.1.17 does not specifically evidence materials for parking areas and, in any event, this is unnecessary in the context of the policy. Enough has been said generally in the HVNDP regarding what materials would be suitable to the local area for a decision maker to have a clear idea what is meant by “suitable materials...sympathetic to the character of the local area”.

iii. Policy LP20 of the KLP sets out a strategic policy seeking sustainable transport solutions whilst Policy LP21 manages highways and access issues. Policy 11, for the most part is in general conformity with these strategic policies of the adopted plan. However, KC in its Regulation 16 representation argues the Policy at clause 8 undermines Policy LP20 by only requiring developers to consider car sharing in respect of major developments when policy LP20 requires development generally to avoid single occupancy journeys by private vehicles. As with a number of policies KC consider Policy 11 is unnecessarily repetitious and overlaps with the KLP policies at a number of points.

- In respect of clause 2 I agree there is repetition and the hierarchy itself could just be cross referenced.
- KC is critical that the first sentence of clause 4 merely repeats Policy LP21 but actually this clause does go further and contains local detail although the requirement of safe access is adequately covered already in Policy LP21.
- KC is similarly concerned that clause 5 merely replicates Policy LP31 on Strategic Green Infrastructure. However, provided it is clarified that clause 5 is referring to local green infrastructure, the clause is justified.
- Similarly with clause 7, whilst KC criticise this for merely repeating Policy LP21, I am not persuaded that this is the case. Policy LP21 is largely about highway access arrangements whereas clause 7 is much more about linkage to sustainable transport routes. The clause is therefore complementary not repetitive.
- Regarding clause 8, I accept this does merely repeat the intention of Policy LP 20 and could be deleted.
- In clause 12 the point at the end of the clause regarding electric vehicle charging points is covered in LP24 and could be deleted.

iv. PDNPA also raises a similar issue to KC in its Regulation 16 representations regarding the clarity of the policy but this is covered by the proposed modifications below.

Recommendation 16	
16A	Insert a footnote reference after the word ‘design’ in line 3 of clause 1 to Policy 11 and after the word ‘design’ in line 4 of clause 12. Footnote to read : “<i>Current guidance is in the Kirklees Highways Design Supplementary Planning Document November 2019</i>”
16B	Reword Clause 2 to read: “Traffic management interventions should be <i>designed</i> on the basis of two principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The user hierarchy set out in the Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP20 and</i> • <i>Interventions that are the minimum necessary to achieve the traffic management objective and which do not adversely impact....”</i>
16C	Amend the start of clause 3 to read: “<i>Any highway works associated with new development should aim to protect the key characteristics of the Landscape Character Areas of the Holme Valley. These include for example grass verges.....”</i>
16D	Amend the start of clause 4 to read; “<i>All development proposals should take opportunities to provide safe access to local streets, footpaths....”</i>,
16E	Insert the word “<i>local</i>” after the word ‘Existing’ in line 1 of clause 5.
16F	In clause 6 reword the clause to read: “<i>Highway layouts should be imaginative in approach and include traffic</i>

	<i>calmed streets using a sense of enclosure to reflect....Valley.”</i>
16F	Reword the start of clause 7 to read: “Designs should take account of and link to public transport, pedestrian and cycle routes especially where these.....”
16G	Delete Clauses 8 and 9 of Policy 11
16H	In clause 11 line 3 after the word ‘facilities’ insert “<i>where planning permission is required (e.g to access Holmfirth Town Centre)</i>” Delete the words ‘or festivals / events in the valley’ as these are more likely to be temporary arrangements not requiring planning permission. Delete the words ‘comply with other relevant policies and’ in Line 4
16J	In clause 12 at the end of 1st sentence add sentence to read: “<i>In the Peak District National Park parking provision should accord with Peak District Local Plan Part 2 Policies DMT6-8 and associated parking standards.</i>” After that insertion stop clause 12 and start new clause 13 for the rest of the text but deleting the reference to the HVHCA and deleting the last sentence starting with the words ‘Development schemes’.
16K	Renumber clauses accordingly.

v. With these modifications Policy 11 will be clear and unambiguous and will meet Basic Condition a). The revisions will also clarify the relationship to development plan policies and inasmuch as the Policy will lead to more sustainable transport solutions it will contribute to sustainability. Basic conditions d) and e) are therefore also met.

6.4.9 Sustainability and Biodiversity

Policy 12 Promoting Sustainability

- i. The Holme Valley community sets great store by the need to tackle climate change and through the plan and Policy 12 is seeking to achieve carbon neutrality in developments by 2030.
- ii. Policy 12 sets out a range of requirements around renewable energy use, energy efficiency and sustainable living to start this process.
- iii. In promoting a more sustainable approach to building and construction through the Policy the plan responds to section 14 of the NPPF and in particular paragraphs 150 and 151. The principle of the Policy therefore has regard to national policy and is likely to contribute significantly to sustainable development.
- iv. However as with many policies in the plan it is not compliant with the requirement to be clear and unambiguous, concise and precise in a number of areas.

- First, the Policy presents a muddled picture as to whether it applies to all development or simply major developments. This is triggered by the first paragraph of the Policy and then confused further by the wording following. It is clear from the supporting text that the intent is that the Policy should apply to all development and modifications are necessary to make this clear.
- Second, the Policy throughout uses ambiguous phrases such as 'where possible' or 'wherever possible'. This is unclear and would make it too easy for a developer to seek to argue that it was not possible, thus undermining the objective of the Policy.
- Third, as with a number of the HVNDP policies, reference is made to the Green Belt in clause 1. This is only peripherally related to the subject matter of the Policy and its inclusion simply contributes to a policy that is inconcise and confusing. In any event, the statement does not have to be said. The approach in the Green Belt is clearly set out in the NPPF and does not have to be restated in a policy that is focusing on sustainable design and construction.
- Fourth, it is not clear from the section 'Encouraging Sustainable Living' whether what is expected is that development proposals should be encouraged to incorporate community gardens and allotments. Given the preamble to the Policy it is assumed this is the case. It should be clarified.

v. Holmfirth Transition Town in its Regulation 16 representation and an independent respondent do not consider the plan goes far enough towards achieving carbon neutral homes. However, given the legislative context and current Building Regulations which do not require carbon neutrality it would be difficult for the plan to go further. There is a balance to be struck and in my view the plan at Policy 12 achieves a realistic balance.

vi. KC in its Regulation 16 representation on this Policy makes the point that many of the clauses especially clauses 2, 4, and 8 merely repeat the KLP strategic policies in particular KLP Policies LP24 and LP26. However, for the following reasons I am not persuaded that this is wholly the case. Clause 2 sets out what technologies should be supported and whilst air source should be added, as KC suggests, the clause does not simply repeat KLP policy. Similarly in respect of clause 4 it does not merely repeat LP24 it is principally the reference to reclaimed materials that is the repetitive element. This could be deleted as in any event it is not directly related to energy efficiency which this section of the policy deals with. In terms of clause 8 there is no evidence that this merely repeats Policy LP24. There is an issue however that alterations will frequently be permitted development and therefore the clause can only apply where planning permission is required. For clarity this should be added.

vii. KC is also concerned regarding clause 3 that the KLP recognises that onsite

heat networks can operate at different scales and therefore should not be restricted only to major developments as in Policy 12. There is though an issue in terms of viability which needs to be reflected. It is important that the restriction to major development is removed but the reference to viability has already been included in the final version of the submission draft of the plan.

viii. KC is similarly concerned that viability may be an issue in respect of clauses 6 and 7, in particular with the latter calling for 50% of energy to be from renewables which goes well beyond KLP requirements. I agree that stipulating such a figure may simply be setting up the Policy to fail and it would be better to be expressed in more general terms. The point regarding viability should be covered but as one statement at the end of the Policy rather than repeated in the individual clauses.

ix. PDNPA also raises a similar issue to KC in its Regulation 16 representations regarding the clarity of the Policy but this is covered by the proposed modifications below.

Recommendation 17	
17A	Reword the introductory paragraph to Policy 12 to read: <i>“All development is expected to be designed to contribute to the following elements of sustainability and all major development (as defined in the NPPF) must prepare a sustainability statement which outlines how the development will contribute.”</i>
17B	Delete clause 1 to Policy 12 relating to Green Belt policy and renumber the following clauses.
17C	Add the word ‘, air’ after the word ‘digestion’ in line 4 of clause 2 to Policy 12.
17D	Reword the start of clause 3 to read: <i>“New developments should develop opportunities to deliver on site heat networks using renewable energy sources.”</i> Relocate the rest of the clause dealing with viability to the end of the policy so that it applies to all requirements. (See Recommendation 17K).
17E	Stop clause 4 after first sentence and delete remainder. Delete also the related footnote 21.
17F	Reword the start of clause 5 to read: <i>“All new non-residential buildings should be designed to achieve....”</i>
17G	Delete Clause 6d) as it is repeated at clause 7 and revise clause 7 to read: <i>“All new buildings should incorporate technologies which generate or source energy from renewable, low carbon sources.”</i>
17H	Add the words “where planning permission is required” after the word ‘properties’ in line 3 of clause 8 to Policy 12.
17J	Amend the start of clause 9 to read: <i>“The inclusion in development proposals of community gardens and.....</i>
17K	Add at the end of the Policy the following new paragraph:

<p><i>“The requirements of this policy will be expected to be met unless it can be demonstrated that this would render the development unviable. In this case, developers must demonstrate that they have worked with 3rd parties, (commercial and community), to assess the viability of opportunities”.</i></p>
--

x. With these modifications the Policy would be clear and unambiguous, would be in general conformity with the strategic policies and would contribute to sustainability. Basic Conditions a), d) and e) would therefore be met.

Policy 13 Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain

xi. Policy 13 sets out what is expected of development schemes to protect and enhance biodiversity.

xii. The NPPF at section 15, particularly paragraphs 170 and 174 encourages plans to promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and pursue measurable net gains for biodiversity which Policy 13 has had regard to.

xiii. Policy LP30 of the KLP and to a less detailed extent Policy L2 of the PDCS set out the principles to ensure biodiversity is protected and for strengthening ecological networks. The policies are specific in their requirements and there is substantial overlap between them and the Neighbourhood Plan. KC in its Regulation 16 representations argues that because of this and work going on both nationally and locally to produce a Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note it would be better to depend on existing policy and guidance and that the Policy could be deleted. However, given that the Policy was proposed to be included as a result of the SEA and its inclusion is supported by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in its Regulation 16 representation, I do not consider it is necessary to delete Policy 13 simply because it is repetitious, provided the Policy does not undermine the strategic policies.

xiv. KC do correctly point out that the requirement to protect and enhance biodiversity is not restricted to major developments and it is therefore undermining to Policy LP30 that Policy 13 is limited only to major developments when it should apply to all developments where opportunities exist.

xv. The YWT suggests in its representation that the Policy should indicate a net gain of 10% as this is likely to be the requirement emerging from legislation. However, KC by contrast suggests a more flexibly worded addition requiring net gain in line with national and local policy. Inasmuch as 10% may end up not being the agreed quantum it would make sense for the policy to be more flexibly worded.

xvi. Finally, KC propose that the section at the end of Policy 13 setting out how the net gain can be achieved should be deleted. I agree that this could be expressed in a clearer and less ambiguous way but inasmuch as it adds policy guidance not included in the strategic policy it would be sensible to retain it.

Recommendation 18	
18A	Delete the word ‘major’ from line 1 in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Policy 13.
18B	<p>Insert the words “<i>in accordance with the latest national and local guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain</i>” at the end of the first sentence in Paragraph 2 of Policy 13.</p> <p>Note - If the Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note has been finalised and adopted by the time the plan is prepared for referendum it would be appropriate to refer to it in a footnote flagged from the end of this first sentence.</p>
18C	<p>Cut and paste the last paragraph of the Policy from its current position to form a new paragraph immediately following the first sentence of paragraph 2 and revised to read:</p> <p>“A biodiversity net gain <i>will be expected to be achieved through development by:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing habitats retained....improve quality <i>and /or</i> 2. Securing local off-site...overall benefit. <p>Direct and indirect impacts upon biodiversity.....should be provided.”</p>

xvii. With these modifications Policy 13 will meet Basic Conditions a) and e). The protection and enhancement of biodiversity will also have a strongly positive contribution to sustainability and therefore Basic Condition d) would also be met.

6.4.10 Developer Contributions

- i. Section 4.10 sets out the intentions of the plan in terms of how the Parish Council would prioritise the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds available to it from development in the Parish once the neighbourhood plan is made.
- ii. This section was based on the situation as it was at the time the plan was being prepared. However, KC has now decided to withdraw all CIL proposals and will not revisit the matter until the Government’s current review of CIL and proposals for a nationally set infrastructure levy are complete. As a result, the whole section at 4.10 is out of date and no longer relevant. Specifically, Policy 14 is inoperable in its current form. KC in its Regulation 16 representation had requested clearer justification for the prioritising of CIL funds but as CIL, or any sort of infrastructure levy, is unlikely to be in place at least in the early days of the plan’s implementation, the priority listing cannot be applied. The Policy therefore in the circumstances would be unclear and imprecise. It therefore fails to meet the requirements of the NPPF and PPG and would not therefore meet Basic Condition a). It should therefore be deleted.
- iii. Although KC in its response to the Examiner’s clarifying questions indicated that Policy 14 could remain in an adapted form with reference to S106 contributions

added I am not persuaded that this is appropriate. Whereas there was a very clear reason why the Parish Council might want to set out its priorities in respect of allocating the 25% of CIL funding which it would be able to access after the HVNDP is made; the same does not apply to S106. S106 obligations as KC points out in its response have to meet clear tests and as a result it is unlikely that they could be used for many of the parish priorities identified.

iv. It is understood that the Parish Council may wish to retain a general section in the plan regarding how it will be implemented and this is frequently a feature in Neighbourhood Plans. This could for example refer to implementation through the development management process where HVNDP policies (once the plan is 'made') will be applied in determining development applications together with the use of conditions and planning obligations under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where the tests for these are met. The section could also point to the Parish Community Actions set out in the Appendix to the plan and how they will assist in achieving the Neighbourhood Plan's vision and objectives. It could finish with an indication of how the implementation of the plan will be monitored. If the Government's replacement for CIL is further advanced when modifications are being made to the HVNDP then some reference to these new arrangements and funding flowing from it could also be made.

Recommendation 19	
19A	Delete the whole of Section 4.10 along with Policy 14.
19B	<p>Replace with a general section of text under a subheading “<i>Implementing and Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan</i>” explaining how the HVNDP will be implemented broadly covering the points set out in paragraph iv above.</p> <p>New text agreed between the two Councils has been provided, is acceptable and should be used to replace the existing as follows:</p> <p><i>Implementation and Monitoring</i></p> <p><i>Implementation</i></p> <p><i>The policies in this Neighbourhood Development Plan, once made, will become part of the development plan for the area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework.</i></p> <p><i>The policies will be applied by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority through the development management process in the determination of planning applications, together with the use of conditions and planning obligations under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where the tests for these are met.</i></p>

<p><i>The Parish Council, applicants, developers and the community will be able to use the content and policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to inform representations to the relevant Local Planning Authority regarding planning applications within the Holme Valley.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council actions set out in appendix X to address the non-planning issues will be progressed by the Parish Council to support the achievement of the vision and objectives for the Holme Valley.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council will put procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Development Plan through planning application decisions, the use of conditions and appeals.</i></p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Development Plan may be reviewed by the Parish Council in line with changes to the Local Plan with this likely to take place at least once every 5 years from the date made and the Plan updated where necessary. The procedure for reviewing neighbourhood plans in place at that time in Neighbourhood Planning Legislation and the National Planning Practice Guidance will be followed.</i></p>
--

7. Other Matters

7.1 Regulation 16 Representations Regarding Local Plan Allocated Housing Sites

7.1.1 A number of representations at the Regulation 16 stage objected to the development of housing sites allocated in the KLP within the neighbourhood area in particular site HS183 and HS184 stating these should be designated as Local Green Space and not developed. Other representations object more generally to allocating housing sites for development on greenfield land within the plan area and one objects to the safeguarding of land around Cliff for future development.

7.1.2 As these development proposals and the safeguarded land are part of the adopted KLP and have been through due process, the Neighbourhood Plan cannot propose that these sites are not now developed or that safeguarded land can be redesignated Green Belt. However, the policies of the HVNDP, once the plan is 'made', will apply to these allocated sites and safeguarded land as and when they are brought forward for development and in that way the Neighbourhood Plan will help to ensure the sites are developed in a sustainable way appropriate to the area.

7.2 Regulation 16 Representations from Sport England

7.2.1 Sport England at the Regulation 16 stage raised a number of generic comments about what a neighbourhood plan should cover in respect of open space and recreation and particularly control over the loss of open space and the need for open space assessments. An Open Space Study (2016) was carried out as part of the preparation of the KLP and the HVNDP draws on it. Similarly, protection is provided through KLP Policy LP61 and to a degree through Policy 9 of the HVNDP and therefore the necessary control is already in place. There is no need for further specific coverage in the HVNDP.

7.3 Regulation 16 Representations from Forestry Commission

7.3.1 The Forestry Commission also raises a number of generic comments regarding matters which should be addressed in Neighbourhood Plans. For the most part across the policies of the HVNDP, as a whole, the Forestry Commission's concerns are addressed and there is no need for any specific additional policy coverage.

7.4 Appendices

7.4.1 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of appendices some of which provide important evidence but some which add little and could be deleted.

7.4.2 In respect of Appendix 6 which defines affordable housing, I consider that this should be deleted. It is referenced from Policy 6 in a footnote but as the policy text already refers to the NPPF (a widely available document) there is no need for the Neighbourhood Plan to include the affordable housing definition in full. Moreover, there is a danger in quoting the definition from national policy that, should it change, the incorporation of the definition in the Neighbourhood Plan would simply lead to confusion. In any event, advice in the PPG confirms that planning decisions are made considering a hierarchy of policy documents from national policy in the NPPF to local policy in Local and Neighbourhood Plans. It is not necessary to replicate statements in different levels of the hierarchy if they are already satisfactorily covered.

7.4.3 Recommendations are made in section 6 above to the inclusion of the Parish Actions in an appendix, the development of Appendix 2 detailing the Local Heritage Assets, and to the possibility of the descriptions of conservation areas being moved to an appendix. These will extend the appendices significantly and it may be that, as a result, those appendices of less value to the interpretation of the plan along with Appendix 7 setting out extracts from the HVHCA (now summarised into section 4.1.17) could be removed in the interests of conciseness. However, as any such deletions (other than Appendix 6) are not strictly necessary to meet the Basic Conditions I make no formal recommendation regarding deletion.

Recommendation 20	
20A	Delete Appendix 6 in its entirety, remove the reference to it in footnote 11 to Policy 6 of the plan.
20B	Renumber the appendices after making all changes and ensure referencing through the plan to them is correct.

7.5 Typographical and Formatting Corrections

7.5.1 There are a number of typographical / grammatical errors in the plan which ought to be corrected. In addition to proposing modifications to ensure the plan meets the Basic Conditions the only other area of amendment that is open to me as the examiner is to correct such errors. I have identified these in Appendix D and in modifying the plan as set out above and finalising it for the referendum these typographical amendments should be made.

Recommendation 21	
21	Make typographical and grammatical corrections as set out in Appendix D at the end of this report.

8. Referendum

8.1 Subject to the recommended modifications set out above being completed, it is appropriate that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to a Referendum.

8.2 I am required to consider whether the Referendum Area should be synonymous with the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area or extended beyond it.

8.3 The Neighbourhood Area covers the administrative area of Holme Valley Parish. Given the scale and nature of the plan proposals it would not affect residents in adjoining parishes to any significant degree and I do not consider that extension of the area would be warranted.

8.4 Accordingly, I consider that it is unnecessary to recommend any other referendum area than the Neighbourhood Area and no representations have been submitted seeking any alternative approach.

Recommendation 22

22	I recommend to Kirklees Council that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan, modified as specified above, should proceed to a referendum based on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area as approved by the Kirklees Council on 27 January 2015 and the Peak District National Park Authority on 13 February 2015.
-----------	---

Peter D Biggers MRTPI AIHBC - Independent Examiner –

15 June 2021

Appendix A – Examiners Clarifying Questions and Information Requests put to Holme Valley Parish Council, Kirklees Council and Peak District National Park Authority.

Questions and Information Requests to Parish Council

1. Policies 1 and 2 depend heavily on content of the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment (HVHCA) to operate with the policies referring to both the text at paragraph 4.1.17 and the text at Appendix 7 of the NDP. At present I am not satisfied that the operational relationship between policy and various sections of text is sufficiently clear or would be easily navigated and understood by either a developer or a decision maker to meet the requirements of the NPPF or Planning Policy Guidance and therefore Basic Condition A. I am therefore inviting The Parish Council and their Planning Consultant in consultation with Kirklees Council, who have significant concerns about this matter, to review the principles in section 4.1.17 to ensure the key principles for each of the LCAs and for both 'landscape and views' and 'settlement and built form' are clearly set out and so that these clearly relate to the two policies.

I have considered possibly leaving this rewording open to be done through a general modification but essentially to ensure the two policies would meet the requirements in terms of the Basic Conditions I consider that I need to see this reworked section to satisfy myself that the two policies can work.

In principle the bullet point approach can be retained but what will be required is that 4.1.17 contains all the key principles for 'landscape and views' and 'settlement and built form' without the plan user having to refer to Appendix 7 of the plan or the full HVHCA.

Thus the layout for LCA4 as an example would be as follows:

LCA4 – River Holme Settled Valley Floor.

Key principles – Landscape and views

-
-
-

Key principles – Settlement and built form

-
-
-

In preparing this you should not add any principles that are not already in the public domain in the NDP within 4.1.17 itself or Appendix 7 extracts. What I am looking for is a more exact setting out of the principles against which Policy 1 (Landscape Character) and Policy 2 (Built Character) will be operated so that a developer or decision maker knows immediately which principles will be applied in the assessment of their proposals.

HVPC Response - Following a meeting with Kirklees on 26/3/21, it was agreed that the response below would be provided as the way in which HVPC had interpreted the changes requested by the Examiner. It should be noted that it includes all Local Character Areas including those in the PDNP. Kirklees proposed more detailed clarifications and rearrangement of information which will also be shared with the Examiner by Kirklees. Prior to undertaking additional work on this, we agreed that both the HVPC and Kirklees

suggestions be presented to the Examiner so he can provide a steer on which level of change is required. This is to avoid abortive work and the Examiner's prompt response to which approach to adopt is appreciated.

2. Is it not the case that Policy 2 is intended to apply to all development and not just development in Conservation Areas even though the text in the supporting text implies that the policy may be restricted to development in Conservation Areas? Please clarify.

HVPC Response -The intention is that Policy 2 should be applied across the whole valley.

The Parish Council recognises that the numerous conservation areas and other heritage assets are already given protection in national and Kirklees' planning policies, but Holme Valley as a whole has a distinctive and unique character comprised of many individual settlements, hamlets and buildings, which in turn all have their own character and identity. The local vernacular and materials provide a direct visual link between the buildings and landscape. The area's pre-industrial and industrial heritage is woven into the very fabric of the farms, villages and transport routes that crisscross the area.

The aim is that new development is designed positively to respond to this context, so that change can be successfully integrated into a landscape and townscape which has a very strong and unique sense of place and which is highly valued by residents and visitors.

3. Policy 3 implies that for undesignated heritage assets they will be assessed against Kirklees and Park Authority heritage policies. A developer therefore needs to understand the significance of the locally important undesignated heritage assets and how the proposed development will impact on that significance.

Currently I have concerns that Appendix 2 is not an agreed list (appearing to be provisional), and presents information in respect of Honley and Holmfirth in different and inconsistent ways and does not necessarily include all suggested Undesignated Assets in the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment Report (HVHCA) In particular, it does not clearly set out the significance of all assets. If Policy 3 and the idea of a local list of undesignated heritage assets is to be able to be retained, Appendix 2 needs to be an **agreed** list of undesignated assets on a consistent basis and indicate for each a name or identifier, location, description and significance. This could be in tabular form as currently set out for Holmfirth. For the avoidance of doubt and to avoid procedural issues, the list should only include those already set out - namely the so called 'key buildings' in Holmfirth, the 3 Honley Civic Society undesignated assets and those proposed in the HVHCA. No others should be added at this stage as they have not been in the public domain as part of the submitted plan. If any cannot be agreed as locally significant they should be deleted at this stage. It is suggested that the Parish Council, its Planning Consultant and Kirklees Conservation Team / Park Authority Conservation Team agree the content of the list and revised Appendix 2 prior to the revised Appendix wording being returned to me.

HVPC Response - Following a meeting Kirklees on 26/3/21, it was agreed that the Steering group would submit a table collating all the assets identified in the

AECOM report and appendices. However, all those assets which are within a Conservation Area would be identified separately as 'positive contributors to the Conservation Area' rather than as non-designated heritage assets. This was due to concerns of Kirklees officers that identifying non-designated heritage assets within a Conservation Area weakened their protection as conservation areas (and therefore all buildings and structures within them) are identified as designated heritage assets in the NPPF. As positive contributors, they would have a higher level of protection. The policy wording and supporting text will be amended in conjunction with Kirklees to provide this clarification and also explain how Kirklees is seeking to compile an agreed set of assessment criteria and then an adopted local list of non-designated heritage assets across the district. In the meantime, the table being collated by the NDP Steering Group will list all the sites with justification and clarification of whether they are identified as candidate non-designated heritage assets or positive contributors. This table will then be shared with Kirklees for further discussion and consideration.

4. In Policy 4 should it not be the intention that the second paragraph in the General Principles for advertisements should apply in both the Kirklees and Park areas of the Neighbourhood Area? The distinction between the areas should only apply in relation to illuminated advertisements because illuminated adverts are not be permitted in the park other than in respect of Petrol Filling Station signs?

HVPC Response - The Parish Council would like the second paragraph to apply to both local planning authority areas.

It is accepted that the distinction between the areas should only apply in relation to illuminated advertisements because illuminated adverts are not be permitted in the park other than in respect of Petrol Filling Station signs.

The part of the sentence 'In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority' could be deleted from the second paragraph.

5. A - In Policy 5 re Public Realm - Is the principal intention that this policy will be used to guide public realm improvements by the public sector eg Kirklees Council even though the middle section of the policy refers to developments involving public realm works?

HVPC Response - The intention is that the Policy should refer to all public spaces. Improvements to the public realm in Holme Valley are carried out by the public and voluntary sectors such as local charities and community groups. In addition there are private companies with land which is or could be open to public access, including around the many reservoirs in the area which are managed by Yorkshire Water and stretches of land along the River Holme for example between Holmfirth and Thongsbridge. There are also opportunities for new developments to enhance the public realm as well as provide new open spaces as part of new housing developments.

B – Is the section on 'Gateways' intended to apply to 'gateways' into settlements as well as the 17 key gateways?

HVPC Response - Yes - this should be applied to all gateways into settlements not just the ones shown on Map 17. The wording in the Policy is 'including as identified on Map 17'.

6. Are the criteria and requirements of Policy 6 intended to apply to both allocated housing sites in the Local Plan and windfall development?

HVPC Response - Yes - this Policy should be applied to allocated and windfall sites.

7. Policies 2, 6 and 7 state at the start that they do not relate to the National Park area and yet in the list of local plan policies following these NDP policies, Peak District Policy References are included – which is correct?

HVPC response - The PDNP policies should be deleted from the supporting text in these sections.

The part of the NDP area which lies within the Peak District National Park area is in the Natural Zone and PDNP LDF Core Strategy Policy L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics B sets out that 'other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted.

8. In Policy 7 is the intention really to restrict the policy to development of existing buildings and previously developed land as section 3 suggests?

HVPC Response - Yes - the Parish Council's preference is for brownfield development (using previously developed land and buildings) wherever possible.

9. Is policy 11 (3) intended to mean Highway schemes and works by the Highway Authority when it refers to 'new schemes'?

HVPC Response - Yes - this should refer to works by the Highways Authority

Supplementary Questions asked subsequently :

- A. In policy 5 – public realm – is it the intention that clauses d) to l) should also apply to general public realm improvements which may not involve any work to secure a safe and sustainable highway?

HVPC Response: Yes, the principles listed would apply to all development schemes taking place in the valley as there is concern that highways and the interests of vehicle users could unduly dominate any schemes (whether done for public realm or highways purposes). The points a) - c) were general principles which apply to any public realm changes but the list d) - l) was a way of capturing other elements which would be particularly relevant where highways schemes were proposed as many 'developments' include both public realm and highways improvements and we do not want the priorities of the latter to override the impact on the public realm. This was something particularly pertinent to a proposed road improvement scheme planned in Holmfirth where there was a fear that time savings for vehicles were being valued above the pedestrian experience of the town centre.

- B. In policy 9 - second section - clause 1 talking about support for proposals in schools - is the intention in the second part of that section that support would be particularly important if it helped retain small community based schools or is the intention something else?

HVPC Response: Yes, the intention is to help retain small community based schools as there is value in having schools within the local communities over the potential efficiency of combining multiple schools across the valley into a central site.

Questions to Peak District National Park Authority

10. The PDNPA appears to be suggesting in respect of at least Policy 1 (if not 2) that as landscape character flows over the park boundary that the policy should apply to the Park. Please confirm the intention and if it is the authority's view that the policy /policies should cover that section of the plan area in the PDNP it would be helpful for a Planning Officer from the PDNPA to participate in the work required under question 1 above.

PDNPA Response - Policy 1 should not apply to the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. This is because aspects of neighbourhood policy 1 are not in general conformity with strategic policy, in particular Core Strategy L1. PDNPA comments regarding the flow of landscape across the park boundary are made in respect of the possible operation of neighbourhood policy 1 *outside but adjacent to* the boundary of the national park.

Policy 2 should not apply to the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. This is because neighbourhood policy 'avoid any adverse impacts' is weaker than CS L3 'development will not be permitted where it is likely to cause harm to the significance of any cultural heritage asset.' Neighbourhood policy could undermine strategic policy therefore is not in general conformity.

11. It was not clear from the PDNPA comments what form of words the Authority considers should be used to clarify when a Neighbourhood Plan policy only refers to the Kirklees section of the Plan Area. Please indicate a preferred form of words if there is concern over the current wording in the submitted NDP.

PDNPA Response - It is preferable to refer to the national park itself rather than the planning authority. So for example: 'Policy 1 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the peak district National Park.'

12. Re Policy 7 the PDNPA position is not entirely clear as to whether it is proposing that policy 7 should be applied to the Park. Please clarify.

PDNPA Response - Policy 7 should not apply to the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

Questions to Kirklees Council

13. Are there any Article 4 Directions pertaining to the Holme Valley currently in place / or planned?

KC Response - The council confirms that there are no Article 4 directions relating to the Holme Valley in place or planned.

14. Re Policy 12 – Is Kirklees Council in a position to support a requirement for a formal sustainability assessment for major developments for example by requiring it as part of its local validation checklist or ensuring that DM Officers request such assessments where they are not submitted with the application ?

KC Response - The Council is working towards an updated Validation List that will include a requirement for all minor and major applications to be accompanied by a Climate Change Statement to demonstrate how the development contributes towards the transition to a low carbon economy. However, this will be subject to Kirklees Council Cabinet endorsement and has no weight at this time.

In the interim, the council do request that major applications demonstrate how the proposal responds to the Council's Climate Change Emergency. Whilst the Local Plan predates the declaration of a climate emergency and the net zero carbon target, it includes a series of policies which are used to assess the suitability of planning applications in the context of climate change. When determining planning applications, the council use the relevant Local Plan policies and guidance documents to embed the climate change agenda.

Proposed Modification

The Examiner may wish to modify Policy 12 to refer to Climate Change Statement rather than sustainability assessment to ensure consistency with referencing.

15. Please confirm Kirklees position regarding the CIL because as things stand the referencing in section 4.10 of the plan is unclear where there is no CIL or no prospect of a CIL.

KC Response - Kirklees Council at Cabinet 19th January 2021 endorsed a decision "That the council shall not proceed to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule at this stage and that the implementation of the CIL be reconsidered at a later stage dependent upon national government policy intentions and economic circumstances".

The council's decision was based on the following:

- The 'Planning for the Future' White Paper – this set out the government's intention to abolish CIL and replace it with a nationally set infrastructure levy;
- Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No 2) Regulations 2019 removed restrictions allowing contributions from developers to be pooled together and used to help fund infrastructure proposals to reduce the impact of developments.

The council may seek to re-visit CIL in the future, should the government stance change. Were that to be the case, the council would again consult the community and update its evidence to determine the most appropriate approach to support the

economic recovery of the district. There is, therefore, the potential for CIL to be reconsidered in the future.

Proposed Modifications

Opportunities for funding also exist through potential Section 106 or other funding mechanisms and this is already referenced in the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan Section 4.10 Developer Contributions. To ensure that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan includes the opportunity to link to potential funding through the development application process, it is considered that the policy should be retained but with some minor modifications to the policy wording and policy justification.

The Examiner may wish to consider amending Policy 14 Focusing Developer Contributions on Local Priorities (new text in bold and underlined) to read as follows: *The Parish Council will prioritise funds, **where appropriate**, received through the Community Infrastructure Levy, **Section 106 or other funding opportunities** to support and enable projects which seek to address the following aims (not in order of priority):*

- Improvement of public rights of way including access along the River Holme
- The provision of better facilities for either young people and / or old people
- Local highway improvements
- *Environmental or heritage projects seeking to improve the built and natural environment*
- Improvements to car parking provision
- *The ongoing retention and support of community facilities including public toilets.*

The Parish Council actions listed in this Neighbourhood Development plan also identify specific locations where potential projects have been identified for further consideration.

Further Proposed Modifications for consideration by the Examiner to reflect the proposed amended policy wording would be to:

- update the council's position with regard to CIL at paragraph 4.10.1 of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan;
- Delete reference to draft CIL rates outlined at paragraph 4.10.6-4.10.7;
- Amend last sentence of 4.10.8 to read: "Using the feedback received, we have given the following priorities in a policy as outlined below **which where appropriate, can be used to prioritise local infrastructure funding:**
- Insert new paragraph 4.10.4 to refer to the three tests for section 106 and viability. **Planning obligations may only be a reason for granting planning permission if they meet the tests that they are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms:**
 - **Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;**
 - **Directly related to the development; and**
 - **Fairly and reasonably relate in scale and kind to the development.**

The impact on the viability of the scheme is also an important consideration.

16. Regulation 16 Representation – 5793223_0_1 appears not to be comments on the NDP but on the Holmfirth Town Access Plan. Please confirm that this should be removed from the list of representations, including on the HVNDP web pages, and referred elsewhere.

KC Response - The council agrees that representation – 5793223_0_1 does not relate to the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The representator has been contacted to confirm that the representation will be removed from the council's on-line portal. 1.13 At the time of receipt of the representation, it was forwarded to the Project Officer dealing with the Holmfirth Town Centre Access Plan (HTCAP). The representation will be retained along with the previous consultation engagement material for the HTCAP scheme.

Supplementary Questions asked subsequently:

- A. What stage is the Housing Mix and Affordable Housing SPD currently at? Would it be at a point where it would be sensible to refer to it in the context of Policy 6?

KC Response - With regard to your questions on the Housing Mix and Affordable Housing SPD, it is anticipated that it will go out for consultation in summer/autumn of this year. We don't think it is necessary for the SPD to be referred to in the neighbourhood plan.

Appendix B – Recommendation 5 - Modified Text for Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan paragraphs 4.1.16 and 4.1.17

4.16 The Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment describes the key characteristics and character management principles for the landscape and built character of each of the 8 identified Landscape Character Areas. The key characteristics and character management principles for each of the Landscape Character Areas in respect of landscape and built character are set out below and are the character management principles to be applied in Policies 1 and 2 dealing with protecting and enhancing landscape character and protecting and enhancing built character respectively. The evidence as to why these principles are important to the future of the valley is set out in the HVHCA.

4.17 However it is important to note that many of the landscape characteristics of the Holme Valley have a strong association with the built character. The area's pre-industrial and industrial heritage, with links to textile production and manufacture, mining and quarrying, is woven into the very fabric of the stone walls, farmsteads, hamlets, villages and towns and the transport routes that link them.

The aim is that new development is designed positively to respond to this context, so that change can be successfully integrated into a landscape and townscape which has a very strong and unique sense of place and which is highly valued by residents and visitors.

LCA1: Wessenden Moors

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The whole of LCA1 lies within the Peak District National Park and stretches from Wessenden Head Moor in the north to the fringes of Black Hill in the west and across to Bleakmires Moss in the south. The area forms part of the wider moorland expanses of the Peak District National Park.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Open moorland and exposed farmland grazed by sheep.
- Views to the west are characterised by long distance open panoramas across the moorland contrasting with views to the east of the densely settled River Holme valley and distant conurbations beyond.
- Field boundaries are generally rare but where these do exist, they include stone walls.
- Except for Holme Moss Transmitting Station the full extent of the LCA is defined as open access land. A section of the Pennine Way long distance footpath crosses the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Maintain open, undeveloped areas of moorland.
- Respect long distance views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries.
- Preserve the open access land and route of the Pennine Way to maximise recreational opportunities.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

In this remote upland area, built form is limited to that associated with the Holme Moss transmitting station and other structures associated with sheep grazing and moorland management.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Remote landscape devoid of settlement with built form limited to functional structures.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Development should maintain the sense of remoteness.

LCA2: Holme Moorland Fringe

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The western and southern parts of the area are located within the Peak District National Park and rough grazing and semi-improved pasture on the steep slopes to the east forms an immediate fringe to the national park. The area includes Bilberry, Digley, Brownhill, Ramsden, Riding Wood and Yateholme reservoirs and watercourses flow from the upland plateaus through steep cloughs with wooded sides. The remains of former quarrying are evident in the landscape.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- There are many elevated vantage points with panoramic and long-distance views across the settled valley floor of the River Holme.
- There are key vistas towards the open moorland and into the Holme Valley from Holme Conservation Area and views into the Conservation Area from Fieldhead Lane and Woodhead Road West (A6024).
- Agricultural fields are enclosed by stone walls and deciduous tree cover.
- Open access land to the south of Holme, upland reservoirs, Kirklees Way long distance walking route and the Holme Valley Circular Walk all provide recreational opportunities.
- Historic cart tracks such as Nether Lane with distinctive grooved pavements.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Maintain the open, undeveloped areas of moorland.
- Respect long distance views across the Holme Valley and towards the open moorland, including those from and towards Holme Conservation Area.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.
- Conserve the remaining distinctive surfacing of historic cart tracks.
- Provide historical interpretation of disused quarries to reflect industrial heritage.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

The main settlement is the compact hilltop village of Holme historically associated with agriculture and the textile industry. It is also a Conservation Area. Settlement is otherwise limited to the clusters of houses and farmsteads at Lane within the Peak District National Park, at Flush House and Hogley Green and above Holmbridge on the northern valley side and other occasional scattered dwellings and farmsteads.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- A distinctive vernacular architecture formed from former *laithe*¹ and weaver's cottages, along with farmhouses, barns and public buildings.
- Building materials include millstone grit in properties and boundary walls and details often respond to the harsh climatic conditions, with small windows located predominantly on less exposed elevations.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Reinforce local distinctiveness by ensuring future developments in Holme are sympathetic to the character and setting of Holme Conservation Area.
- Use building materials and design details which refer to the local vernacular and reflect the typically smaller window pattern.
- Consider the use of stone setts and cobbles as a replacement for asphalt and concrete within the public realm.

LCA3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Land use is predominantly marginal upland agriculture merging with moorland on the higher ground to the south and west. Pasture is divided into a regular patchwork of small fields enclosed by millstone grit walling with sparse woodland cover. The rising landform is bisected by tributaries of the River Ribble and Dean Dike above which sit Holme Styes and Boshaw Whams reservoirs.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- The open landscape has long distance views of the settled corridor of the River Holme and Kirklees district beyond as well as local views of open water bodies such as Boshaw Whams and Holme Styes.
- Stone boundary walls are common features creating a strong sense of visual unity.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) follows local lanes or field boundaries. Minor roads and PRoW, including sections of the Kirklees Way and the Barnsley Boundary Walk long distance footpaths, connect farmsteads located on the valley sides. National Cycle Route no. 68 also passes through this area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance and local views.

¹ A dwelling with other farm buildings as a single structure with separate entrances for humans and livestock.

- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRow to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

While the area is essentially rural there are individual farmsteads, former woollen mills and several settlements including Hade Edge, Choppards, Ward Place, Arrunden, Longley, Washpit and Cartworth Fold set within the wider moorland and agricultural landscape.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Dispersed settlements characterised by their former domestic textile manufacturing, mill buildings and agricultural heritage along with isolated farmsteads set within an upland agricultural landscape.
- Hade Edge is the largest of the settlements containing some services and modern and older development and lies on a plateau at Dunford Road / Penistone Road.
- Former textile/woollen mills set within the valley of the River Ribble.
- Vernacular building materials include millstone grit in properties and boundary walls.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Ensure the sensitive conversion of rural buildings which complement the rural, agricultural landscape.

LCA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The River Holme flows in its valley from Holmbridge through Hinchliffe Mill and Holmfirth to Thongsbridge. Mixed semi-natural woodlands are found in places along the river with further woodland pockets on the valley sides. Above the settled valley floor, the upper slopes are characterised by pastoral fields divided by stone walling.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Framed views from the settled valley floor to the upper valley sides and views across to opposing valley slopes and beyond towards the Peak District National Park.
- Boundary treatments comprised largely of millstone grit walling. The stone walling which runs parallel with Upperthong Lane is representative of local vernacular detailing.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) including the Holme Valley Riverside Way which follows the River Holme from Holmbridge through Holmfirth and downstream. National Cycle Route no. 68 follows minor roads through Upperthong towards the centre of Holmfirth before climbing the opposing valley slopes.
- Mill ponds reflect industrial heritage and offer recreation facilities.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure new development respects framed views from the settled floor to the upper valley sides and views across to opposing valley slopes and views towards the Peak District National Park.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes particularly physical and visual links to the River Holme.
- Consider opportunities through major developments to provide interpretation of the historic industrial role of the river and mill ponds within the local landscape.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Linear settlement pattern largely follows the river valley with Holmbridge, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmfirth and Thongsbridge along the valley bottom. Development extends up the hillside to the west of Holmfirth to the historic core of Upperthong with Underbank rising above Holmfirth to the south. Where settlement climbs the hillsides, development characteristically follows the gradient of the slope resulting in a distinct building style, with houses built into the slope. Hinchliffe Mill, Upperthong and Underbank are Conservation Areas. Holmfirth is the main town and commercial centre and is a popular focus for tourism. Holmfirth centre is a Conservation Area and there is industry, both old and new, in the valley bottom.

2.1 Key Characteristics

These key characteristics apply throughout the area.

- Mill buildings, chimneys and ponds, including Ribbleden Mill with its chimney, associated mill worker houses and ashlar fronted villas link the area to its industrial and commercial heritage and are a legacy of the area's former textile industry.
- Terraced cottages and distinctive over and under dwellings feature on the steep hillsides with steep ginnels, often with stone setts and narrow roads.
- Narrow winding streets with stepped passageways, stone troughs and setts characterise the sloping hillsides above Holmfirth town centre.
- Small tight knit settlements on the upper slopes are characterised by their former agricultural and domestic textile heritage.
- There are mixed areas of historic and more recent residential and commercial developments.

The following Key Characteristics also apply to Holmfirth

- The town centre is defined by its prominent Georgian church and mid-Victorian buildings.
- The Picturedrome, Civic Hall, Masonic Lodge and the former Holmfirth Technical college reflect local history and provide focal points in the streetscene.
- Mid-19th century terraces constructed largely of millstone grit with slate roofs form the predominant residential building style and often feature ornamental iron railings.
- Built form is generally aligned to the back of the pavement giving a strongly defined building line and distinctive layout.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Regard should be had to the key characteristics that give these areas their distinctive character and should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements, including vernacular building styles, settlement patterns, alignment of the building line and the streetscene.
- Strengthen local sense of place through design which reflects connections to past industrial heritage related to each settlement including through retaining or restoring mill buildings and chimneys.
- Consider replacing asphalt and concrete with traditional surfacing such as stone setts and cobbles.

LCA5: Netherthong Rural Fringe

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Netherthong and Oldfield are settlements set within a rural fringe landscape with agricultural land enclosed by high drystone boundary walls. Field sizes largely relate to the historic farming scale as evident by the field patterns to the south of Oldfield Road. The elevated agricultural character of this LCA forms a setting to the settlements of Holmfirth, Thongsbridge and Upperrthong along the valley floor.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- The elevation offers extensive views of the surrounding landscape with long distance views towards Castle Hill and Huddersfield and the valley sides afford framed views towards settlements in the valley below.

- Within Netherthong and Oldfield views of the surrounding landscape are often glimpsed between buildings.
- Distinctive stone wall field boundary treatments divide the agricultural landscape.
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including the Holme Valley Circular Walk, cross the landscape providing links between settlements. National Cycle Route no. 68 also crosses the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance views towards Castle Hill, Huddersfield and the surrounding landscape, and framed and glimpsed views from the valley sides and within and from Netherthong and Oldfield towards the settlements in the valley below.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Netherthong and Oldfield are historic farming and weaving settlements and have been designated as Conservation Areas. Netherthong also has areas of 20th and 21st century residential development. Deanhouse has a predominantly linear pattern along Dean Brook developed from its former textile heritage. There are scattered farmsteads and residential buildings set along the roadsides.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- In Netherthong and Oldfield buildings are grouped around courtyards to provide protection from the elements whilst Deanhouse has a predominantly linear plan.
- Vernacular buildings largely comprise farmhouses, barns and two and three storey weaver's cottages of millstone grit with stone mullioned windows.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- New development should be sympathetic to the character and setting of the Conservation Areas.
- Layouts and designs should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Consider the use of traditional materials of millstone grit and slate for repairs and localised alteration with stone mullions retained.
- Consider replacing asphalt and concrete with traditional surfacing such as stone setts and cobbles.

LCA6: Honley Village Centre Including Honley and Honley Wood Bottom/Mag Brook

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The area mainly comprises Honley but also includes the southern wooded slopes of Hall Dike which becomes Mag Brook where it flows through its wooded valley at Magdale. There is valuable open space at Magdale Fields and Magdale Dam.

There is considerable tree and woodland cover including ancient woodland at Honley Wood, Honley Old Wood, Clitheroe Wood and Spring Wood. Honley Wood contains archaeological features, disused stone quarries and coal pits.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Wooded valleys associated with Mag Brook and Magdale.
- Glimpsed views of a wider rural backdrop are often framed by built form. The sloping topography creates a strong connection between the centre of Honley and the wider agricultural setting with strong visual links up to Oldfield. The area affords long distance views to Castle Hill.
- Stone wall field boundary treatments
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) follows the routes of local lanes or field boundaries with some giving access to Mag Brook and Honley Wood Bottom.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Protect and conserve the wildlife corridor of Mag Brook and improve ecological networks of woodlands².
- Respect long distance and framed and glimpsed views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Honley is a large, predominantly residential settlement with a small commercial centre. Its historic core is a designated Conservation Area and is compact and characterised by narrow streets reflecting the steep sided valley topography. There is modern residential development in Honley particularly in the west and south. There is settlement at Magdale mainly on the northern valley side of Mag Brook.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Honley's historic core is dominated by 18th and 19th century stone dwellings with distinctive yards or folds.
- The south-west of Honley has more eclectic architecture with largely 20th century residential properties in cul-de-sacs. These are generally in-keeping with the historic townscape due to scale and use of traditional materials.
- Weaver's cottages with rows of mullioned windows are found throughout area.
- Former mill buildings associated with Mag Brook have been redeveloped for commercial or residential use and form local heritage features.

² This woodland is believed to constitute the last remaining self-sustaining medieval dwarf oak woodlands in Europe.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Ensure the repair, restoration or conversion of traditional buildings is carried out with due regard to the character and local vernacular.

LCA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

New Mill Dike flows northward through its steep wooded valley to its confluence with the River Holme at Mytholm Bridge. The River Holme meanders across the wider, flatter valley floor west of Brockholes enclosed by more distant wooded slopes. Agricultural land dominates between areas of woodland and there is evidence in the landscape of past industrial and mining activity.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Glimpsed views towards the wider landscape through gaps between built form.
- Views across the wooded valley floor from elevated vantage points such as from Christ Church New Mill and Holy Trinity Church Hepworth.
- Stone boundary walls are common features.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) crosses the landscape including a section of the Barnsley Boundary Walk, the Kirklees Way and the Holme Valley Circular Walk.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure new development respects glimpsed views between built form.
- Ensure views are maintained across the wooded valley landscape from elevated vantage points.
- Retain and restore existing stone boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Brockholes, New Mill and Jackson Bridge are located on the valley floors whilst Butterley and Hepworth follow the contours on the valley sides resulting in a close association between built form and landscape. Millstone grit buildings with slate roofs predominate in the older parts of the settlements and examples of historic weaver's cottages and former textile mills can be found across the area. In many cases these sit alongside modern development particularly at Brockholes, New Mill and Hepworth. There is evidence of past textile and mining industry.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Settlements characterised by a close association between built form and landscape.
- Industrial heritage features such as weirs and mill buildings.
- Mounds and hollows, which are the remains of shallow tunnels created for coal mining, as well as piles of shale material and the remains of plateways (flat stones laid across fields to assist with vehicle movement), are also found across the moorland and fields.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure that new development respects the distinct character and built form of the LCA such as weaver's cottages and folds and the sensitive conversion of former farm buildings.
- Strengthen local sense of place through improving the connection to past industrial heritage including through retaining or restoring mill buildings.
- Consider the use of traditional materials of millstone grit and slate for repairs and localised alteration with stone mullions retained.

LCA8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley Upper slopes of the River Holme and New Mill Dike

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Farmland on the slopes above the valley floor separates the discrete village footprints creating an open character around Totties, Scholes and Fulstone. Vegetation associated with Dean Dike forms a linear belt of tree cover to the south of Scholes. Evidence of former mines and quarries can be found in the form of mounds, hollows and stone plateways.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Strong rural setting and agricultural character with pastoral farmland on the rising valley slopes.
- There is a strong connection to the surrounding rural landscape from long distance and panoramic views over the wooded valley floor to the opposing valley sides as well as glimpsed views of the rural backdrop through gaps between the built form, especially within Totties and Scholes.
- Stone walls and hedgerows form field boundaries and line single lane roads.
- Short sections of the Kirklees Way, the Barnsley Boundary Walk and the Holme Valley Circular Walk cross the area. A short section of National Cycle Route no. 627 also crosses the north-east of the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance and inward and outward views from locally elevated settlements.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and hedgerows and use stone walling or hedges in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Settlement is generally sparse with four notable settlements at Scholes, Totties, Wooldale and Fulstone. Totties, Wooldale and Fulstone are former agricultural and weaving villages and have Conservation Areas. Isolated dwellings and farm properties are located on the wider valley sides. The hilltop hamlet of Fulstone is also a former coal mining settlement with largely traditional style dwellings in a nucleated layout and most dwellings are constructed of local millstone grit with grey slate roofs. There is modern residential development at Scholes and Wooldale.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Older settlements are characterised by their agricultural and industrial past and there are isolated farmsteads on the valley slopes.
- Scholes and Wooldale are the largest of the settlements and contain some services and older and more modern development.
- Vernacular building materials include millstone grit walls with grey slate roofs.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain and enhance the character of existing settlements.

Appendix C - Recommendation 8 – Revised Text for Section 4.3 Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets

Introduction and Background

- 4.3.1 Heritage asset is a generic term, defined in the NPPF as applying to ‘a building, monument, site, place, or landscape which has been formally identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest’. Heritage assets have varying degrees of significance and therefore value as components of the historic environment. Consequently, heritage assets are defined on a spectrum of significance and are afforded different levels of planning consideration, in legislative and planning policy terms, in proportion to the significance of the heritage asset affected by development.
- 4.3.2 In the Holme Valley the spectrum of *designated* heritage assets includes Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF 2019 Glossary). The Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment Report, which informs the NDP, includes in Appendix A buildings in the NDP area which are included on the list published by Historic England as the ‘National Heritage List for England’ (NHLE). This is the official and up to date record of all nationally protected historic buildings or sites in England. These ‘listed buildings’ have adequate protection with primary legislation (Acts of Parliament), the NPPF and policies within the Kirklees Local Plan.

Positive Contributors to the character of Conservation Areas

- 4.3.3 Conservation Areas are statutorily designated heritage assets of special architectural or historic interest. Their designated status imposes additional planning controls on the buildings, sites or monuments within them. However, as noted in the NPPF (paragraph 201) not all elements of a conservation area will necessarily contribute to its significance and it is therefore necessary to identify the most important components which define their character. Such ‘positive contributors’ benefit from the legislative presumption in favour of preservation afforded by their designated status.

As part of the HVNDP, work has been undertaken to identify those buildings which are considered to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of conservation areas. This work focuses mainly on Holmfirth Conservation Area but there are other buildings identified in other conservation areas and more will be added when the neighbourhood plan is reviewed. These buildings are listed in Appendix 2A and are referred to as ‘positive contributors’ to the designated conservation area. When considering the potential impact of proposed development, the properties/sites will be subject to relevant consideration under relevant parts of NPPF (Feb 2019) and Kirklees Local Policy LP 35 (1) and (3) Historic Environment.

The positive contributors included in Appendix 2A of the HVNDP have been identified using the criteria listed below. Additional properties may be formally identified in due course using the same selection criteria:

- **Architectural Interest.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites considered to

be of local architectural interest in terms of their distinctive vernacular form, design, decoration or craftsmanship. Properties/sites may represent significant examples of building types or techniques relevant to the HVNDP area including buildings which display technological innovation or interest. The list may include locally characteristic engineering and industrial buildings as well as examples of craftsmanship or artistic distinction.

- **Historic Interest.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites which are considered to be of local historic interest and illustrate important aspects of the history of the HVNDP area and/or have substantiated close historical associations with locally important individuals, groups or events.
- **Group value.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites which are considered to be components of a group with locally significant value, exhibiting examples of architectural or historic unity or an example of planning (e.g. squares, and terraces) or where there is a historical functional relationship between the buildings.

Non-designated heritage assets

4.3.4 Outside of the conservation areas there may be other buildings and sites that contribute to local character and sense of place because of their intrinsic heritage value. Such heritage assets may be offered a proportionate level of consideration by the local planning authority if they have been identified and publicised as being included on a formally adopted 'local heritage list of non-designated assets'³. (NDHAs). To date, Kirklees Council do not have a list of such buildings or adopted selection criteria. However, Kirklees has now (April 2021) commenced work on a year-long West Yorkshire initiative to establish a formal process to identify and evaluate candidate NDHAs against relevant selection criteria. The initiative will enable the development of a Kirklees adopted 'local heritage list of non-designated heritage assets' which will extend proportionate planning control for those buildings included on it. The published local list will be developed over time (as per the National Heritage List) but must be based on sound and consistent selection criteria and recommendations from local people.

4.3.5 The fact that a building or site is identified means that the effect of a proposal on the significance of the asset should be taken into account when determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. Consequently, appropriately identified NDHAs would then become more defensible material considerations in decision-making, as well as helping to recognise and celebrate protect/preserve local heritage.

4.3.6 Formally identifying NDHAs based on adopted selection criteria will provide a sound, consistent and accountable means of identifying local heritage assets. This will benefit development planning across the neighbourhood area and Kirklees, as well as providing clarity and transparency of decision making to the benefit of owners and developers wishing to fully understand local development opportunities and constraints. Historic England's latest guidance

³ Historic England: 'Historic Environment Advice Note 7' published January 2021 (HEAN 7)

(HEAN 7) will provide the best practice basis for the production of a local heritage list of NDHAs in Holme Valley and across Kirklees. It should be noted that potential NDHAs are not just buildings but could cover locations such as wells or milestone markers. **Appendix 2B** lists 'candidate sites' which are representatives of building types which could be formally identified as NDHAs. Through inclusion in this Appendix, these candidate sites will be reviewed and evaluated by Kirklees (and the PDNPA if relevant) for inclusion on the initial 'local heritage list' as it is developed over the next few years. The local heritage list of NDHAs will be a live document which will be expanded over the plan period as recommendations are brought forward, evaluated and adopted.

4.3.7 Where the particular significance of a site is currently unknown or difficult to define in spatial terms, but may have some archaeological importance, the NPPF provides a safeguard (paragraph 194b note 63). This is intended to ensure that these potential non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets, in order to reveal and fully understand their significance and sensitivity to development prior to any decision making. Such sites are often below-ground archaeology or locations of ancient activity with only scattered extant remnants.

4.3.8 Policy 3 relates to proposals which impact on non-designated heritage assets in the Holme Valley and the Parish Actions are designed to support the implementation of Policy 3.

Appendix D - Recommendation 21 –Table of Typographical and Formatting Corrections

Page	Location	Correction
16 /19	Subtitle at end of page	Avoid 'orphaned' subtitles in text and policy at the foot of pages – Insert page break. Reason - to ease understanding of the document.
19	Paragraph 2.20 Line 11	Correct Local Plan Policy Ref to read "LP11".
24	Section 4 First paragraph Line 1	Insert at end of line after the word 'policies' the words " <i>which will be</i> ". Reason - To make grammatical sense.
34	Paragraph 4.1.18 Line 4	Delete policy references 3, 4 and 5 Reason - these do not directly refer to LCA Key characteristics.
34	Paragraph 4.1.21 line 4	Delete the word 'and' after the word 'tributaries' Reason - To make grammatical sense.
35	Paragraph 4.1.24 Line 1	Delete the word 'the' after the words 'related to'. Reason - To make grammatical sense
37	Policy 1 Clause 2 Line 2	Correct Local Plan Policy Ref to read "LP54".
37	Policy 1 Clause 5 Line 8	Insert comma after the word 'species'. Reason - To make grammatical sense.
38	Policy reference box	Correct Local Plan Policy Ref to read "LP32."
39	Paragraph 4.2.5 Line 2	Correct para ref to read "4.1.17"

		Reason – Incorrect ref given. Note – the incorrect reference 4.1.15 is used in each of the Conservation Area summaries and needs to be corrected.
40	Paragraph 1 Line 3	Delete the words ‘use of’ after the word ‘following’. Reason –To remove repetition.
50	Paragraph on ‘Boundary Walls’ Line 3	Change the words ‘agricultural field’ to the plural. Reason - To make grammatical sense.
68	Paragraph 4.4.1 Line 1	Insert after the word ‘frontages’ the words ‘ <i>in town and local centres</i> ’ Reason – to make contextual sense.
68	Paragraph 4.4.3 Line 3	Correct section ref to read “4.2”. Reason – Incorrect ref given.
68	Paragraph 4.4.4 Line 4	Delete the word ‘and’ after the word ‘including’. Reason - To make grammatical sense.
69	Paragraph 4.4.7 Line 3	Correct Local Plan Policy Ref to read “LP25”.
71	Paragraph 4.4.14 Lines 1 and 2	In Line 1 delete the words ‘As outlined in section 4.3.8’ In line 2 delete the words ‘its use’ and replace with the words “ <i>such directions</i> ”. Reason – Section 4.3.8 is already recommended for deletion.
74	Policy 4 Line 7 of P74	Delete the word ‘the’ after the word ‘by’. Reason - To make grammatical sense.
75	Policy reference box	Correct Local Plan Policy Ref to read “LP25”.
89	Paragraph 4.5.20 Line 1	Delete the plural ‘s’ on the word

		<p>'appropriates'.</p> <p>Reason - To make grammatical sense.</p>
97	Policy 7 2 nd Paragraph Line 4	Delete the word 'fewer' after the word 'ten'. Reason – To remove repetition.
98	Policy 7 line 4 of that page	Change the word 'are' to the words ' <i>will be</i> '. Reason – to correct the tense for consistency with other policies.
103	Policy 8 Part 3 Line 3	Change the word 'are' to the words ' <i>will be</i> '. Reason – to correct the tense for consistency with other policies.
107	Paragraph 4.7.8 Line 11	<p>Change '17%' to state "<i>just over 20%</i>".</p> <p>Reason - Graph at Figure 27 shows just over 20% of population was 65+ in 2011.</p>
130	Paragraph 4.8.32 Line 3	Change abbreviation from 'NPD' to 'NDP'.
132	Policy 11 Clause 10 line 2	Change the word 'are' to the words ' <i>will be</i> '. Reason – to correct the tense for consistency with other policies.
139	Last sentence of page	<p>Change policy reference to read NDP Policy 12.</p> <p>Reason – Incorrect policy quoted.</p>
140	Policy 12 Clause 2 Line 5	Correct the spelling of the word 'polices' to read 'policies'.
140	Policy 12 Clause 6 Line 1	<p>Change the word 'sustainability' to "<i>sustainable</i>".</p> <p>Reason - To make grammatical sense.</p>

Appendix 3: Kirklees Council Decision statement on the independent Examiner's recommendations on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan June 2021 (including a schedule of the Examiner's modifications and the council's response to the recommendation)

**Kirklees Council
Decision Statement – Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 & The Neighbourhood Planning
(General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
Regulation 18 Decision Statement**

1. Summary

- 1.1. Following an independent examination on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (Submission Plan) which took place during March – June 2021 and receipt of the Examiner's Report June 2021, Kirklees Council accepts the modifications to the Plan as recommended by the Examiner. The modifications are set out in Table 1.
- 1.2. The Plan as modified in accordance with Table 1, will proceed to referendum. The proposed date for the referendum is 4th November 2021.
- 1.3. In accordance with the Independent Examiner's recommendations, the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to referendum based on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area as designated by Kirklees Council on 27th January 2015 and the Peak District National Park Authority on 13th February 2015.
- 1.4. This Decision Statement, the Examiner's report and the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (Submission Plan) and the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (Referendum Plan) incorporating the recommendations of the Independent Examiner, together with the supporting documentation are available on the council's website at: www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning.aspx They are also available on the Holme Valley Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning website at: [Neighbourhood Plan - Holme Valley Parish Council](#)
- 1.5. Paper copies of the Decision Statement and the Examiner's report and the submission and Referendum versions of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan will be made available for inspection at: Holmfirth Library 47 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3JH, Honley Library West Avenue, Honley HD9 6HF and Huddersfield Library Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield HD1 2SU and Kirklees Council Civic Centre 1, Huddersfield subject to any council Covid-19 restrictions on the opening of public buildings.
- 1.6. If approved at referendum, the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan will form part of the statutory development plan and will be used alongside the Kirklees Local Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework – Core Strategy 2011 and the Development Management Policies – Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park 2019 when determining planning applications within the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan was produced by Holme Valley Parish Council as the qualifying body. All stages of the Plan preparation are outlined

on its website at: [Neighbourhood Plan - Holme Valley Parish Council](#) The Plan area is as designated at 1.3 of this statement.

- 2.2. Early engagement on the Plan commenced in 2016. Followed by:
Issues and options consultation Summer 2017;
First Draft Plan consultation June – July 2018;
Pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14) July – September 2019;
Formal Publicity Stage (Regulation 16) – December 2020 – February 2021.
 - 2.3. In March 2021, Mr Peter Biggers BSc Hons MRTPI was appointed with the consent of the Peak District National Park Authority and Holme Valley Parish Council to undertake the examination of the Plan, and to prepare a report of the independent examination. The examination was conducted through written representations.
 - 2.4. The Examiner's report was received on the 15th June 2021. It concludes that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan, subject to recommended modifications meets the basic conditions and other relevant legal requirements set out in the legislation and can proceed to referendum.
- 3. Decisions and Reasons**
- 3.1. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Regulation 17A requires that the Local Planning Authority publishes how it intends to respond to the Examiner's recommendations. Having considered each of the recommendations made in the Examiner's Report, and the reasons for them, the council has decided to make the modifications to the draft plan set out in Table 1 of this Decision Statement. These changes are necessary to ensure that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and legal requirements. This decision statement forms the council's formal response and will be publicised in accordance with statutory requirements.
 - 3.2. The council is satisfied that subject to the modifications specified in Table 1, the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the relevant Basic Conditions as defined in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4b of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with the Convention Rights and complies with the provision made by or under S38A and S.38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 such that it can proceed to referendum.
 - 3.3. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, a referendum which poses the question "Do you want Kirklees Council and Peak District National Planning Authority to use the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Holme Valley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" As indicated above, it is anticipated that the referendum will take place on 4th November 2021.
 - 3.4. The council agrees to instruct its Electoral Services Manager to conduct a referendum on the Plan.

This Decision Statement is dated 31st August 2021.

Table 1: Kirklees Council Decision statement on the independent Examiner's recommendations on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan June 2021

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
Introduction and Background			
1A	18	<p>In all policies where it is not intended that the policy should apply within the Peak District National Park the following wording should be used in the form of a note immediately below the policy title and before the start of the policy:</p> <p><i>"Policy X does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park."</i></p> <p>In the supporting text preceding the policy where the status of the policy in respect of the National Park is also mentioned the same wording should be used.</p> <p>Where the relevant development plan policies are listed, ensure that where the policy is not to apply in the National Park that no PDNP policies are listed in the relevant policy boxes.</p> <p>Reason: 6.06 To ensure consistent referencing where the policies do not apply to the Peak District National Park Authority.</p>	<p>Agree with modification 1A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.</p>
1B	18	<p>Relocate all proposals in blue shaded Holme Valley Parish Action boxes to a new Appendix 1 at the end of the plan.</p> <p>In each case simply include a cross reference to the Appendix at the end of the appropriate section to read for example:</p> <p><i>"Holme Valley Parish Actions 1</i></p> <p><i>Parish Actions relating to the built environment and design are set out in Appendix 1 (1)"</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.07 Neighbourhood Plans should relate to the development and use of land. To avoid confusion between policies and actions, Parish Council actions should be identified in an appendix and not in the body of the plan.</p>	<p>Agree with modification 1B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.</p>

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
Executive Summary			
2A	19	<p>Make consequential updates to the Executive Summary (if retained) and to paragraphs 1.1, 1.4 and the Timeline on P 12 of the Introduction as a result of the plan moving forward a stage - post examination.</p> <p>Reason: 6.1.2 An Executive summary is not a normal feature of a NDP. No formal recommendation is made to remove it but if it remains the modification will update the Plan with regard to procedure and the stage reached.</p>	Agree with modification 2A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
2B	19	<p>If retaining the Executive Summary - delete the words 'over the 15 years 2016-2031' in the first paragraph.</p> <p>Insert instead "<i>over the next 10 years to 2031</i>".</p> <p>Reason: 6.1.2 to update the Plan time period.</p>	Agree with modification 2B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
2C	19	<p>If retaining the Executive Summary - in the 'Benefits of Having a NDP' section - add at the end of the first sentence:</p> <p><i>"...and help shape the nature of future developments."</i></p> <p>Delete the rest of the paragraph.</p> <p>Reason: 6.1.2 (see 2A).</p>	Agree with modification 2C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Planning Context for Holme Valley NDP			
3	20	<p>In paragraph 2.18 Line 11 – Delete the words 'including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding'.</p> <p>Reason: 6.2.1 The reference to CIL is no longer being progressed by Kirklees Council.</p>	Agree with modification 3 for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Holme Valley NDP Vision and Objectives			
4A	21	In paragraph 3.1 Line 4 delete the words 'next 15-20 years 'and replace with the words	Agree with modification 4A

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>"neighbourhood plan period"</i>.</p> <p>Reason: 6.3.6 Two minor clarifying corrections to reflect the plan period and recommendation 1B.</p>	for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
4B	21	<p>Add the words <i>"See Appendix 1"</i> at the end of paragraph 3.4.</p> <p>Reason: 6.3.6 To reflect recommendation 1B.</p>	Agree with modification 4B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Protecting Local Character			
5A	22	<p>Delete paragraphs 4.1.16 and 4.1.17.</p> <p>Incorporate the revised and agreed text at Appendix B below to form a new section 4.1.17 of the neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 To improve the operational relationship between policies 1 and 2, make the text clearer, more precise and easier to navigate, to outline key characteristics and character management principles for both landscape character and built character, to ensure the supporting text provides clear and concise evidence to ensure that policies 1 and 2 can operate and meet basic conditions.</p>	Agree with modification 5A for the reasons set out in the Examiner's report.
5B	22	<p>Ensure Map 2 in digital versions of the plan is as clear as possible and in printed copies arrange for the Map to be available at A3 size.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 (vi) To clearly identify the landscape character areas.</p>	Agree with modification 5B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
5C	22	<p>Make any consequential adjustments to numbering, referencing and linking text in the supporting text following the revisions at Recommendation 5A.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 To address revised text outlined in recommendation 5A.</p>	Agree with modification 5C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 1 Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley			
6A	23	After the revised note at the start of Policy 1 confirming that the policy does not apply in the	Agree with modification 6A

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p>National Park replace the 1st, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of the policy with the following wording: <i>"All development proposals should demonstrate how they have been informed by the key characteristics of the LCA in which they are located. Proposals should be designed in accordance with the character management principles in respect of landscape set out in paragraph 4.1.17 for each of the LCAs in order to avoid detrimental impact on the LCA".</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1. (xiv) Modifications 6A-6H -With these modifications the Policy will be in accordance with Basic Condition a). Policy LP2 on place shaping and Policy LP32 on landscape in the KLP seek to protect the character, views and vistas of the Kirklees landscape. Policy 1 of the HVNDP as modified would add local detail to the strategic policies and would be in general conformity with them. The Policy, in protecting local landscape character, is likely to have a strongly positive contribution to achieving sustainable development. Accordingly, the Policy also meets Basic Conditions d) & e).</p>	for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
6B	24	<p>Delete the 4th paragraph of Policy 1 beginning 'Applicants also should have regard' as the parts of these elements relevant to landscape character will be covered in the modified character management principles in paragraph 4.1.17 and therefore covered by the modified first paragraph above.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 see reason for 6A</p>	Agree with modification 6B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
6C	24	<p>In the 5th paragraph of Policy 1 beginning 'Overall, proposals ' Line 2 – delete the words 'built and' as the built environment is addressed in Policy 2.</p> <p>In line 3 delete the words after 'unsympathetic' and replace with the following: <i>"...unsympathetic to the landscape character of the relevant LCA".</i></p> <p>In the sentence following amend the start to read:</p>	Agree with modification 6C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>"Throughout the neighbourhood area the design and siting of new development...."</i> Reason: 6.4.1 see reason for 6A</p>	
6D	24	<p>In Policy 1 clause 1 lines 1-3 reword to read: <i>"Development should respect long distance public views of the upland areas (LCA1 Wessenden Moors, LCA2 Holme Moorland Fringe and LCA3 Hade Edge Upland Pastures) and..."</i> In line 4-5 delete the wording: '<i>...and protect public views towards the significant local landmarks as identified in the HCA report</i>'.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 see reason for 6A</p>	Agree with modification 6D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
6E	24	<p>Delete clause 4 of Policy 1 in its entirety and renumber clauses accordingly.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 see reason for 6A</p>	Agree with modification 6E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
6F	24	<p>In Policy 1 clause 5 - line 2 delete the words 'where appropriate' and replace with the words <i>"for new buildings"</i>.</p> <p>In lines 4-5 delete the words 'or other species where appropriate'.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 see reason for 6A</p>	Agree with modification 6F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
6G	24	<p>Cut and paste Policy 1 clause 5 final sentence into Policy 2.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.1 see reason for 6A</p>	Agree with modification 6G for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
6H	24	<p>Replace the subheading on Page 35 with the following: <i>"Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley"</i>.</p> <p>Cut and paste paragraphs 4.1.19-22 and their subheading on Page 34 to follow after paragraph 4.1.27. Renumber all paragraphs accordingly.</p>	Agree with modification 6H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		Reason: 6.4.1 see reason for 6A	
Policy 2 Protecting and Enhancing the Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting High Quality Design			
7A	27	<p>Retitle section 4.2 as "<i>Protecting and Enhancing Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting High Quality Design</i>" – consistent with the Policy 2 title.</p> <p>Delete the last sentence of paragraph 4.2.3.</p> <p>Delete Paragraph 4.2.4 in its entirety.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. (v) Modifications are made to ensure consistency, and to ensure the policy is clear and unambiguous and provides clear guidance to developers. There are overlaps with Policy 1 which should be removed.</p> <p>Modifications 7A-7J will ensure that the policy will also be in general conformity with KLP Policies LP24, LP35, LP52 and LP63. The Policy, in protecting and enhancing a sense of place and local distinctiveness, is likely to make a strongly positive contribution to achieving sustainable development. Accordingly, the Policy will also meet Basic Conditions d) & e).</p>	Agree with modification 7A for the reasons set out in the Examiner's report.
7B	27	<p>Reword clause 1 of Policy 2 'Local Character' to read:</p> <p><i>"Building designs in proposals for new development and alterations to existing buildings should respect the key characteristics and character management principles, relating to built character, of the Landscape Character Area in which they are located as set out in paragraph 4.1.17. They should protect and enhance local built character and distinctiveness and avoid any harm to heritage assets including conservation areas."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. The modification seeks to ensure the policy is clear and unambiguous and provides clear guidance to developers.</p>	Agree with modification 7B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
7C	27	In Policy 2 clause 2 in line 1 after the word 'place' insert the words:	Agree with modification 7C for the reason set out in the

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p>“... by designing the site layout to respect the existing grain of development in the surrounding area and through use of local materials and detailing”. (This wording is relocated from clause 4 see recommendation 7E below)</p> <p>Delete the last sentence which overlaps with Policy 5.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. (v) The modification seeks to ensure the policy is clear and unambiguous and provides clear guidance to developers. To remove the overlap with Policy 5.</p>	Examiner's report.
7D	27	<p>Delete the words ‘Wherever possible’ at the start of Policy 2 clause 3 and replace with the word ‘Any’.</p> <p>End the clause at the end of line 4 on the word ‘shelter’ and delete the rest.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. (v) To remove reference to ambiguous requirements and make the policy more precise.</p>	Agree with modification 7D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
7E	27	<p>In Policy 2 clause 4 - lines 3-4 delete the words ‘or opportunities are identified for greater energy efficiency’.</p> <p>Relocate the last sentence to clause 2 (See recommendation 7C above).</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. (v) Delete as reference to energy efficiency is covered in HVNDP Policy 12.</p>	Agree with modification 7E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
7F	27	<p>In Policy 2 clause 7 – 2nd bullet – revise the start to read: <i>“A design of public spaces that connects with...”</i></p> <p>In clause 7 - 3rd Bullet - delete the words ‘Where appropriate’ at the start of the bullet.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. (v) To remove reference to ambiguous requirements and make the policy more precise.</p>	Agree with modification 7F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
7G	28	<p>Delete Policy 2 clause 9 and reword clause 8 to read: <i>“Designs should respect the scale, mass, height and form of existing buildings in the locality and</i></p>	Agree with modification 7G for the reason set out in the

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>the site setting. Development should fit in with and neither dominate nor have a detrimental impact on its surroundings and neighbouring properties.</i></p> <p>Materials must be chosen to complement... environment. Local millstone grit and stone flags should be used <i>where these are the prevailing material</i>".</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. (v) To remove repetition and amalgamate clauses 8 and 9.</p>	Examiner's report.
7H	28	<p>Reword the first sentence of Policy 2 clause 11 to read:</p> <p><i>"Proposals should be designed to minimise harmful impacts on general amenity for present and future occupiers of land and buildings and prevent or reduce pollution as a result of noise, odour, light and other causes".</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.2. (vi) To improve the clarity of the Policy and its relationship with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP52.</p>	Agree with modification 7H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
7J	28	<p>Re-number clauses to reflect the modifications.</p> <p>Reason: Reformatting of the document in the light of modifications</p>	Agree with modification 7J for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 3 Heritage Assets			
8A	31	<p>Delete Policy 3 and replace with an amended policy to read as follows:</p> <p><i>Policy 3 Conserving and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets</i></p> <p><i>"A list of buildings and structures which are identified as positive contributors to the designated conservation areas in Holme valley is set out at Appendix 2A. All development proposals affecting these character defining components of the designated conservation areas or their settings will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Part 1.</i></p> <p><i>A candidate list of buildings and structures identified as non-designated heritage assets is set out</i></p>	Agree with modification 8A for the reasons set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>at Appendix 2B. All development proposals affecting these locally important heritage assets, (once formally identified), or their settings, will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Parts 2 and 3a and Policy DMC5 of the Peak District National Park Authority Part 2 Local Plan (Development Management Policies)</i></p> <p><i>When designing development proposals for all local heritage assets (positive contributors and (once formally identified) non-designated heritage assets), owners and developers should have regard to conserving the significance of the asset and the components which positively contribute to its character or appreciation as a heritage asset."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.3. Policy 3 modifications are to simplify policy 3 and to ensure the intent is clear, in respect of both buildings which are positive contributors to the conservation areas and how proposals will be assessed and a candidate list of NDHA and how proposals will be assessed in respect of these. The Policy should direct owners and developers to take account of the significance of the assets identified in designing development proposals affecting the assets. With the modifications 8A-8D in place Policy 3 and Appendix 2 the supporting text would be clear and unambiguous and Basic Condition a) would be met. The Policy and local list when modified and implemented will help protect local heritage assets in the neighbourhood area maintaining a sense of place and contributing to the achievement of sustainability. The Policy, as modified would also be in general conformity with the Kirklees Local Plan. It therefore also meets Basic Conditions d) and e).</p>	
8B	31	<p>Replace Appendix 2 of the HVNDP with the revised Appendices of local heritage assets shown at Appendix E1 and E2 attached as separate documents to this report numbering them Appendix 2A and 2B and incorporating them in the modified HVNDP.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.3. To ensure that the policy intention between buildings which are positive contributors to the conservation areas and how proposals will be assessed and a candidate list of</p>	Agree with modification 8B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		NDHA and how proposals will be assessed in respect of these is clear.	
8C	31	<p>Replace the supporting text at paragraphs 4.3.1 to 4.3.7 with the revised text 4.3.1 - 4.3.8 set out in Appendix C to this report.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.3. To ensure that the policy intention between buildings which are positive contributors to the conservation areas and how proposals will be assessed and a candidate list of NDHA and how proposals will be assessed in respect of these is clear.</p>	Agree with modification 8C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
8D	31	<p>Delete the text relating to Article 4 directions in paragraphs 4.3.8 to 10 inclusive.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.3. xi. The text on Article 4 directions which bears no relation to the content of this section of the plan or Policy 3 and therefore should be deleted to avoid confusion.</p>	Agree with modification 8D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 4 Design Codes for High Quality Shopfronts and Advertisements			
9A	33	<p>Cut and paste the first paragraph of Policy 4 to form design principle a) Delete current principle b) which largely repeats the new a). Renumber current principle a) as new b).</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.4 vi. Modifications 9A-9K will make Policy 4 clearer in its intent, more precise and more concise. The Policy is in general conformity with Kirklees Local Plan Policy 25 on Advertisements and Shopfronts and as it is designed to improve quality of life for local communities and the built environment in town and village centres, it does contribute to achieving sustainable development and Basic Conditions a), d) and e) would therefore be met.</p>	Agree with modification 9A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9B	33	Cut and paste section 4 of the Policy on Fascias (minus the subheading) to follow on from principle c) as new principle d).	Agree with modification 9B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		Reason: see 9A reasons.	
9C	33	Renumber current principle d) as e). Insert after it as new principle f) section 5 to the Policy (minus the subheading) which deals with stallrisers, doors and windows. Reason: see 9A reasons.	Agree with modification 9C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9D	33	Renumber and reorder the principles as necessary to create a clear and unambiguous section of policy. Reason: see 9A reasons.	Agree with modification 9D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9E	33	Amend the second sentence of section 3 on accessibility to read: <i>"Accessibility should be improved where there is the opportunity to do so provided any special interest of the building is not compromised".</i> Reason: see 9A reasons.	Agree with modification 9E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9F	33	In section 6 of Policy 4 – stop the listing of alternatives at c). Reword the remainder of the section (without reference lettering) as follows: <i>"In that part of the neighbourhood area outside the National Park the following additional alternatives will be acceptable:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>External shutters that are removed during working hours – decorative options for these themed on the shop's trade may be applicable.</i> <i>Externally mounted open mesh roller shutters provided that the box housing is concealed behind the fascia and the projection from the face of the building does not result in an increase in depth to the detriment of the appearance of the shopfront."</i> Reason: see 9A reasons. Clarity as to where the policy applies in Kirklees and Peak District National Park Authority	Agree with modification 9F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
9G	34	<p>In the section on Advertisements – General Principles paragraph 2 delete the first part of the sentence. Start the sentence at ‘Where planning consent...’</p> <p>Reason: see 9A reasons.</p>	Agree with modification 9G for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9H	34	<p>Delete the last paragraph in the general principles dealing with illuminated signage so that the principles can apply to the whole neighbourhood area including the National Park and to avoid repetition with section 2.</p> <p>Reason: see 9A reasons.</p>	Agree with modification 9H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9J	34	<p>In paragraph 1 of section 2 on fascia signs delete the last sentence regarding illumination as the general advice on fascia signs will apply within the National Park. Relocate this sentence at the end of the paragraph following clause f). Renumber clauses accordingly.</p> <p>Reason: see 9A reasons.</p>	Agree with modification 9J for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9K	34	<p>In clause e) stop the clause at the word ‘area’ in line 2 and add the words “<i>particularly within conservation areas</i>”. Delete the remainder referring to ‘bold bright colours’.</p> <p>Reason: see 9A reasons.</p>	Agree with modification 9K for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9L	34	<p>In the paragraph following clause f) insert in Line 1 after the word ‘proposed’ the words “<i>outside the National Park</i>”.</p> <p>Reason: see 9A reasons.</p>	Agree with modification 9L for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
9M	34	<p>In the relevant policies box following Policy 4 add “<i>Policy DMS4 Shopfronts</i>” before ‘DMS5 Outdoor advertising’ in the last line.</p> <p>Reason: see 9A reasons.</p>	Agree with modification 9M for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
Policy 5 Promoting High Quality Public Realm and Improvements to Gateways and Highways			
10A	36	<p>Amalgamate the second paragraph to Policy 5 with paragraph 1 to read as follows starting in the last line of paragraph 1: <i>"...settlements and villages. Such improvements will be supported where they are consistent with advice in the Kirklees Highways Design Guide SPD and where they:"</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.4. (xi). To make the Policy clear, unambiguous and precise including reference to the Kirklees Highways Design Guide which provides significant advice on the matter of design in the public realm and should be referred to as a major contributory source.</p>	Agree with modification 10A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
10B	36	<p>In clause b) delete the words 'Where possible' insert in their place the words – <i>"Take opportunities to enhance or...."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.4. (xi). To improve clarity.</p>	Agree with modification 10B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
10C	36	<p>Delete the two paragraphs following clause c).</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.4. (xi). To improve clarity.</p>	Agree with modification 10C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
10D	36	<p>Delete the paragraph before clause d) and revise to read: <i>"Where works are being carried out in the public realm to improve highway safety and efficiency the character of a place should be maintained and the following principles will be applied:"</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.4. (xi). To improve clarity.</p>	Agree with modification 10D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
10E	36	<p>In clause f) change the word 'limited' to the word 'avoided'.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.4. (xi). To improve clarity.</p>	Agree with modification 10E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
10F	36	<p>In clause i) delete the words 'where appropriate' and revise wording to read <i>"...should be built into design in the public realm."</i></p>	Agree with modification 10F for the reason set out in the

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p>Reason: 6.4.4. (xi). To improve clarity through the removal of ambiguous text.</p>	Examiner's report.
10G		<p>Amend the section on Gateways and Highways as follows:</p> <p><i>"Settlement 'Gateways'</i> <i>Where major new residential or commercial development is close to 'gateways' into Holme Valley settlements, or at route convergence points or rail and bus stations, consideration should be given to public realm improvements around the 'Gateway' including welcome signage and interpretation and landscaping and planting."</i> (Or similar wording).</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.4. (xi). To improve clarity that gateways refer to entrances to settlements.</p>	Agree with modification 10G for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 6 Building Homes for the Future			
11A	39	<p>Reword paragraph 2 of Policy 6 to read:</p> <p><i>"In addition to the housing sites allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan new housing development will be supported subject to the following considerations being met:"</i></p> <p>Delete paragraph 3 beginning 'Proposals are required....</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 To clarify the relationship with the Kirklees Local Plan.</p>	Agree with modification 11A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11B	39	<p>Delete current clauses 1 and 3 of Policy 6 and include in an unnumbered paragraph following the final clause of the general principles section to read:</p> <p><i>"Proposals for residential development involving the redevelopment of previously developed (brownfield) sites or the conversion of mill buildings and other suitable buildings to create low-cost housing and apartments is particularly encouraged.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals for the conversion of former mill buildings to residential accommodation should take opportunities to include provision for suitable commercial or employment uses as part of mixed-use schemes including live/work type accommodation."</i></p>	Agree with modification 11B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		Reason: 6.4.5 (iii) Clauses 1 and 3 should be separated out as policy objectives to make the policy clearer.	
11C	39	<p>Insert new clause 1 to read: "The proposed housing is located within existing settlements not overwashed by green belt or is for housing acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy".</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 (iv) The requirement for housing to be in an existing settlement is a principle but is not part of a list, the modification is to add clarity.</p>	Agree with modification 11C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11D	39	<p>Delete clause 2 as it unnecessarily overlaps with Policy 2 and with the second part of Policy 6.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 (iv) Clause 2 merely states that housing should be suitable in terms of design which is covered in Policy 2.</p>	Agree with modification 11D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11E	40	<p>Reword clause 4 line 2 onwards to read: <i>"...accordance with Local Plan Policy LP22 Parking and the Council's most up to date parking guidelines in the Highway Design Guide SPD. Additional parking provision to accommodate delivery vans is encouraged to minimise additional on street parking on nearby roads."</i></p> <p>Delete Appendix 4 or if retaining ensure these are the current standards from the SPD.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 (vi) To make reference to the Kirklees Local Plan and the most up to date guidance.</p>	Agree with modification 11E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11F	40	<p>Renumber clauses in the first part of the policy accordingly.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 To reflect the Modifications for this policy.</p>	Agree with modification 11F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11G	40	<p>In the second section of Policy 6 – House Types and Sizes – Delete the word 'major' in line 1 and the words 'of the Rural West Sub Area' in line 2.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5(vi) The inclusion of major undermines Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP11 and should be deleted.</p>	Agree with modification 11G for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
11H	40	<p>Amend the start of the paragraph in Policy 6 on page 92 which starts 'In particular...' to read: <i>"New Housing developments of more than 10 houses or on sites of more than 0.4 hectares will be supported"</i>.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 (vi) Policy 6 should not relate solely to major housing developments.</p>	Agree with modification 11H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11J	40	<p>Insert the word "<i>and</i>" after clauses 1) and 2) in the second section of Policy 6 dealing with house types and sizes.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 To link the clauses.</p>	Agree with modification 11J for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11K	40	<p>Delete clause 4) in the second part of the Policy and relocate in an unnumbered paragraph following clause 3) reworded to read: <i>"New housing provided through a Community Right to Build Order (following the procedure set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations) or other community led housing project, including self-build schemes, will be particularly encouraged."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 As written clause 4 implies that community right to build schemes would be expected as part of all new major developments. This is not how community right to build schemes work.</p>	Agree with modification 11K for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11L	40	<p>Reword the last sentence of paragraph 4.5.5 to read: <i>"However, through its policies the NDP can influence how housing sites allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan are developed."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5. (vii) To correct an inaccuracy in the plan where it states that the HVNDP can influence inclusion or exclusion of allocated sites.</p>	Agree with modification 11L for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
11M	40	<p>In paragraph 4.5.10 line 4 delete the words 'infill building' replace with the words "<i>building within settlements</i>".</p>	Agree with modification 11M for the reason set out in the

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		Reason: 6.4.5 (vii) Incorrect terminology used. The plan is seeking to refer to small additional sites rather than infill development which has a specific meaning.	Examiner's report.
Policy 7 Supporting Economic Activity			
12A	42	Add to the end of clause 1 in Policy 7 the following: <i>"...or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy".</i> Delete the paragraph immediately following clause 7). Reason: 6.4.6 (ii) The policy as written conflicts with national policy on green belt.	Agree with modification 12A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12B	43	In clause 2) line 2 delete the words 'within its existing site'. Reason: 6.4.6 To clarify the intention of the clause.	Agree with modification 12B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12C	43	Delete clause 3). Replace with the following wording instead in a new unnumbered paragraph following clause 7): <i>"Business development which involves the sensitive conversion or redevelopment of existing buildings or makes use of a previously developed site will be particularly encouraged".</i> Reason: 6.4.6 (iv) Modification is required to confirm with national policy and encourage economic development of an appropriate scale in the valley in general conformity with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP10.	Agree with modification 12C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12D	43	Reword clause 4) to read: <i>"The site can be connected to the existing highway network and will not result in severe adverse traffic impacts on surrounding roads."</i> Reason: 6.4.6 (iii) Although a site may not have existing access to the highway network, the appropriate test is that it can and the clause should be amended.	Agree with modification 12D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12E	43	Reword clause 5) to read:	Agree with modification 12E

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>"The site is large enough to accommodate car parking, service areas and landscaped areas appropriate to the scale of the business."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 There is currently not a parking standard for commercial use and the clause is therefore unworkable. The clause should be modified to refer to parking provision being appropriate to the scale of the business.</p>	for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12F	43	<p>Delete clause 6 as it unnecessarily repeats Policy 1.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 To remove repetition.</p>	Agree with modification 12F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12G	43	<p>In the paragraph entitled 'Supporting Homeworking' of Policy 7 line 4 delete the words 'small-scale'.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 (v) There is no reasons why extensions to accommodate home working should be small scale.</p>	Agree with modification 12G for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12H	43	<p>In the section entitled 'Encouraging tourist and visitor facilities' of Policy 7 at clause 1) replace the current wording with the following:</p> <p><i>"The site is located outside the Green Belt or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy".</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 To conform with national policy on Green Belt.</p>	Agree with modification 12H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12J	43	<p>Delete clauses 2a) and 2f).</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 (iii) To remove repetition.</p>	Agree with modification 12J for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12K	43	<p>In clause 2g) delete the word 'additional' in line 1.</p> <p>Delete the word 'material' and replace it with the word 'severe' in line 2.</p> <p>Delete the words 'neighbouring properties and other existing users of the area' in lines 3-4.</p>	Agree with modification 12K for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p>Reason: 6.4.5 (iii) At clause 2g) the same criterion as at clause 4) regarding impact on the highway network is repeated and needs to be modified as above. Moreover, clause 2g ends with a requirement that traffic movements do not have an adverse impact on (<i>unspecified</i>) 'other users of the highway network'. This is unclear, unreasonable and unenforceable and needs to be removed.</p>	
12L	43	<p>In clause 2h) delete all the words after the word 'infrastructure' in line 2.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 (iii) It repeats clauses 2d and 2e.</p>	Agree with modification 12L for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12M	43	<p>Re-number the clauses to reflect the modifications.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 To reflect the modifications made to this policy.</p>	Agree with modification 12M for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
12N	43	<p>Add to the end of clause 1 in Policy 7 the following: <i>"...or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy"</i>. Delete the paragraph immediately following clause 7).</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.5 To conform with national policy on Green Belt</p>	Agree with modification 12N for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 8 Facilitating Development in Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District Centre and Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres			
13A	45	<p>Delete the last 2 paragraphs of Policy 8 on page 103 beginning 'Within the primary shopping areas...' and 'Proposals which would lead...' which are no longer operable. Delete the related footnote 16.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.6 (x) The introduction of the new use class E requires changes to the policy.</p>	Agree with modification 13A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
13B	45	<p>Reword clause 2 to read: <i>"Proposals should be designed to secure easy pedestrian access and cycle and car parking to standard (including electric vehicle charging points). The development should be within easy walking distance of public transport facilities, use clear signage and provide facilities for the</i></p>	Agree with modification 13B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>disposal of litter."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.6 (x) To address ambiguous terms such as "sufficient parking", "walking distance" and "useful signage".</p>	
13C	45	<p>Reword clause 3 to read :</p> <p><i>"Retail development should be located in the primary shopping areas of Holmfirth and Honley as defined in map/plan x. If retail development is to take place outside the primary shopping areas proposals will be subject to the sequential test¹⁵".</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.6 (x) To clarify the area the policy applies to.</p>	Agree with modification 13C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
13D	45	<p>Reword clause 4 to read:</p> <p><i>"The reuse of upper floors for residential use will be supported subject to the use being compatible with ground floor commercial uses".</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.6 (x and xii) To make the policy clear and unambiguous and consistent with Kirklees Local Plan policy</p>	Agree with modification 13D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
13E	45	<p>In clause 5 change the policy reference in line 2 to read "HVNDP Policies 2 and 4".</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.6 (xii) In the existing clause 5, Policy 4 only relates to architectural features of shop fronts and Policy 2 should also be included.</p>	Agree with modification 13E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
13F	45	<p>Delete the third from last paragraph in Policy 8 on page 103 beginning 'Businesses premises should...' and clause 6 on page 104 which are unnecessarily repetitive.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.6 (x) To remove repetition of subject matter already covered in other HV NDP policies.</p>	Agree with modification 13F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
13G	45	<p>In clause 8 after the word 'the' insert the words "<i>other units within the local centre</i>".</p>	Agree with modification 13G for the reason set out in the

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		Reason: 6.4.6 (viii) To reflect the policy area coverage.	Examiner's report.
13H	45	Delete text in clause 7 and add it at the end of clause 9 after a linking word 'or' Reason: 6.4.6 (x) To remove repetition of issues covered in other HVNDP policies.	Agree with modification 13H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
13J	45	Re-number clauses in Policy 8 accordingly. Reason: 6.4.9 (xiii) To reflect other modifications made to Policy 8 to remove repetition.	Agree with modification 13J for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
13K	45	Insert after the section in the supporting text on the night time economy a subsection entitled " <i>Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres</i> " with text which describes these centres and their role and provides justification for how Policy 8 seeks to control development in these centres and what is the objective and intent. The following text has been agreed between the two Councils and is acceptable: <i>"Within Brockholes and New Mill, there are small shops and services concentrated together which perform an important function serving each of the local areas. These have both been defined as Local Centres in the Kirklees Local Plan. They include a convenience store for top-up shopping along with a mix of other services such as health and beauty salons, hot food takeaways and pubs.</i> <i>The role of Local Centres is to provide for top-up shopping and local services particularly food and drink as set out in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13. Development within them should be appropriate in scale to complement and support existing businesses in the centre and the visitor experience.</i> <i>Residential areas are immediately adjacent to these local centres and there are some residential</i>	Agree with modification 13K for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>properties intermixed with the shops and services. It is therefore important that any development protects or mitigates against any impacts on residential amenity."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.6/ 13K description To provide a description of the centres and their role and provide justification for how Policy 8 seeks to control development in these centres and to ensure consistency with Kirklees local Plan policy</p>	
Policy 9 Protecting and Enhancing Local Community Facilities			
14A	47	<p>Replace the first parts of Policy 9 and clauses 1 and 2 with the following paragraph: <i>"Community facilities of value to the local community as listed in paragraph 4.7.10 will be protected and retained for community use. Development or change of use proposals involving their loss will be managed in accordance with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP48"</i>.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.7 (ii) To remove duplication of wording contained in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP48 and ensure consistency between the aims of the two policies,</p>	Agree with modification 14A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
14B	48	<p>Replace Clause 3 of Policy 9 with the following paragraph: <i>"Where the proposal involves a community facility listed as an Asset of Community Value on a Community Assets Register the community must first be given the opportunity to acquire the asset to continue its operation before planning permission for an alternative use or development can be granted."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.7 Modify the policy to refer to Asset of Community Value and Community Assets Register to make the policy clearer and reflect how the policy operates in accordance with legislation.</p>	Agree with modification 14B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
14C	48	<p>Second section of Policy 9 clause 1 delete wording after the word 'supported' in line 1 add: <i>"...particularly where the proposal will assist the retention of small community-based schools"</i>.</p>	Agree with modification 14C for the reason set out in the

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		Reason: 6.4.7. (vi) To aid clarity on what the policy is seeking to achieve.	Examiner's report.
14D	48	Second section of Policy 9 clause 3 last line delete the words 'other policies' and replace with " <i>HVNDP Policy 12 and Policies LP31, and LP63 of the Kirklees Local Plan</i> ". Reason: 6.4.7 (vi) To provide clarity on other relevant policies.	Agree with modification 14D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
14E	48	Add " <i>Cultural and performance venues</i> " to the list of facilities at paragraph 4.7.10 of the plan. Reason: 6.4.7 (vii) To clarify the policy coverage without listing all the venues in the area.	Agree with modification 14E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 10 Protecting Local Green Spaces			
15	50	Insert after the word 'designated' in line 1 of Policy 10 the words " <i>and protected</i> ". Reason: 6.4.7 xxii. Policy 10 itself, in simply setting out which sites are designated, is however slightly at odds with the supporting text in paragraphs 4.7.29 which implies the purpose of the designation is protection. In order that the policy is clear and unambiguous as required by the NPPF and PPG there is a need for a minor modification so that the purpose of protection is made clear.	Agree with modification 15 for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 11 Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure			
16A	52	Insert a footnote reference after the word 'design' in line 3 of clause 1 to Policy 11 and after the word 'design' in line 4 of clause 12. Footnote to read : " <i>Current guidance is in the Kirklees Highways Design Supplementary Planning Document November 2019</i> " Reason: 6.4.8b (ii) To provide information on the current detailed guidance.	Agree with modification 16A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16B	52	Reword Clause 2 to read: "Traffic management interventions should be <i>designed</i> on the basis of two principles:	Agree with modification 16B for the reason set out in the

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The user hierarchy set out in the Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP20 and Interventions that are the minimum necessary to achieve the traffic management objective and which do not adversely impact...."</i> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 6.4.8 (ii) To clarify "minimal interventions".</p>	Examiner's report.
16C	52	<p>Amend the start of clause 3 to read: <i>"Any highway works associated with new development should aim to protect the key characteristics of the Landscape Character Areas of the Holme Valley. These include for example grass verges....."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 (ii) To make reference to the Landscape Character Areas rather than introduce new text into the Plan at paragraph 4.1.17.</p>	Agree with modification 16C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16D	52	<p>Amend the start of clause 4 to read; <i>"All development proposals should take opportunities to provide safe access to local streets, footpaths....",</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 (iii) To address safe access without repeating Kirklees Local Plan policy or other HV NDP policy.</p>	Agree with modification 16D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16E	52	<p>Insert the word "<i>local</i>" after the word 'Existing' in line 1 of clause 5.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 (iii) Insert local to clarify that clause 5 is referring to local green infrastructure</p>	Agree with modification 16E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16F	53	<p>In clause 6 reword the clause to read: <i>"Highway layouts should be imaginative in approach and include traffic calmed streets using a sense of enclosure to reflect....Valley."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 (ii) To aid clarity and the intent of the clause.</p>	Agree with modification 16F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16F	53	<p>Reword the start of clause 7 to read:</p>	Agree with modification 16F

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>"Designs should take account of and link to public transport, pedestrian and cycle routes especially where these....."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 (iii) To reflect that the clause is about linkage to sustainable transport routes.</p>	for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16G	53	<p>Delete Clauses 8 and 9 of Policy 11</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 (iii) Repeats Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP20 therefore not required.</p>	Agree with modification 16G for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16H	53	<p>In clause 11 line 3 after the word 'facilities' insert <i>"where planning permission is required (e.g to access Holmfirth Town Centre)"</i> Delete the words 'or festivals / events in the valley' as these are more likely to be temporary arrangements not requiring planning permission.</p> <p>Delete the words 'comply with other relevant policies and' in Line 4</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 (ii) in clause 11 some park and ride schemes if provided on a temporary basis will not require permission. The clause therefore needs to clarify that it will apply where planning permission is required. Also, in that clause, there is no need to state that proposals must comply with other policies of the plan as this is taken as read.</p>	Agree with modification 16H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16J	53	<p>In clause 12 at the end of 1st sentence add sentence to read:</p> <p><i>"In the Peak District National Park parking provision should accord with Peak District Local Plan Part 2 Policies DMT6-8 and associated parking standards."</i></p> <p>After that insertion stop clause 12 and start new clause 13 for the rest of the text but deleting the reference to the HVHCA and deleting the last sentence starting with the words 'Development schemes'.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 To provide a reference point for the consideration of suitable materials.</p>	Agree with modification 16J for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
16K		<p>Renumber clauses accordingly.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.8 To reflect the Modifications outlined for this policy.</p>	Agree with modification 16K for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
Policy 12 Promoting Sustainability			
17A	55	<p>Reword the introductory paragraph to Policy 12 to read: <i>"All development is expected to be designed to contribute to the following elements of sustainability and all major development (as defined in the NPPF) must prepare a sustainability statement which outlines how the development will contribute."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (iv) To ensure consistency with the supporting text that the policy applies to all development.</p>	Agree with modification 17A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17B	55	<p>Delete clause 1 to Policy 12 relating to Green Belt policy and renumber the following clauses.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (iv) Reference to the Green Belt is in concise, confusing and repeats NPPF and should be deleted.</p>	Agree with modification 17B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17C	55	<p>Add the word '<i>air</i>' after the word 'digestion' in line 4 of clause 2 to Policy 12.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (vi) air sources should be added.</p>	Agree with modification 17C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17D	55	<p>Reword the start of clause 3 to read: <i>"New developments should develop opportunities to deliver on site heat networks using renewable energy sources."</i></p> <p>Relocate the rest of the clause dealing with viability to the end of the policy so that it applies to all requirements. (See Recommendation 17K).</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9. (vii) onsite heat networks can operate at different scales so restriction to major developments should be removed and the text on viability relocated so it is clear that it applies to all developments.</p>	Agree with modification 17D for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17E	55	<p>Stop clause 4 after first sentence and delete remainder. Delete also the related footnote 21.</p>	Agree with modification 17E for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p>Reason: 6.4.9 (x) The Policy would be clear and unambiguous, would be in general conformity with the strategic policies and would contribute to sustainability. Basic Conditions a), d) and e) would therefore be met.</p>	
17F	55	<p>Reword the start of clause 5 to read: <i>"All new non-residential buildings should be designed to achieve...."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9. The Policy should not be restricted to major development.</p>	Agree with modification 17F for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17G	55	<p>Delete Clause 6d) as it is repeated at clause 7 and revise clause 7 to read: <i>"All new buildings should incorporate technologies which generate or source energy from renewable, low carbon sources."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9. The Policy should not be restricted to major development.</p>	Agree with modification 17G for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17H	55	<p>Add the words <i>"where planning permission is required"</i> after the word 'properties' in line 3 of clause 8 to Policy 12.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (vi) alterations will frequently be permitted development and therefore the clause can only apply where planning permission is required. For clarity this should be added.</p>	Agree with modification 17H for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17J	55	<p>Amend the start of clause 9 to read: <i>"The inclusion in development proposals of community gardens and...."</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (iv) It is not clear from the section 'Encouraging Sustainable Living' whether what is expected is that development proposals should be encouraged to incorporate community gardens and allotments. Given the preamble to the Policy it is assumed this is the case. It should be clarified.</p>	Agree with modification 17J for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
17K	55	Add at the end of the Policy the following new paragraph:	Agree with modification 17K

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>"The requirements of this policy will be expected to be met unless it can be demonstrated that this would render the development unviable. In this case, developers must demonstrate that they have worked with 3rd parties, (commercial and community), to assess the viability of opportunities"</i>.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (x) To provide clarity on implementation.</p>	for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Policy 13 Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain			
18A	56	<p>Delete the word 'major' from line 1 in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Policy 13.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (xiv) The inclusion of major would undermine Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP30 so should be deleted.</p>	Agree with modification 18A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
18B	56	<p>Insert the words <i>"in accordance with the latest national and local guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain"</i> at the end of the first sentence in Paragraph 2 of Policy 13.</p> <p>Note - If the Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note has been finalised and adopted by the time the plan is prepared for referendum it would be appropriate to refer to it in a footnote flagged from the end of this first sentence.</p> <p>Reason: 6.4.9 (xv) To make the policy more flexibility worded to response to changes in national/local guidance.</p>	Agree with modification 18B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
18C	57	<p>Cut and paste the last paragraph of the Policy from its current position to form a new paragraph immediately following the first sentence of paragraph 2 and revised to read:</p> <p><i>"A biodiversity net gain will be expected to be achieved through development by:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Managing habitats retained....improve quality <i>and /or</i> 4. Securing local off-site...overall benefit. <p><i>Direct and indirect impacts upon biodiversity.....should be provided."</i></p>	Agree with modification 18C for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		Reason: 6.4.9 (xvi) to express the policy intentions in a clearer and less ambiguous way.	
Policy 14 Focusing Developer Contributions on Local Priorities			
19A	58	Delete the whole of Section 4.10 along with Policy 14. Reason: 6.4.10 (ii) Kirklees has decided not to pursue CIL at the current time, therefore the section should be deleted.	Agree with modification 19A for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
19B	58	<p>Replace with a general section of text under a subheading "<i>Implementing and Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan</i>" explaining how the HVNDP will be implemented broadly covering the points set out in paragraph iv above.</p> <p>New text agreed between the two Councils has been provided, is acceptable and should be used to replace the existing as follows:</p> <p><i>Implementation and Monitoring</i></p> <p><i>Implementation</i></p> <p><i>The policies in this Neighbourhood Development Plan, once made, will become part of the development plan for the area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework.</i></p> <p><i>The policies will be applied by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority through the development management process in the determination of planning applications, together with the use of conditions and planning obligations under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where the tests for these are met.</i></p>	Agree with modification 19B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p><i>The Parish Council, applicants, developers and the community will be able to use the content and policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to inform representations to the relevant Local Planning Authority regarding planning applications within the Holme Valley.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council actions set out in appendix X to address the non-planning issues will be progressed by the Parish Council to support the achievement of the vision and objectives for the Holme Valley.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council will put procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Development Plan through planning application decisions, the use of conditions and appeals.</i></p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Development Plan may be reviewed by the Parish Council in line with changes to the Local Plan with this likely to take place at least once every 5 years from the date made and the Plan updated where necessary. The procedure for reviewing neighbourhood plans in place at that time in Neighbourhood Planning Legislation and the National Planning Practice Guidance will be followed.</i></p> <p>Reason: 6.4.10 (iv) The Parish Council wished to have a section in the NDP on Implementation. Text for inclusion was agreed between Holme Valley Parish Council and Kirklees Council and agreed as a modification.</p>	
Appendices			
20A	60	Delete Appendix 6 in its entirety, remove the reference to it in footnote 11 to Policy 6 of the	Agree with modification 20A

Mod No:	Page No: Examiner's Report	Examiner's Modification and Reason (including reference within the Examiner's report)	Council's response
		<p>plan.</p> <p>Reason: 7.4.2 Delete Appendix 6 with the definition of affordable housing as this is already referenced in the Policy 6 footnote.</p>	for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
20B	60	<p>Renumber the appendices after making all changes and ensure referencing through the plan to them is correct.</p> <p>Reason: 7.4.3 Renumber the appendices in response to modifications which delete appendices and introduce new ones.</p>	Agree with modification 20B for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Other Matters			
Typographical/Grammatical Errors			
21	61	<p>Make typographical and grammatical corrections as set out in Appendix D at the end of this report (page 80).</p> <p>Reason: 7.5.1. Typographical/grammatical errors in the plan should be addressed. These are set out in Appendix D to the report.</p>	Agree with modification 21 for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.
Overall Conclusion			
22	61	<p>I recommend to Kirklees Council that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan, modified as specified above, should proceed to a referendum based on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area as approved by the Kirklees Council on 27 January 2015 and the Peak District National Park Authority on 13 February 2015.</p> <p>Reason: 8.1 Subject to the recommended modifications set out in the report, it is appropriate that the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to a referendum.</p>	Agree with modification 22 for the reason set out in the Examiner's report.

Appendix 4 Holme Valley NDP Referendum Version

Note: underlined text followed by a Recommendation number identifies the text amended in response to the Examiner's Recommendation; underlined text without a Recommendation number identifies typographical errors or updates to the Plan which Examiner Recommendation 21 allows.

Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) 2021 – 2031



Referendum Plan

Prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with assistance from



Table of Contents

Foreword	4
Executive Summary	6
1.0 Introduction and Background	11
2.0 Planning Context for Holme Valley NDP	16
3.0 Holme Valley NDP Vision and Objectives	22
4.0 Holme Valley NDP Planning Policies	24
4.1 Protecting Local Character	25
Policy 1: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley	49
4.2 Protecting and Enhancing Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting Quality Design	51
Policy 2: Protecting and Enhancing the Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting High Quality Design	73
4.3 Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets	76
Policy 3: Conserving and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets	78
4.4 Design in Town and Local Centres and Public Realm	80
Policy 4: Design Codes for High Quality Shopfronts and Advertisements.....	84
Policy 5: Promoting High Quality Public Realm and Improvements to Gateways and Highways	92
4.5 Building Housing for the Future	94
Policy 6: Building Homes for the Future	102
4.6 Helping the Economy Prosper	104
Policy 7: Supporting Economic Activity	108
Policy 8: Facilitating Development in Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District Centre and Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres	115

4.7	Community, Education, Health and Well-being	117
	Policy 9: Protecting and Enhancing Local Community Facilities.....	124
	Policy 10: Protecting Local Green Space	128
4.8	Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure	133
	Policy 11: Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure	144
4.9	Sustainability and Biodiversity	147
	Policy 12: Promoting Sustainability	152
	Policy 13: Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain	157
4.10	Implementing and Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan	158
	Appendices	159
	Appendix 1: Holme Valley Parish Actions.....	160
	Appendix 2A: Positive Contributors to Conservation Areas within the Holme Valley ...	165
	Appendix 2B: Candidate Non-Designated Heritage Assets	212
	Appendix 3: Biodiversity Assets	216
	Appendix 4: Summary of Local Green Spaces	217
	Appendix 5: Kirklees adopted Car Parking Standards for residential development (Highways Development Delivery, Planning Pre-Application and Application Advice Note).....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
	Appendix 6: Kirklees Local Plan Designated Urban Green Space.....	223
	Appendix 7: Holme Valley Parish Council Climate Emergency Action Plan	226

Foreword

Welcome to the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (HVNDP).

This Plan is an important part of giving our community a stronger voice in its future. Its policies will affect future planning decisions across the Holme Valley and structure how local people want to see the Holme Valley develop over the next 10 years (Recommendation 2B).

We are extremely lucky to live in such a beautiful and vibrant part of the country and we have to strike a balance between preserving what we value and embracing the opportunities we could enjoy in the future. Any development needs to be done sensitively recognising our landscape, heritage and local identity and creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is a vital part of enabling this to happen.

This Referendum version of the plan has been created for the community by the community. In 2016, Holme Valley Parish Council set up a Steering Group comprising individuals, representatives of community groups and businesses, and Parish Councillors. Supported by Government funding and specialist technical and planning advice, we have developed our understanding of the process and possibilities provided by a NDP. We have sought to build on our collective knowledge through research and the public consultation we held in summer 2017 to build up a rich picture of how people view the Valley and how they want it to develop. Using this information, we developed a vision and objectives which guided our preparation of planning policies to deliver these. These were then shared with local people for their views through further consultation in summer 2018 and the plan updated accordingly.

The Draft Plan was published for formal public consultation from 15th July to 15th September 2019. Following careful consideration of all the comments and representations submitted, and further discussions with Kirklees Council, the NDP was amended and updated. We also took into account the need to act on the climate emergency and the Plan's contribution to the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

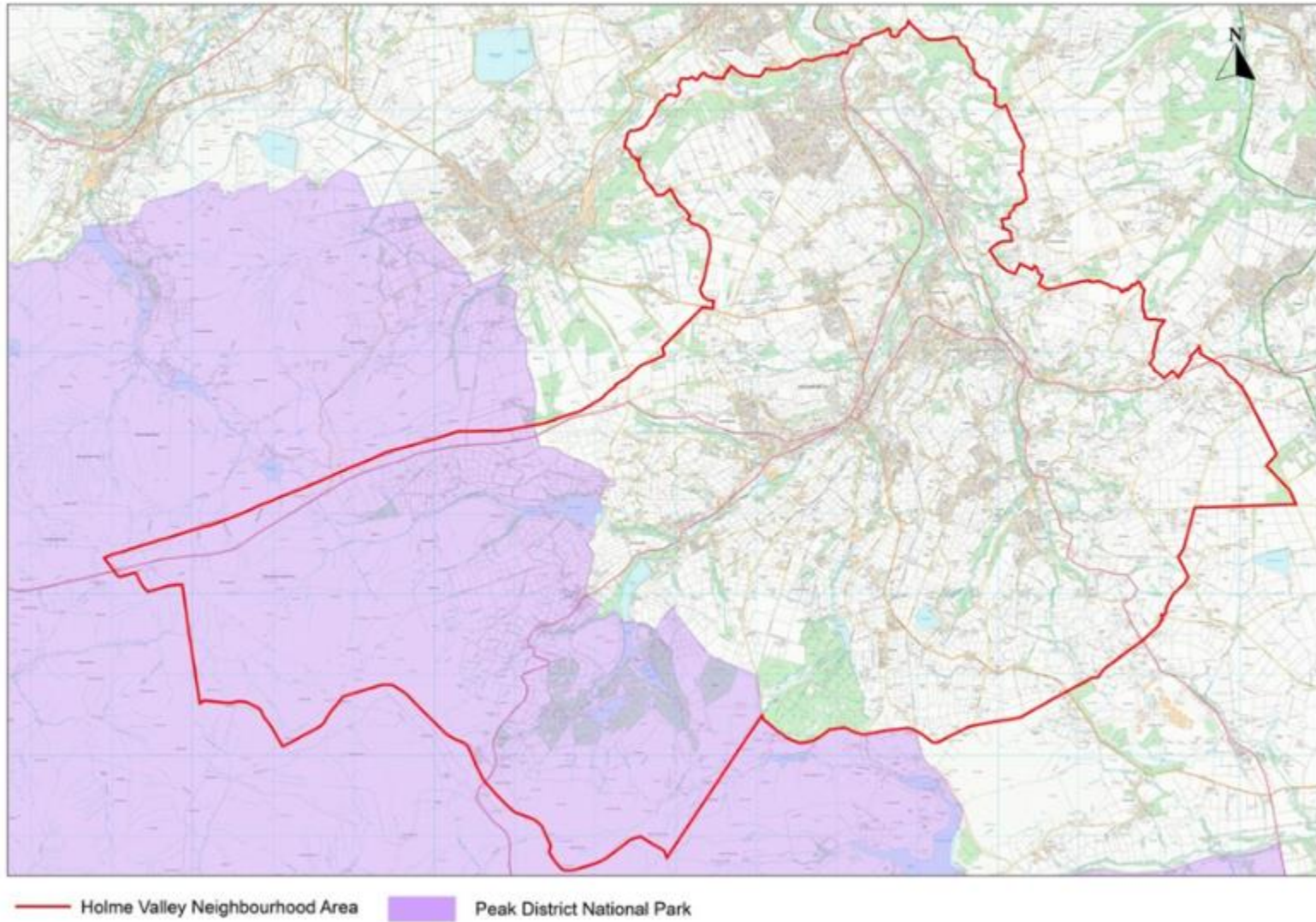
Kirklees Council published the submission version of the HVNDP for formal public consultation from 8th December 2020 to 2nd February 2021. The Plan then was examined by an independent examiner in Spring 2021 and the examiner's report was published in June 2021. The examiner recommended that the NDP should be modified as specified in his report and should proceed to a referendum based on the approved Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area. This, referendum version of the HVNDP, incorporates the examiner's recommended changes. (Recommendation 2A)

We appreciate that this is a long detailed document but our Valley is a large and diverse area with a wide range of issues we wanted to address. I am confident that we have put forward a clear vision and direction for the Valley which celebrates our different interests and identities, whilst creating a positive shared future.

Thank you to the Steering Group members for helping us to prepare a plan which will help deliver the future that we as a community wish to see.

Cllr Rachel Hogley
Chair, Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Map 1 Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area



Copyright Ordnance Survey - PSMA Number: 0100053855

Executive Summary

This is the Referendum version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the Holme Valley.

What does a Neighbourhood Development Plan do?

Its aim is to give local people more say in decisions about proposed developments in their area by encouraging their involvement in drafting local planning policies. These will give them a real influence over how, and where, development should happen over the 10 years to 2031 (Recommendation 2B). It provides a vision and objectives and proposes planning policies which will help deliver development which meets local needs and aspirations.

Where do NDPs come from?

NDPs were brought in by the Localism Act 2011 so are a relatively new part of the UK planning system. They allow communities to shape development in their areas and are confirmed by public vote through a referendum. Once made (adopted) it becomes part of the statutory development plan. It is then used to help determine planning applications in the Valley, alongside strategic policies in the Kirklees Local Plan for that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, and in that part of the neighbourhood area where the Peak District National Park (PDNP) is the planning authority, HVNDP will be used to help determine planning applications alongside strategic policies in the Peak District National Park Authority's Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (Part 2 Local Plan).

Who has written the NDP?

The Holme Valley NDP has been written by a steering group of local Parish Councillors and community group representatives. The group, formed in April 2016, developed its understanding of 'issues and options' which the NDP wanted to explore, secured the necessary funding and appointed planning consultants. It also sought technical expertise to identify the Valley's unique landscape and heritage and build the evidence base for the plan. Throughout the Plan's development, Government funding and technical advice has been sourced through Locality to support the process.

How have local views been captured?

Local residents were asked for their views on a range of topics, from housing and infrastructure to green spaces and work opportunities, in a public consultation exercise held in summer 2017. They were asked what they valued and what they wished to change in the Valley. Responses were analysed and used to draft the proposed objectives and planning policies which are detailed in this draft Plan. The first informal draft plan was then shared with residents and local businesses during summer 2018 with a summary booklet setting out the policies entitled 'Your Valley, Your Voice' delivered to nearly 13,000 addresses. Views on the proposed policies were collated through a consultation questionnaire and that feedback was analysed to inform the content of the Regulation 14 version. In addition, the NDP was revised following comments submitted by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority and other consultation bodies.

What did local people say in informal consultation?

A NDP has to propose policies which are shown to reflect local concerns and priorities and a number of key themes were identified through the consultation.

In summary, the responses to the informal consultation in 2017 highlighted that what people like most about living in the Holme Valley is its rural environment and sense of community.

Looking to the future, respondents wanted to see:

- improvements to traffic
- limited development
- improved shopping
- affordable and small houses
- additional houses spread around Valley with priority to brownfield sites
- more sustainable energy efficient homes
- housing and economic development to be sensitive to the Valley's character enforced through planning permission and law
- more people able to work in the Valley
- better public transport
- protection of the rural nature, green belt and fields.

The detail of the NDP considered the feedback from the informal consultation alongside a range of other sources of local information on demographics, heritage, education and planning guidance. Supported by our professional planning consultants, Kirkwells, we collated the evidence to identify planning policies to help direct development in a positive way for the community.

These policies were then shared in full with local people through the Pre-Regulation 14 'Your Valley Your Voice' consultation in 2018 and following analysis of the responses, the following changes were made:

- All the important themes and key elements of the policies were retained but rationalised from 16 to 13 policies to avoid duplication and ensure that they were all mutually compatible.
- Wording of all policies was clarified to reduce ambiguity.
- Up to date references to the Kirklees Local Plan and its wider policies such as on biodiversity were added.
- A separate public realm policy was provided and brought the economic elements of the night time economy, tourism and businesses under one policy.
- Two policies were combined, recognising the relationships between transport, accessibility and local infrastructure.
- Shopfront and advertisements design guidance, which was previously provided as an appendix, was revised as a specific policy to strengthen its content.
- All the suggestions for local green spaces were reviewed and four sites short-listed which did not already benefit from other forms of protection. (Some of the proposals were already protected as a result of being in the Green Belt, identified by Kirklees as an Urban Green Space or covered by a wider Trees and Woodland Strategy or having some other status like Cliff Recreation Ground which is a 'Field in Trust'.)

What responses were received through the formal Regulation 14 consultation?

The Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Holme Valley Parish was published for 9 weeks formal public consultation (Regulation 14) from 15th July to 15th September 2019. Responses were received from members of the public, community groups, developers and statutory consultees. Full details of the consultation responses and how the Plan was amended in response to the various representations are set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement and a series of tables available on the website.

How did the Submission NDP reflect stakeholders' views from the Regulation 14 consultation?

Following analysis of the Regulation 14 feedback, all NDP policies were reviewed and refined to make wording clearer and easier to interpret. The sustainability policy was amended to

form two policies with a separate policy focused on protecting wildlife and securing biodiversity net gain. To address Kirklees Council's concerns over the robustness of the evidence to support the policies, references to the technical evidence base and community consultations were revised, to include quotes from the public consultations and further detail about relevant Kirklees Local Plan and PDNPA policies. Some of the detail of the Landscape Character Assessment information in the AECOM report was moved to an Appendix and improved maps and references were provided throughout. Further clarification was provided about the Peak District National Park Authority part of the NDP area. The detailed wording of the plan was revised and explanations clarified, with more graphics or photographic images added to aid understanding. The Climate Change emergency was reflected throughout the document and up to date detail provided on the Holmfirth Town Centre Access plan and current community activities. Biodiversity was given its own policy, separate from sustainability resulting in the NDP having 14 policies. The Local Green Space maps for the Hade Edge Gateway Triangle & Scholes Sandygate Fields sites were amended to cover slightly smaller areas and the justifications for each site were reworded to align more clearly with the National Planning Policy Framework requirements.

The updated draft was shared with Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority for final comments before submission and some additional changes were made. These focused on re-ordering supporting text, making the justification for Parish Council Actions as opposed to making Policies clearer and making other minor wording alterations.

Regulation 16 formal consultation and Examination

The Submission version of the HVNDP was published by Kirklees Council and PDNPA for formal public consultation from 8th December 2020 to 2nd February 2021.

The Plan was then examined by an independent examiner in Spring 2021. The Parish Council worked closely with Kirklees Council and the examiner over a couple of months during the examination process. Much of the examination focused on Policies 1, 2 and 3 and the relevant supporting text and appendices, but the examiner also recommended changes to wording in most other policies, and the deletion of the section and policy on developer contributions, as Kirklees Council has withdrawn all Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) proposals. Also, the various Parish Council Actions were all moved to a new Appendix (1).

The examiner's report was published in June 2021 and is available on the NDP pages of the Parish Council website. The examiner recommended that the NDP should be modified as specified in his report and should proceed to a referendum based on the approved Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area. This, referendum version of the HVNDP, incorporates the examiner's recommended changes. (Recommendation 2A)

How is the NDP structured?

The NDP comprises a vision statement, a set of objectives and formal planning policies. These policies are accompanied by detailed commentary explaining the meaning of the policies and what they are seeking to achieve. The document addresses each policy area in turn, covering a range of areas including landscape, heritage, housing, the economy, education, transport and sustainability.

What is the proposed vision and objectives?

The vision is based on the steering group's views, feedback from the groups to which they belong and the many consultation exercises carried out in recent years, and describes what we want to achieve over the next 10 years. (Recommendation 2B)



Figure 1 - Vision & Objectives

What are the proposed policies?

The policies flow from the objectives and will be used to determine planning applications submitted to Kirklees Council in that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority and submitted to the Peak District National Park Authority for applications inside the PDNP area. The policies will help developers understand local priorities and aspirations. Each policy contains detail to guide planning decisions related to its overall theme. Where a policy does not apply to the PDNPA this is outlined in the policy. (Recommendation 1A/2A).

PLANNING POLICIES

1. Protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the Holme Valley
2. Protecting and enhancing the built character of the Holme Valley and promoting high quality design
3. Conserving and enhancing Local Heritage Assets (Recommendation 8A)
4. Design Codes for high quality shop fronts and advertisements
5. Promoting high quality public realm and improvements to gateways and highways
6. Building homes for the future
7. Supporting economic activity
8. Facilitating development in Holmfirth, Honley and other local centres
9. Protecting and enhancing local community facilities

10. Protecting local green space
11. Improving transport, accessibility and local infrastructure
12. Promoting sustainability
13. Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain

What else is in the NDP?

The NDP also includes 'actions' to be taken forward by the Parish Council alongside the NDP. These non-planning issues cannot be addressed through a NDP but they are still important concerns identified by the community: by capturing them, we can help inform future work by the Parish Council to deliver the overall vision and objectives.

What are the benefits for the Holme Valley in having a NDP?

Creating a NDP in an area increases the understanding of local views and gives people a formal opportunity to influence planning decisions in the Holme Valley and help shape the nature of future developments. (Recommendation 2C).

What is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

Every NDP has to be 'screened' in consultation with Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England to determine if it requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Having screened our plan during the public consultation in 2018, Kirklees Council informed us that we required a SEA. Following a successful application for Government 'technical support', a specialist consultant, AECOM, was commissioned to undertake the SEA. A SEA is an assessment tool which considers and communicates the likely effects of the NDP on a number of environmental topics such as biodiversity, the historic environment, and landscape. The aim of the process is to maximise the contribution of the planning policies within the NDP to sustainable development.

The SEA concluded that the draft HVNDP performed well overall against all the SEA themes, and multiple potential benefits to the local community are identified. This report was published for consultation in parallel with the Regulation 14 consultation on the Draft Plan.

What happens next?

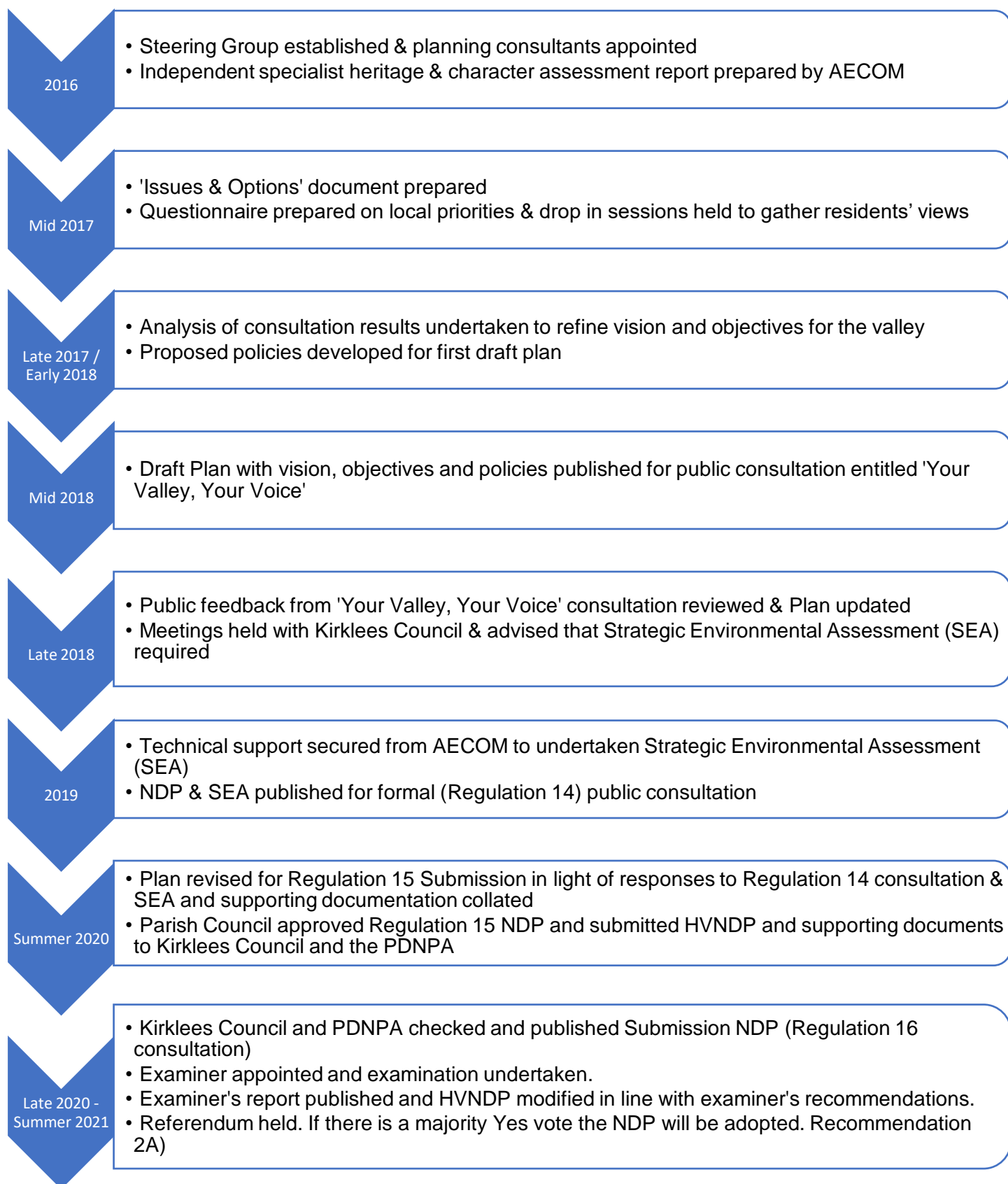
The Plan will proceed to a local referendum. Everyone on the electoral role in the Parish will be asked whether the HVNDP should be used to determine planning applications. If there is a majority 'Yes' vote (that is, 50% of turnout + 1), the HVNDP will be 'made' (adopted) by Kirklees Council and become part of the statutory development plan. (Recommendation 2A).

1.0 Introduction and Background

Referendum Plan

- 1.1 Welcome to the Referendum version of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). (Recommendation 2A)
- 1.2 The NDP has been prepared on the basis of development work which has been underway since April 2016 when a Steering Group of local councillors and representatives of community groups across the Valley was first formed.
- 1.3 The group first developed an understanding of 'issues and options' which the NDP wanted to address, secured the necessary funding to progress the plan and appointed planning consultants to provide expert advice. It sought technical expertise to objectively identify and describe the valley's unique landscape and heritage and help build the evidence base for the plan. The steering group then sought views from residents across the valley through its public consultation in summer 2017 and again in summer 2018 when draft proposed planning policies had been developed. The responses from this consultation were analysed and used to update the draft planning policies to help guide development in the Holme Valley Parish up to 2031. These updated planning policies were then published for further consultation in summer 2019 as the Draft Regulation 14 NDP. Further technical advice was also sought to support the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which Kirklees Council advised was required in light of the sensitive environment of the Holme Valley.
- 1.4 The HVNDP was submitted to Kirklees Council and PDNPA in summer 2020 and published for formal consultation from late 2020 to early 2021. The examination took place in Spring 2021. The development process is summarised in the timeline diagram in Figure 2. (Recommendation 2A)
- 1.5 Members of the Steering Group, Michael Forster-Jones and the Holmfirth Conservation Group are thanked for the photographs they have provided.

Figure 2 - Timeline of NDP process



Purpose of the Plan

- 1.6 Neighbourhood Development Plans are a relatively new part of the UK planning system, brought in through the Localism Act 2011. In the UK all planning applications are determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Made (adopted) NDPs are part of the local statutory development plan, and therefore are used to help determine planning applications in that area. NDPs are powerful tools and present significant opportunities for local people to have a real say in how, and where, development should happen within their local area. They can provide the local detail to add value to higher level, more strategic policies. Overall, the aim of NDPs is to give local people more say in decisions about development proposals in their local area by encouraging them to get involved in drafting local planning policies.

Work on the NDP

- 1.7 Work began on the Holme Valley NDP when the Parish Council made the decision to prepare a Plan. The Parish Council applied to become a designated neighbourhood planning body in September 2014. Applications were sent to both Kirklees Council and Peak District National Park Authority. The neighbourhood area is the same as the Civil Parish boundary and was approved on 13th February 2015. The designated neighbourhood area is shown on Map 1.
- 1.8 Unlike some neighbouring areas such as Penistone, which have prepared Community Led Plans, the Holme Valley has not previously undertaken a parish wide review of its objectives and vision for the future. Holme Valley Vision network, a body represented on the NDP Steering Group did undertake considerable research in 2013 to understand what mattered most to people in the Holme Valley area. The research undertaken at that time, with involvement from local businesses, young people and residents has been updated and expanded and the data gathered about the interests and make-up of the local population have informed the Neighbourhood Plan. The strap line for the project was “making the Holme Valley a good place to live and work in and to visit”. This has now been developed into a vision for the Holme Valley Parish and underpins its Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9 The Holme Valley Parish is a large administrative area covering two key centres of Holmfirth and Honley with more than a dozen other small villages. As a result, the challenge for the Neighbourhood Plan has been to identify the common themes which apply to the whole area whilst recognising the distinct character areas within the Valley. The plan therefore seeks to identify an overarching vision and then a range of geographically specific policies which offer more detail for certain areas where appropriate.

Heritage Appraisal

- 1.10 At an early stage of the Plan's preparation, the steering group identified a need for a detailed study of the built heritage and landscape character of the area. Consultants, AECOM, were commissioned to undertake a Heritage and Landscape Character Assessment of Holme Valley Civil Parish during summer and autumn 2016. This report offers an independent review of the built and natural environment of the valley and provides an important part of the technical evidence base for the NDP. Its key

conclusions are reflected in the NDP. Copies of the full report are available on the parish website or from the Parish Council on request.

Issues and Options Consultation

- 1.11 A public consultation on Issues and Options for the NDP was undertaken in Summer 2017. An Issues and Options document and accompanying questionnaire were prepared by the steering group and published for informal consultation 10th May to 18th July 2017.

Informal Consultation on the First Draft Plan - Your Valley Your Voice Public Questionnaire

- 1.12 The First Draft Plan was published for informal public consultation from 11th June to 27th July 2018. The consultation document consisted of a summary booklet outlining the purpose of a NDP and detailing the vision, objectives and policies of the draft plan. This was entitled 'Your Valley, Your Voice'. It provided website links to the full draft plan and highlighted that this was available for review in Holmfirth library, Honley library and the Parish Council offices.
- 1.13 The Draft Plan was amended following consideration of the responses to the informal consultation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.14 Following a review of the Pre-Regulation 14 draft NDP, Kirklees Council undertook a screening review of the Plan to establish if a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required. In conjunction with advice from Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England, Kirklees formally advised in October 2018 that a SEA was required.
- 1.15 The Steering Group sought technical support from Locality and commissioned AECOM to undertake a scoping report and then a full SEA. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and associated Non-Technical Summary were published for consultation alongside the Draft NDP. The NDP was revised in line with the recommended changes in the Environmental Report, March 2020. The SEA was also in turn updated by AECOM to reflect the changes in the Submission Plan and reissued in September 2020.

Regulation 14 Public Consultation

- 1.16 The Draft HVNDP was published for formal consultation for 9 weeks (Regulation 14) from 15th July to 15th September 2019. Copies of the Draft NDP, SEA and associated documents could be downloaded from the Parish Council's website. Hard copies of the Draft NDP, a summary of the policies and the SEA documents could be viewed during normal opening hours at the following locations:
- Holmfirth Library, 47 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3JH
 - Honley Library, West Avenue, Honley, HD9 6HF

Hard copies were also available on request to borrow from the Parish Council Clerk by calling the office on 01484 687460 or by emailing: clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 1.17 A link to the online questionnaire was provided on the Parish Council website.
- 1.18 A response form could be downloaded and completed and sent to holmevalleyndp@gmail.com. Hard copies of the response form were also available at Holmfirth and Honley Libraries and completed forms could be returned to both libraries for collection or posted to Holme Valley Parish Council, Holmfirth Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AS.
- 1.19 The Steering Group hosted four drop-in sessions to assist residents and stakeholders with the questionnaire and to provide further information. These were:
- 11am - 2pm on Friday 26th & Saturday 27th July at Honley Parish Rooms
 - 11am - 2pm on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th September at Holmfirth Library.
- 1.20 Stakeholders were also invited to get in touch using the dedicated NDP email address: holmevalleyndp@gmail.com.
- 1.21 The consultation bodies and other community groups were contacted by email / letter and invited to respond with any comments to the NDP email address or via the online questionnaire.
- 1.22 Full details of the responses and how these informed the changes to the Submission version of the NDP are set out in a separate document 'Summary of Regulation 14 Consultation' and in the Consultation Statement.

2.0 Planning Context for Holme Valley NDP

- 2.1 Neighbourhood Plans cannot be prepared in isolation. They are required to have regard to national planning policies (set out in the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) as revised in February 2019, Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and other Government statements and guidance and to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the local development plan. This section outlines the various overarching policies which apply to the Holme Valley.

Planning Policy

- 2.2 There are two relevant Local Planning Authorities for Holme Valley: Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority (see Map 1).
- 2.3 In Kirklees, the Local Plan comprises the Strategy and Policies document, Allocations and Designations document and associated Policies Map showing the allocations and designations. The Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies and Kirklees Local Plan Allocations and Designations documents were adopted on 27th February 2019.
- 2.4 For that part of the NDP area within the Peak District National Park, the Peak District National Park development plan comprises the Core Strategy (2011) and the Local Plan Part 2: Development Management Policies (May 2019).

Planning Context

- 2.5 Holme Valley is a large civil parish. The majority of the Parish is located in the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees in West Yorkshire, but part of the Parish in the southwest lies within the Peak District National Park (PDNP). Whilst Kirklees Local Authority administers council-run services throughout the Parish, the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is the sole planning authority for land and property within the PDNP. The PDNPA's strategic planning policies must meet the purposes and duty of a national park as set out in the 1995 Environment Act. These are:
- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the national park
 - to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the parks) by the public
 - to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities.
- 2.6 The Parish has a population of 27,146 (2011 census) and covers an area of 7,046 Ha. The administrative centre is in Holmfirth. Other villages in the parish include Brockholes, Cinderhills, Hade Edge, Hepworth, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmbridge, Holme, Honley, Jackson Bridge, Netherthong, New Mill, Scholes, Thongsbridge, Upperthong and Wooldale.
- 2.7 There are areas within the parish that are urban, and others that are very rural; there is a distinctive landscape character, which is significant in terms of wildlife and biodiversity. The built character of the town, the villages and surrounding rural buildings is also noteworthy in terms of the widespread use of traditional local materials, and the scale and form of rural buildings.

Summary of Key Characteristics

Landscape Character

- 2.8 The landscape character of the Holme Valley is described in detail in the Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment, July 2015. The Landscape Character Assessment gives a summary of the landscape character for each character area and identifies valued landscape features and attributes.
- 2.9 Part of the area to the west lies within the Peak District National Park. The Peak District Landscape Character Assessment (2008) provides information about landscape change and details guidelines for the distinctive landscapes of the Peak District. Holme Valley neighbourhood area includes the following landscape character areas: Dark Peak and Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe.

Biodiversity

- 2.10 Holme Valley has a number of significant local biodiversity assets. There are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), Local Geological Sites, Local Wildlife Sites and ancient woodlands within the neighbourhood area - see Appendix 3.



Figure 3 - View of the Holme Valley from the South West

Green Infrastructure

- 2.11 Green Infrastructure (GI) is "a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities" (NPPF 2019 Annex 2: Glossary). Multi-functional Green Infrastructure (GI) is important to underpin the overall sustainability of development by performing a range of functions. There are many opportunities in the Holme Valley to enhance and extend existing GI networks by encouraging

developers to design landscaping, open space and buildings to enhance local wildlife, respond to climate change, and provide suitable opportunities for recreation, all at the same time.

Built Heritage

- 2.12 In addition to a distinctive local landscape character and many natural heritage assets, Holme Valley is defined by its very attractive and interesting built heritage. The parish has 13 conservation areas, 451 listed buildings and 3 Scheduled Monuments. There are also buildings and structures within the neighbourhood area which do not benefit from the protection of Statutory Listing but are of local heritage value.
- 2.13 Kirklees Council has only published conservation areas appraisals for Oldfield and Holme conservation areas which is a source of local concern as without any record of the characteristics of each conservation area, it can be difficult to identify how to protect them. The Valley still has a number of mill buildings reflecting its industrial history despite many being demolished over recent years. Only Bridge Mills and Ribbleden Mills now remain in Holmfirth so retaining the built heritage of a traditional mill town is important. The Parish Council commissioned a Heritage and Landscape Assessment in 2016 to provide further background evidence to support the NDP, and to inform policies on protecting local character and encouraging high quality design, including contemporary and sustainable buildings.
- 2.14 Since then, a local group, Holmfirth Conservation Group, stepped into the gap created by Kirklees's lack of appraisal of the Holmfirth Conservation Area, which is deemed to be at risk by Historic England. The appraisal has been completed and contributes to the NDP's evidence base. Its findings have informed and justified the NDP's policies.

Providing Housing

- 2.15 Supporting the provision of new housing is a major issue for the Holme Valley NDP. It should be noted that this only applies in the Kirklees area as the requirement to provide housing does not apply to the part of the neighbourhood area within the Peak District National Park. In the Local Plan Kirklees Council identified an additional 1,087 homes on 27 different sites in the Holme Valley. Based on information taken from the Local Plan concerning the size of the allocated sites and number of proposed houses, it is estimated that the housing density in the Holme Valley will be approximately 30 dwellings per hectare compared with the national average of 35 dwellings per hectare.
- 2.16 NDPs should be in general conformity with the strategic planning policies in the Local Plan and should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.
- 2.17 Local concern focuses on the impacts that such a proportionately large increase in the number of houses will have on quality of life. At the moment, approximately 27,000 people live in the Parish Council area. There are fears that the proposed housing development may lead to a substantial increase in the local population with their associated impact on existing infrastructure. This was illustrated by some of the

feedback from the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation with comments such as ‘the scale of development is far too great, overwhelming villages and causing traffic problems’ and ‘infrastructure can’t cope’. Population growth is not necessarily a consequence of additional houses since household formation rates could change. The Kirklees Local Plan predicts that the average size of households will decline from 2.43 to 2.34 by 2031. Using the 2011 census figures of 27,146 people living in 12,039 households, the average size of households in the Holme Valley is already only 2.25 but with an additional 1,087 homes, a population increase at this lower density could still equate to additional 2,446 people in the valley. With only 14.37% households not having a car or van, compared with 25.44% in Kirklees as a whole, it can be assumed that pressure on road infrastructure will increase as more housing is built. This is considered in more detail in section 4.8.

- 2.18 Most of the land allocated in the Local Plan for employment purposes is to the north of Huddersfield and the type of houses being built in the Holme Valley is likely to attract people who work in the surrounding cities, such as Leeds, Wakefield, Manchester and Sheffield. A large number of people already commute out of the area, mostly by car and there is an opportunity for the NDP to promote and support more locally based employment and alternative modes of transport to reduce reliance on the private car. The population growth will result in an increased demand for local services, particularly schools and healthcare facilities and the increased population will result in a greater loading on the drainage networks as well as the road infrastructure. The impact on infrastructure has been considered in the Local Plan and new developments will provide developer contributions (Recommendation 3) in that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority to go towards infrastructure.
- 2.19 On average, houses in the Holme Valley are more expensive than anywhere else in Kirklees, according to information obtained from Kirklees Observatory. The 2011 census showed that there is a greater proportion of detached houses and a lower proportion of semi-detached houses and flats or maisonettes. This profile, given the type of property being approved since then, is unlikely to have changed. Indeed, there is growing concern about the number of larger, high cost properties being built in the Valley and the absence of lower cost, smaller dwellings. There is a general consensus amongst local people of the need for more affordable, smaller housing to help young people live independently, to support older people wishing to down-size and to accommodate people whose circumstances change.
- 2.20 During the 2017 public consultation, the overwhelming message was that residents wished to see affordable housing, with over 72% of responses supporting this. Affordable housing has a specific definition of ‘housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the definitions’ set out in the NPPF. However, anecdotally, it has been interpreted in a different way and since it was often mentioned alongside small housing, the importance of more, smaller housing stock to local people is clear. Quotes indicated that residents wanted to see ‘Houses that first-time buyers can afford, and old people are able to remain living in’ and ‘sensibly sized and placed development’ and ‘some small and affordable housing’. Local Plan Policy LP 11

requires a range of housing to meet local needs and states that sites should provide 20% affordable housing. There is no such requirement in the National Park.

Supporting the Local Economy

- 2.21 The future sustainability of the parish is dependent upon maintaining a buoyant local economy and services, or there is a risk that part of Holme Valley Parish could become a group of satellite, commuter settlements serving larger towns such as Huddersfield. The 2011 census data demonstrates that the Valley has a higher than average number of people in higher managerial, administration and professional occupations (15.45% of all ages 16-74 compared to 8.82% those in Kirklees) some of whom will commute to larger towns and cities. However, it also has a range of occupations represented with 11.79% of those aged 16-74 classified as small employers and own account workers. Residents have expressed the desire to retain a mix of employment opportunities particularly in the local area. The Pre-Regulation 14 consultation included comments such as 'I welcome all opportunities to expand local employment as a means of reducing sustainable levels of commuting and as a way to encourage young people to stay in the local area.'
- 2.22 Holmfirth is an internationally known brand, renowned for its beautiful countryside and character as well as being the setting for the longest running sitcom in the world, Last of the Summer Wine. Indeed, the original reason for the series being based here was the visual attractiveness of the area. The duration of the programme and its international popularity still draws visitors. More recently, the area's programme of festivals and other attractions, including the Holmfirth Picturedrome, a popular independent live music venue, have provided more contemporary visitor draws.
- 2.23 There are many other opportunities for developing the local economy which will help to support a vibrant and viable town centre and the local population. There is strength in the services that support the local population, such as building trades, hairdresser and beauty facilities and the motor trades. The number and quality of cafes and restaurants and other night time attractions attract visitors as well as serve local people. Engineering businesses can still be found locally and there are a significant number of professional services and consultancy businesses operating in the Valley suggesting that there is considerable scope for expansion, particularly through greater use of the broadband and other communication channels.
- 2.24 The 2017 consultation identified that over 75% of respondents felt that the neighbourhood plan should enable more people to work in the Holme Valley with opportunities for business hubs, small businesses and commerce, service and creative industries featuring most highly.

Protecting and Improving Local Facilities

- 2.25 The Holme Valley is fortunate to have a good range of local facilities. These include village halls, recreation grounds including sports fields/sport centres/gymnasiums, sailing, tennis and cricket clubs, a swimming pool, children's play areas, places of worship, and primary and secondary schools.
- 2.26 Informal facilities such as the network of walking and cycling routes alongside the range of services within Holmfirth, Honley and the surrounding villages, offer residents opportunities to meet and socialise. The Holme Valley has a large number

of different community groups, organisations and societies which cater for the diverse interests of the local population and having places where they can meet and participate in their various activities is an essential part of the Valley's character.

3.0 Holme Valley NDP Vision and Objectives

- 3.1 The vision has been developed by the Steering Group based on their views, feedback from the groups to which they belong and the many consultation exercises that have been carried out in recent years. The vision describes what we want to achieve over the neighbourhood plan period. (Recommendation 4A)
- 3.2 The objectives break the vision down into sections and helped structure our thinking about how our policies could address the issues facing the Holme Valley. They were informed by the informal and formal consultation with the community in 2018 & 2019.
- 3.3 The primary purpose of a Neighbourhood Development Plan is for a Parish Council to produce a set of policies against which planning applications submitted to Kirklees Council and the PDNPA will be assessed. The Holme Valley NDP includes planning policies which will be used for this purpose.
- 3.4 The Holme Valley NDP also includes ‘actions’ which will be taken forward by the Parish Council in order to address the non-planning issues relevant to the communities living within the parish - see Appendix 1. (Recommendation 4B)

VISION FOR THE VALLEY

The Holme Valley of the future will continue to be a beautiful rural landscape offering safe environments for wildlife and a place where its culture, heritage and splendour are celebrated by local people and visitors. It will be home to a vibrant and welcoming community whose people live and/or work within its thriving settlements. It will offer the services and facilities for modern life, whilst sustaining a strong sense of identity and belonging for everyone.

OBJECTIVES

- | |
|--|
| A. To preserve and promote the distinctive characteristics of the Holme Valley. |
| B. To protect important open spaces, public views and landscape of the Holme Valley. |
| C. To promote the type of housing that meets the needs of the local population and to ensure that all new development meets appropriate design and building standards. |
| D. To promote growth of the economy, employment and tourism in the Holme Valley. |
| E. To promote education and life-long learning for all through investment in improved local community facilities. |
| F. To promote the health and well-being of residents. |
| G. To improve accessibility, infrastructure and movement around the Valley by promoting more sustainable transport choices. |
| H. To promote sustainability, reduce impact on climate change and move towards a zero-carbon local economy. |

3.5 Table 1 shows which policies meet the relevant objectives.

Table 1 NDP Policies and Objectives

NDP Policies		Obj	Obj	Obj	Obj	Obj	Obj	Obj	Obj
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the Holme Valley	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
2	Protecting and enhancing the built character of the Holme Valley and promoting high quality design	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
3	Conserving and enhancing local heritage assets (Recommendation 8A)	✓			✓				
4	Design Codes for high quality shop fronts and advertisements	✓			✓				
5	Promoting high quality public realm and improvements to gateways and highways	✓			✓		✓	✓	
6	Building homes for the future	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
7	Supporting economic activity	✓			✓				✓
8	Facilitating development in Holmfirth, Honley and other local centres	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
9	Protecting and enhancing local community facilities	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Protecting Local Green Space	✓	✓				✓		✓
11	Improving transport, accessibility & local Infrastructure	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Promoting sustainability	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
13	Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain	✓						✓	

4.0 Holme Valley NDP Planning Policies

The following sections of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan contain the policies which will be applied by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority in the consideration of any planning application submitted within that planning authority's part of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area.

These policies are necessarily wide ranging in their scope and taken together will help to deliver sustainable development within the Parish.

A NDP has the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been supported at a referendum and is made (brought into legal force) by the local planning authority.

At this point it becomes part of the statutory development plan and applications for planning permission **must be determined** in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.1 Protecting Local Character

Introduction and Background

- 4.1.1 The local character of the area encompasses both the landscapes of the area and its built environments. The distinctive landscapes and built heritage of the Holme Valley are regarded locally, nationally and internationally as positive assets.
- 4.1.2 The distinctive local landscape character of Holme Valley Parish is highly significant in terms of the area's strong local identity. The public consultation on Issues and Options in summer 2017 reiterated the appreciation of local landscape character by local people. The rural environment was by far the largest single response to Q1 "What do you like most about living in Holme Valley?" with 44% responses mentioning it. Responses included "Beautiful well-kept countryside, great towns and villages. It feels safe and friendly. Lots of well organised fun events" and "I feel that the most important thing that should be protected is the countryside. Without the countryside what is the Holme Valley?".
- 4.1.3 The landscape and particularly its wide-open views are highly valued and examples of these are shown in the photographs below:



Figure 4 - Looking up the Holme Valley towards Holmbridge



Figure 5 - Looking down the Holme Valley across to Cheeseagate Nab



Figure 6 - Looking down the Holme Valley over Holmfirth towards Castle Hill



Figure 7 - View across New Mill from Sude Hill



Figure 8 - View towards Netherthong from Wolfstones



Figure 9 - View towards Honley

- 4.1.4 Natural England has identified and described National Character Areas (NCA)¹ for all areas of England. The eastern portion of the area falls within NCA 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. The close juxtaposition of the predominantly Millstone Grit industrial towns, valley topography and pastoral agriculture of the Pennine foothills forms a distinct feature of the landscape. Although largely a transitional landscape stretching from upland areas to the lower-lying land to the east, the use of millstone grit in buildings and structures provides a sense of visual unity to the landscape.
- 4.1.5 The western extent of the study area is encompassed within NCA 51: Dark Peak, which forms a landscape of wild and remote moorland, contained almost entirely within the Peak District National Park. The plateau topography is divided and drained by a number of small streams which coalesce to form the main rivers within the NCA. Forming part of the southernmost limit of the Pennines, valley reservoirs and uninterrupted views across the elevated landscape are characteristic of the area.
- 4.1.6 The Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment (2015) identifies a total of eight Landscape Character Types and 19 Landscape Character Areas. There are a number of these that cover the Holme Valley Parish.
- 4.1.7 Part of the area to the west lies within the Peak District National Park. The Peak District Landscape Character Assessment (2008) provides information about landscape change and details guidelines for the distinctive landscapes of the Peak District. The Holme Valley neighbourhood area includes the following landscape character areas:
- **Dark Peak**
Sparsely populated upland plateau with steep gritstone slopes that drop away to wooded cloughs and deep valleys.
 - **Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe**
Displaying many of the characteristics of the Peak District, the landscape is also influenced by the proximity of urban settlements including the close association with pastoral agriculture and early industrial activity.

¹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130>

- 4.1.8 The character of the built heritage of the Holme Valley is also valued locally, nationally and internationally as positive assets. Built heritage assets in the Valley include 13 conservation areas: Butterley, Fulstone, Hepworth, Hinchliffe Mill, Holme, Holmfirth, Honley, Netherthong, Oldfield, Totties, Underbank, Upperthong, and Wooldale. There are also 451 listed buildings and 3 Scheduled Monuments. Much of the rural area is protected by national park status and within that as 'natural zone'. Large parts of the rural area of the Parish within that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority are protected by Green Belt.
- 4.1.9 Alongside its industrial heritage, the Holme Valley has a strong history of farming and agriculture. This has a significant impact on the appearance of the valley in terms of field boundaries, agricultural buildings and the appearance of the land which is driven by the farming methods and moorland management. Sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens and alpacas are all farmed alongside horse pastures, forestry plantations and the extensive grouse moors. The landscapes created by the livestock can be taken for granted and it is important that the viability of local agriculture is encouraged. Local sourcing of meat and dairy, support for farm diversification and the need for farms to have modern barns and facilities must be recognised. There are already agricultural permitted development rights for functional buildings such as barns, but where planning permission is required, proposals need to be sensitive in terms of the siting, design and external appearance to minimise adverse visual impacts. Suitable screening should be provided by using locally appropriate native species of trees and shrubs in planting. Landscaping schemes and development should make use of local topography to minimise the prominence of large new buildings. Use of natural materials such as wood, and neutral colours such as earth browns and soft greens can reduce visual impacts and are encouraged.



Figure 10 - Bluebells in West Wood, Honley

Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment, October 2016²

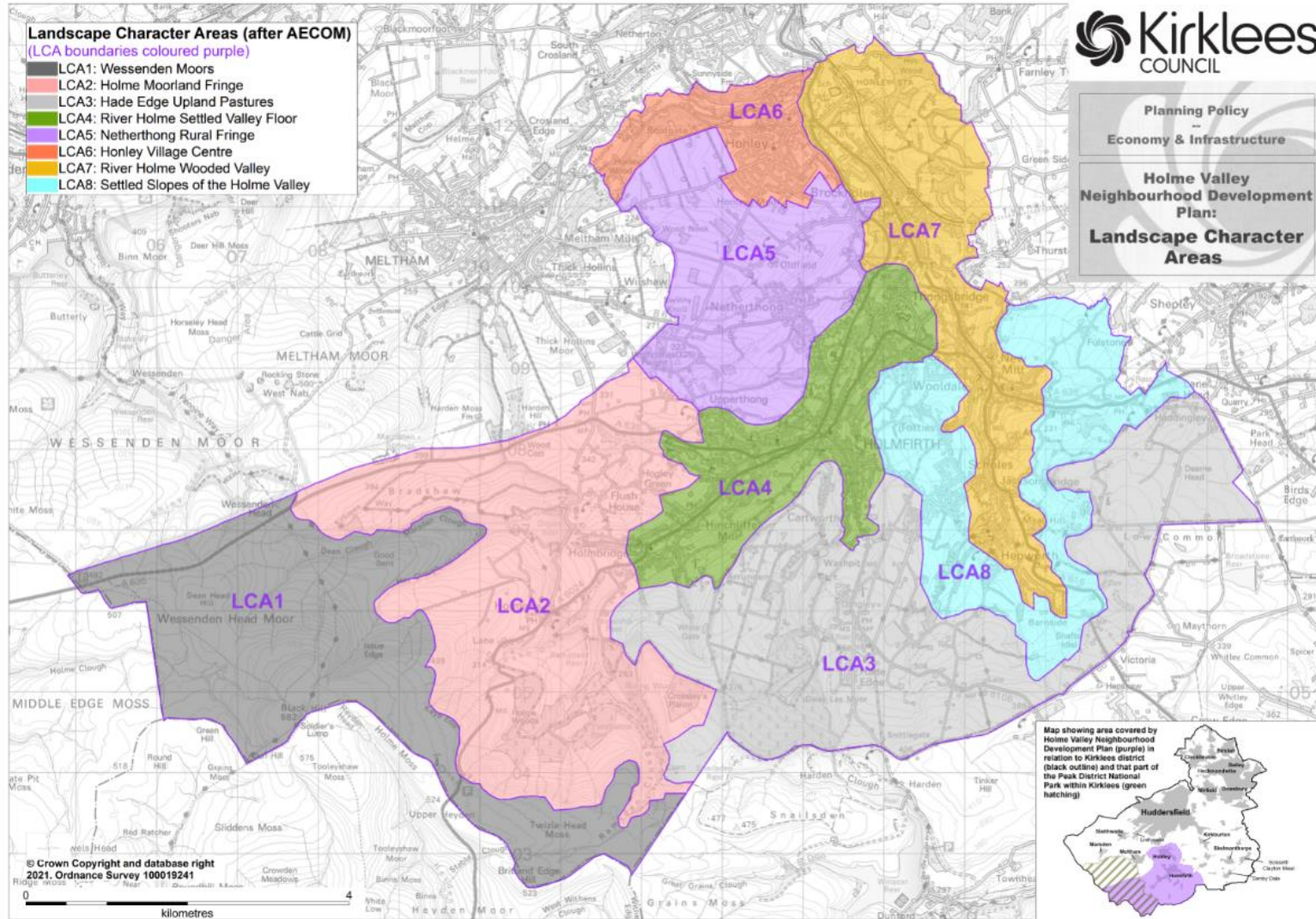
- 4.1.10 In order to provide more detailed information about the built character of the Holme Valley, the Parish Council commissioned AECOM consultants, to undertake a Heritage and Character Assessment (HCA) in 2016 to provide more local detail to the landscape character assessment work undertaken at the Kirklees level. This study included consideration of public consultations and local knowledge. It showed that the following are particularly valued by local residents:
- Existing built development and settlement pattern and how this is integrated within the Valley topography;
 - Industrial and agricultural heritage of the area;
 - Contrast of the industrial heritage features with the wider moors and wooded valleys.
- 4.1.11 Key issues which required resolving were:
- Address the continued loss of mill buildings and demise of local industry;
 - Implement stricter controls in conservation areas, relating specifically to the replacement of doors and windows;
 - Reinstate shop fronts which are sympathetic to the local setting.
- 4.1.12 Aspects of heritage or character which residents felt were particularly sensitive to change included:
- Industrial heritage and existing mill chimneys (such as Bottoms Mill) which are now showing signs of decay and neglect;
 - New development which is not in-keeping with local materials or existing building scale / massing;
 - Introduction of new development within conservation areas.
- 4.1.13 Identified pressures which could threaten the distinctive characteristics of the area included:
- Failure to preserve heritage features in new development resulting in the gradual erosion of local character; and
 - Large scale housing developments which do not reflect the local building vernacular.
- 4.1.14 In general, the Heritage and Character Assessment concluded that the design, form and pattern of new development should respond to the historic local vernacular within the parish, using local materials. Development should also respond appropriately to the immediate context, taking into account layout, scale, density and appearance (including materials) of neighbouring buildings. Specific consideration should be given to the conservation areas within the area to ensure the conservation and protection of key heritage assets. There is also a need to consider how the local topography has influenced form and layout, leading to a strong, linear form of development, with building lines following the contours along steep valley sides and narrow valley bottoms.

² see https://www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_22997.aspx
Technical Report

4.1.15 Utilising these findings, the AECOM Assessment identified eight distinct Landscape Character Areas within the Holme Valley which are listed below and shown on the following Map 2:

- LCA 1: Wessenden Moors
- LCA 2: Holme Moorland Fringe
- LCA 3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures
- LCA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor
- LCA 5: Netherthong Rural Fringe
- LCA 6: Honley Village Centre
- LCA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley
- LCA 8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley

Map 2 Landscape Character Areas in Holme Valley Parish See Recommendation 5B



- 4.1.16 The Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment (HVHCA) describes the key characteristics and character management principles for the landscape and built character of each of the 8 identified Landscape Character Areas. The key characteristics and character management principles for each of the Landscape Character Areas in respect of landscape and built character are set out below and are the character management principles to be applied in Policies 1 and 2 dealing with protecting and enhancing landscape character and protecting and enhancing built character respectively. The evidence as to why these principles are important to the future of the valley is set out in the HVHCA.
- 4.1.17 However it is important to note that many of the landscape characteristics of the Holme Valley have a strong association with the built character. The area's pre-industrial and industrial heritage, with links to textile production and manufacture, mining and quarrying, is woven into the very fabric of the stone walls, farmsteads, hamlets, villages and towns and the transport routes that link them. The aim is that new development is designed positively to respond to this context, so that change can be successfully integrated into a landscape and townscape which has a very strong and unique sense of place and which is highly valued by residents and visitors. (Recommendation 5A)

LCA1: Wessenden Moors (Recommendation 5A)

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The whole of LCA1 lies within the Peak District National Park and stretches from Wessenden Head Moor in the north to the fringes of Black Hill in the west and across to Bleakmires Moss in the south. The area forms part of the wider moorland expanses of the Peak District National Park.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Open moorland and exposed farmland grazed by sheep.
- Views to the west are characterised by long distance open panoramas across the moorland contrasting with views to the east of the densely settled River Holme valley and distant conurbations beyond.
- Field boundaries are generally rare but where these do exist, they include stone walls.
- Except for Holme Moss Transmitting Station the full extent of the LCA is defined as open access land. A section of the Pennine Way long distance footpath crosses the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Maintain open, undeveloped areas of moorland.
- Respect long distance views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries.
- Preserve the open access land and route of the Pennine Way to maximise recreational opportunities.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

In this remote upland area, built form is limited to that associated with the Holme Moss transmitting station and other structures associated with sheep grazing and moorland management.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Remote landscape devoid of settlement with built form limited to functional structures.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Development should maintain the sense of remoteness.

LCA2: Holme Moorland Fringe

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The western and southern parts of the area are located within the Peak District National Park and rough grazing and semi-improved pasture on the steep slopes to the east forms an immediate fringe to the national park. The area includes Bilberry, Digley, Brownhill, Ramsden, Riding Wood and Yateholme reservoirs and watercourses flow from the upland plateaus through steep cloughs with wooded sides. The remains of former quarrying are evident in the landscape.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- There are many elevated vantage points with panoramic and long-distance views across the settled valley floor of the River Holme.
- There are key vistas towards the open moorland and into the Holme Valley from Holme Conservation Area and views into the Conservation Area from Fieldhead Lane and Woodhead Road West (A6024).
- Agricultural fields are enclosed by stone walls and deciduous tree cover.
- Open access land to the south of Holme, upland reservoirs, Kirklees Way long distance walking route and the Holme Valley Circular Walk all provide recreational opportunities.
- Historic cart tracks such as Nether Lane with distinctive grooved pavements.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Maintain the open, undeveloped areas of moorland.
- Respect long distance views across the Holme Valley and towards the open moorland, including those from and towards Holme Conservation Area.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.
- Conserve the remaining distinctive surfacing of historic cart tracks.
- Provide historical interpretation of disused quarries to reflect industrial heritage.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

The main settlement is the compact hilltop village of Holme historically associated with agriculture and the textile industry. It is also a Conservation Area. Settlement is otherwise limited to the clusters of houses and farmsteads at Lane within the Peak District National Park, at Flush House and Hogley Green and above Holmbridge on the northern valley side and other occasional scattered dwellings and farmsteads.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- A distinctive vernacular architecture formed from former laithe³ and weaver's cottages, along with farmhouses, barns and public buildings.
- Building materials include millstone grit in properties and boundary walls and details often respond to the harsh climatic conditions, with small windows located predominantly on less exposed elevations.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Reinforce local distinctiveness by ensuring future developments in Holme are sympathetic to the character and setting of Holme Conservation Area.
- Use building materials and design details which refer to the local vernacular and reflect the typically smaller window pattern.
- Consider the use of stone setts and cobbles as a replacement for asphalt and concrete within the public realm.

³ A dwelling with other farm buildings as a single structure with separate entrances for humans and livestock.

LCA3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Land use is predominantly marginal upland agriculture merging with moorland on the higher ground to the south and west. Pasture is divided into a regular patchwork of small fields enclosed by millstone grit walling with sparse woodland cover. The rising landform is bisected by tributaries of the River Ribble and Dean Dike above which sit Holme Styes and Boshaw Whams reservoirs.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- The open landscape has long distance views of the settled corridor of the River Holme and Kirklees district beyond as well as local views of open water bodies such as Boshaw Whams and Holme Styes.
- Stone boundary walls are common features creating a strong sense of visual unity.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) follows local lanes or field boundaries. Minor roads and PRoW, including sections of the Kirklees Way and the Barnsley Boundary Walk long distance footpaths, connect farmsteads located on the valley sides. National Cycle Route no. 68 also passes through this area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance and local views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

While the area is essentially rural there are individual farmsteads, former woollen mills and several settlements including Hade Edge, Choppards, Ward Place, Arrunden, Longley, Washpit and Cartworth Fold set within the wider moorland and agricultural landscape.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Dispersed settlements characterised by their former domestic textile manufacturing, mill buildings and agricultural heritage along with isolated farmsteads set within an upland agricultural landscape.
- Hade Edge is the largest of the settlements containing some services and modern and older development and lies on a plateau at Dunford Road / Penistone Road.
- Former textile/woollen mills set within the valley of the River Ribble.

- Vernacular building materials include millstone grit in properties and boundary walls.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Ensure the sensitive conversion of rural buildings which complement the rural, agricultural landscape.

LCA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The River Holme flows in its valley from Holmbridge through Hinchliffe Mill and Holmfirth to Thongsbridge. Mixed semi-natural woodlands are found in places along the river with further woodland pockets on the valley sides. Above the settled valley floor, the upper slopes are characterised by pastoral fields divided by stone walling.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Framed views from the settled valley floor to the upper valley sides and views across to opposing valley slopes and beyond towards the Peak District National Park.
- Boundary treatments comprised largely of millstone grit walling. The stone walling which runs parallel with Upperthong Lane is representative of local vernacular detailing.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) including the Holme Valley Riverside Way which follows the River Holme from Holmbridge through Holmfirth and downstream. National Cycle Route no. 68 follows minor roads through Upperthong towards the centre of Holmfirth before climbing the opposing valley slopes.
- Mill ponds reflect industrial heritage and offer recreation facilities.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure new development respects framed views from the settled floor to the upper valley sides and views across to opposing valley slopes and views towards the Peak District National Park.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes particularly physical and visual links to the River Holme.
- Consider opportunities through major developments to provide interpretation of the historic industrial role of the river and mill ponds within the local landscape.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Linear settlement pattern largely follows the river valley with Holmbridge, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmfirth and Thongsbridge along the valley bottom. Development extends up the hillside to the west of Holmfirth to the historic core of Upperthong with Underbank rising above Holmfirth to the south. Where settlement climbs the hillsides, development characteristically follows the gradient of the slope resulting in a distinct building style, with houses built into the slope. Hinchliffe Mill, Upperthong and Underbank are Conservation Areas. Holmfirth is the main town

and commercial centre and is a popular focus for tourism. Holmfirth centre is a Conservation Area and there is industry, both old and new, in the valley bottom.

2.1 Key Characteristics

These key characteristics apply throughout the area.

- Mill buildings, chimneys and ponds, including Ribbleden Mill with its chimney, associated mill worker houses and ashlar fronted villas link the area to its industrial and commercial heritage and are a legacy of the area's former textile industry.
- Terraced cottages and distinctive over and under dwellings feature on the steep hillsides with steep ginnels, often with stone setts and narrow roads.
- Narrow winding streets with stepped passageways, stone troughs and setts characterise the sloping hillsides above Holmfirth town centre.
- Small tight knit settlements on the upper slopes are characterised by their former agricultural and domestic textile heritage.
- There are mixed areas of historic and more recent residential and commercial developments.

The following Key Characteristics also apply to Holmfirth.

- The town centre is defined by its prominent Georgian church and mid-Victorian buildings.
- The Picturedrome, Civic Hall, Masonic Lodge and the former Holmfirth Technical college reflect local history and provide focal points in the streetscene.
- Mid-19th century terraces constructed largely of millstone grit with slate roofs form the predominant residential building style and often feature ornamental iron railings.
- Built form is generally aligned to the back of the pavement giving a strongly defined building line and distinctive layout.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Regard should be had to the key characteristics that give these areas their distinctive character and should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements, including vernacular building styles, settlement patterns, alignment of the building line and the streetscene.
- Strengthen local sense of place through design which reflects connections to past industrial heritage related to each settlement including through retaining or restoring mill buildings and chimneys.
- Consider replacing asphalt and concrete with traditional surfacing such as stone setts and cobbles.

LCA5: Netherthong Rural Fringe

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Netherthong and Oldfield are settlements set within a rural fringe landscape with agricultural land enclosed by high drystone boundary walls. Field sizes largely relate to the historic farming scale as evident by the field patterns to the south of Oldfield Road. The elevated agricultural character of this LCA forms a setting to the settlements of Holmfirth, Thongsbridge and Upperthong along the valley floor.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- The elevation offers extensive views of the surrounding landscape with long distance views towards Castle Hill and Huddersfield and the valley sides afford framed views towards settlements in the valley below.
- Within Netherthong and Oldfield views of the surrounding landscape are often glimpsed between buildings.
- Distinctive stone wall field boundary treatments divide the agricultural landscape.
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including the Holme Valley Circular Walk, cross the landscape providing links between settlements. National Cycle Route no. 68 also crosses the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance views towards Castle Hill, Huddersfield and the surrounding landscape, and framed and glimpsed views from the valley sides and within and from Netherthong and Oldfield towards the settlements in the valley below.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Netherthong and Oldfield are historic farming and weaving settlements and have been designated as Conservation Areas. Netherthong also has areas of 20th and 21st century residential development. Deanhouse has a predominantly linear pattern along Dean Brook developed from its former textile heritage. There are scattered farmsteads and residential buildings set along the roadsides.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- In Netherthong and Oldfield buildings are grouped around courtyards to provide protection from the elements whilst Deanhouse has a predominantly linear plan.

- Vernacular buildings largely comprise farmhouses, barns and two and three storey weaver's cottages of millstone grit with stone mullioned windows.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- New development should be sympathetic to the character and setting of the Conservation Areas.
- Layouts and designs should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Consider the use of traditional materials of millstone grit and slate for repairs and localised alteration with stone mullions retained.
- Consider replacing asphalt and concrete with traditional surfacing such as stone setts and cobbles.

LCA6: Honley Village Centre **Including Honley and Honley Wood Bottom/Mag Brook**

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The area mainly comprises Honley but also includes the southern wooded slopes of Hall Dike which becomes Mag Brook where it flows through its wooded valley at Magdale. There is valuable open space at Magdale Fields and Magdale Dam. There is considerable tree and woodland cover including ancient woodland at Honley Wood, Honley Old Wood, Clitheroe Wood and Spring Wood. Honley Wood contains archaeological features, disused stone quarries and coal pits.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Wooded valleys associated with Mag Brook and Magdale.
- Glimpsed views of a wider rural backdrop are often framed by built form. The sloping topography creates a strong connection between the centre of Honley and the wider agricultural setting with strong visual links up to Oldfield. The area affords long distance views to Castle Hill.
- Stone wall field boundary treatments
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) follows the routes of local lanes or field boundaries with some giving access to Mag Brook and Honley Wood Bottom.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Protect and conserve the wildlife corridor of Mag Brook and improve ecological networks of woodlands⁴.
- Respect long distance and framed and glimpsed views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Honley is a large, predominantly residential settlement with a small commercial centre. Its historic core is a designated Conservation Area and is compact and characterised by narrow streets reflecting the steep sided valley topography. There is modern residential development in Honley particularly in the west and south. There is settlement at Magdale mainly on the northern valley side of Mag Brook.

⁴ This woodland is believed to constitute the last remaining self-sustaining medieval dwarf oak woodlands in Europe.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Honley's historic core is dominated by 18th and 19th century stone dwellings with distinctive yards or folds.
- The south-west of Honley has more eclectic architecture with largely 20th century residential properties in cul-de-sacs. These are generally in-keeping with the historic townscape due to scale and use of traditional materials.
- Weaver's cottages with rows of mullioned windows are found throughout area.
- Former mill buildings associated with Mag Brook have been redeveloped for commercial or residential use and form local heritage features.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Ensure the repair, restoration or conversion of traditional buildings is carried out with due regard to the character and local vernacular.

LCA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

New Mill Dike flows northward through its steep wooded valley to its confluence with the River Holme at Mytholm Bridge. The River Holme meanders across the wider, flatter valley floor west of Brockholes enclosed by more distant wooded slopes. Agricultural land dominates between areas of woodland and there is evidence in the landscape of past industrial and mining activity.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Glimpsed views towards the wider landscape through gaps between built form.
- Views across the wooded valley floor from elevated vantage points such as from Christ Church New Mill and Holy Trinity Church Hepworth.
- Stone boundary walls are common features.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) crosses the landscape including a section of the Barnsley Boundary Walk, the Kirklees Way and the Holme Valley Circular Walk.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure new development respects glimpsed views between built form.
- Ensure views are maintained across the wooded valley landscape from elevated vantage points.
- Retain and restore existing stone boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Brockholes, New Mill and Jackson Bridge are located on the valley floors whilst Butterley and Hepworth follow the contours on the valley sides resulting in a close association between built form and landscape. Millstone grit buildings with slate roofs predominate in the older parts of the settlements and examples of historic weaver's cottages and former textile mills can be found across the area. In many cases these sit alongside modern development particularly at Brockholes, New Mill and Hepworth. There is evidence of past textile and mining industry.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Settlements characterised by a close association between built form and landscape.
- Industrial heritage features such as weirs and mill buildings.
- Mounds and hollows, which are the remains of shallow tunnels created for coal mining, as well as piles of shale material and the remains of plateways

(flat stones laid across fields to assist with vehicle movement), are also found across the moorland and fields.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure that new development respects the distinct character and built form of the LCA such as weaver's cottages and folds and the sensitive conversion of former farm buildings.
- Strengthen local sense of place through improving the connection to past industrial heritage including through retaining or restoring mill buildings.
- Consider the use of traditional materials of millstone grit and slate for repairs and localised alteration with stone mullions retained.

LCA8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley **Upper slopes of the River Holme and New Mill Dike**

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Farmland on the slopes above the valley floor separates the discrete village footprints creating an open character around Totties, Scholes and Fulstone. Vegetation associated with Dean Dike forms a linear belt of tree cover to the south of Scholes. Evidence of former mines and quarries can be found in the form of mounds, hollows and stone plateways.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Strong rural setting and agricultural character with pastoral farmland on the rising valley slopes.
- There is a strong connection to the surrounding rural landscape from long distance and panoramic views over the wooded valley floor to the opposing valley sides as well as glimpsed views of the rural backdrop through gaps between the built form, especially within Totties and Scholes.
- Stone walls and hedgerows form field boundaries and line single lane roads.
- Short sections of the Kirklees Way, the Barnsley Boundary Walk and the Holme Valley Circular Walk cross the area. A short section of National Cycle Route no. 627 also crosses the north-east of the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance and inward and outward views from locally elevated settlements.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and hedgerows and use stone walling or hedges in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Settlement is generally sparse with four notable settlements at Scholes, Totties, Wooldale and Fulstone. Totties, Wooldale and Fulstone are former agricultural and weaving villages and have Conservation Areas. Isolated dwellings and farm properties are located on the wider valley sides. The hilltop hamlet of Fulstone is also a former coal mining settlement with largely traditional style dwellings in a nucleated layout and most dwellings are constructed of local millstone grit with grey slate roofs. There is modern residential development at Scholes and Wooldale.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Older settlements are characterised by their agricultural and industrial past and there are isolated farmsteads on the valley slopes.
- Scholes and Wooldale are the largest of the settlements and contain some services and older and more modern development.
- Vernacular building materials include millstone grit walls with grey slate roofs.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain and enhance the character of existing settlements. (Recommendation 5A)

- 4.1.18 Some of these Character Principles go beyond planning policies and refer to landscape management or possible future actions. However, where relevant, the key planning principles have been used to inform design policies in the HVNDP, in particular Policies 1 and 2 (Recommendation 5C), and should be used to inform detailed designs and decisions about planning applications.

Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of the Holme Valley (Recommendation 6H)

- 4.1.19 This NDP aims to preserve and enhance the special nature of Holme Valley's landscape character as described above by setting out a neighbourhood level policy to complement those of the Kirklees Local Plan and the PDNPA Local Plan. Most of the neighbourhood area that lies within the PDNP is designated 'natural zone' where development is not permitted other than in exceptional circumstances. Kirklees Local Plan policies and the NPPF provide protection for large areas of countryside in the Parish as much of the rural area in that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority is Green Belt. New development is therefore steered towards existing settlements.
- 4.1.20 In addition, the Kirklees Local Plan policies related to protecting the natural environment and landscape character include Policy LP30 Biodiversity & Geodiversity and Policy LP 32 Landscape. These policies capture the protection of wildlife habitats and areas of particular ecological significance such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. PDNPA natural environment policies CS L1 and L2 are also relevant.
- 4.1.21 To avoid duplication, Kirklees Local Plan policies are not repeated. However, as these policies can be too generalised in some areas to adequately protect the special nature of the Holme Valley landscape, further detail is set out in Policy 1. This policy applies only to that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority.
- 4.1.22 Policy 1 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 6A) Wessenden Moors (CA 1) and Holme Moorland Fringe (CA 2) are in the Natural Zone of the Peak District National Park where Peak District National Park Authority Policies apply. Peak District National

Park LDF Core Strategy DPD Policy L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics sets out in Part B, that 'other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted.' The Peak District National Park Development Management Policies: Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park Policy DCM2 'Protecting and managing the Natural Zone' explains where exceptional circumstances would apply.

- 4.1.23 The HVNDP Environmental Report, 2020 advised that specific types of green infrastructure not evident in the Kirklees Local Plan could result in minor positive effects for the Holme Valley area and suggested that the Policy should encourage "living" and "blue" roofs⁵ where adverse impacts on local character and distinctiveness are minimised.

Community Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.24 Residents gave a clear message that to support the preservation of the landscape, brownfield sites should be developed rather than greenfield. The 2017 consultation identified that 89% residents thought that 'new building on brownfield sites should take priority over greenfield sites' with comments including "Of course brownfield sites should be used. Once the green areas are gone, they are gone forever".
- 4.1.25 The landscape is very important to residents of the Holme Valley as shown by the 2017 consultation which identified the rural environment as what people liked most about living in the area. The AECOM assessment also highlights views as a key characteristic of the area. Given the topography, there are beautiful views everywhere and local residents often share their favourites with photographs on community Facebook sites. Unlike some NDP areas which can define several key views, the Holme Valley has many wide-ranging and local views from hill-tops and valley floors, rivers and villages. A large proportion of the Valley can be seen from multiple locations so the principle of considering the impact of any development on the views both from and of the location is seen as extremely important. Therefore, we have not sought to identify specific views for protection.
- 4.1.26 The importance of the environment is clear as there are active local groups working hard to enhance rivers, woodlands and parks. For example, River Holme Connections formed to improve the condition and visibility of and access to the River Holme and its tributaries clocked 5,417 volunteer hours during 2019. As their Annual Report 2017 stated, 'our local river is a tremendous asset which for years has been ignored and unloved. Our charity, working with partners, businesses and volunteers aims to throw the covers back and shine a light on the tremendous value and benefits of our river.' Other initiatives organised by Honley Village Trust and Holmepride have specifically sought to improve the environment through rubbish clearance and tidying up rural footpaths. The area is criss-crossed with footpaths, bridleways and other tracks and maintaining effective access to these is important for practical and social reasons. As one resident in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation put it, 'health and

⁵ A blue roof is a sustainable drainage method designed to provide initial temporary water storage and then gradual release of stored water. A living roof or green roof is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane.

wellbeing needs to be holistically linked to other policies such as green space and footpath maintenance’.

- 4.1.27 Local schools recognise the value of outdoor activities and engagement with nature through formal Forest School initiatives and supporting other opportunities for people to explore the local environment. Kirklees Council recognises the role access to the outdoors has in benefitting physical and mental health and developing strong communities as shown in its Local Plan Policy LP47 Healthy, active and safe lifestyles. The NDP covers this in more detail through Policy 9 which considers the importance of community facilities and their impact on education and well-being.

Policy 1: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley

Policy 1 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A)

All development proposals should demonstrate how they have been informed by the key characteristics of the LCA in which they are located. Proposals should be designed in accordance with the character management principles in respect of landscape set out in paragraph 4.1.17 for each of the LCAs in order to avoid detrimental impact on the LCA. (Recommendation 6A)

Overall, proposals should aim to make a positive contribution to the quality of the natural environment and should not introduce or replicate changes which are unsympathetic to the landscape character of the relevant LCA.

Throughout the neighbourhood area the design and siting of new development and associated landscaping schemes should address the following: (Recommendations 6B and 6C)

1. Development should respect long distance public views of the upland areas (LCA1 Wessenden Moors, LCA2 Holme Moorland Fringe and LCA3 Hade Edge Upland Pastures). (Recommendation 6D) In addition, views across the Valley must be considered, including from other areas looking towards the development scheme and proposals should pay particular regard to any long-distance visual impacts on approaches to settlements, and along through routes. Overall development proposals should minimise any adverse visual impacts on the wider landscape setting of the development.
2. All agricultural buildings in the Green Belt should comply with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP54 and should have appropriate screening and landscaping. Buildings should use neutral colours and tones to reduce visual impact.
3. Boundary treatments should be sensitive to the relevant Landscape Character Area. Schemes should protect existing dry-stone walls wherever practicable and incorporate new dry-stone walls using natural stone in areas where these are a characteristic feature of the Landscape Character Area. Cast iron railings should be used in areas where these are a characteristic feature. Hedges should be retained and repaired.
4. A full hard and soft landscaping scheme is to be submitted with all planning applications for new buildings. (Recommendation 6F)

Landscaping schemes and planted boundary treatments should enhance Green Infrastructure. They should also use a suitable mix of native plant species in tree (Recommendation 6F) planting and hedgerows to support and enhance biodiversity in line with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan and the relevant Biodiversity Opportunity Zones. Regard should be had to the location, setting, species, (Recommendation 6F) height, planting density and need for on-going maintenance and management, particularly in relation to future resilience linked to climate change. Careful consideration also should be given to the creation of a strong landscape structure throughout the site, appropriate to the setting. Planting of trees on hillsides and street planting will be encouraged to reduce flash flooding risks and increase health. Any large extensive planting schemes which are likely to impact on public views must include public consultation with the local community.

Policy 1 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP2 Place shaping

Policy LP30 Biodiversity & Geodiversity

Policy LP31 Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

Policy LP32 Landscape

Policy LP33 Trees

4.2 Protecting and Enhancing the Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting Quality Design (Recommendation 7A)

Introduction and Background

- 4.2.1 The built character of the Holme Valley is described for each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment. The built character and form varies within and across each of the LCAs. The section on Character Management Principles sets out that *'In general, the design, form and pattern of new development should respond to the historic local vernacular within the parish, using local materials. Development should also respond appropriately to the immediate context, taking into account layout, scale, density and appearance (including materials) of neighbouring buildings. Specific consideration should be given to the conservation areas within the study area to ensure the conservation and protection of key heritage assets.'*
- 4.2.2 Conservation areas are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 by the local planning authority. Conservation Areas are areas which have a special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. As described in section 4.1, there are 13 conservation areas in the Holme Valley: Holme, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmfirth, Upperthong, Underbank, Netherthong, Oldfield, Honley, Butterley, Hepworth, Fulstone, Totties, and Wooldale. Each conservation area has its own distinct character and this section presents a description and map of each individual conservation area.
- 4.2.3 Presently only two of the Conservation Areas have a Conservation Area Appraisal: Oldfield and Holme. Holmfirth's Conservation Area has been appraised by the Holmfirth Conservation Group. (Recommendation 7A)

Submission Plan paragraph 4.2.4 deleted (Recommendation 7A).

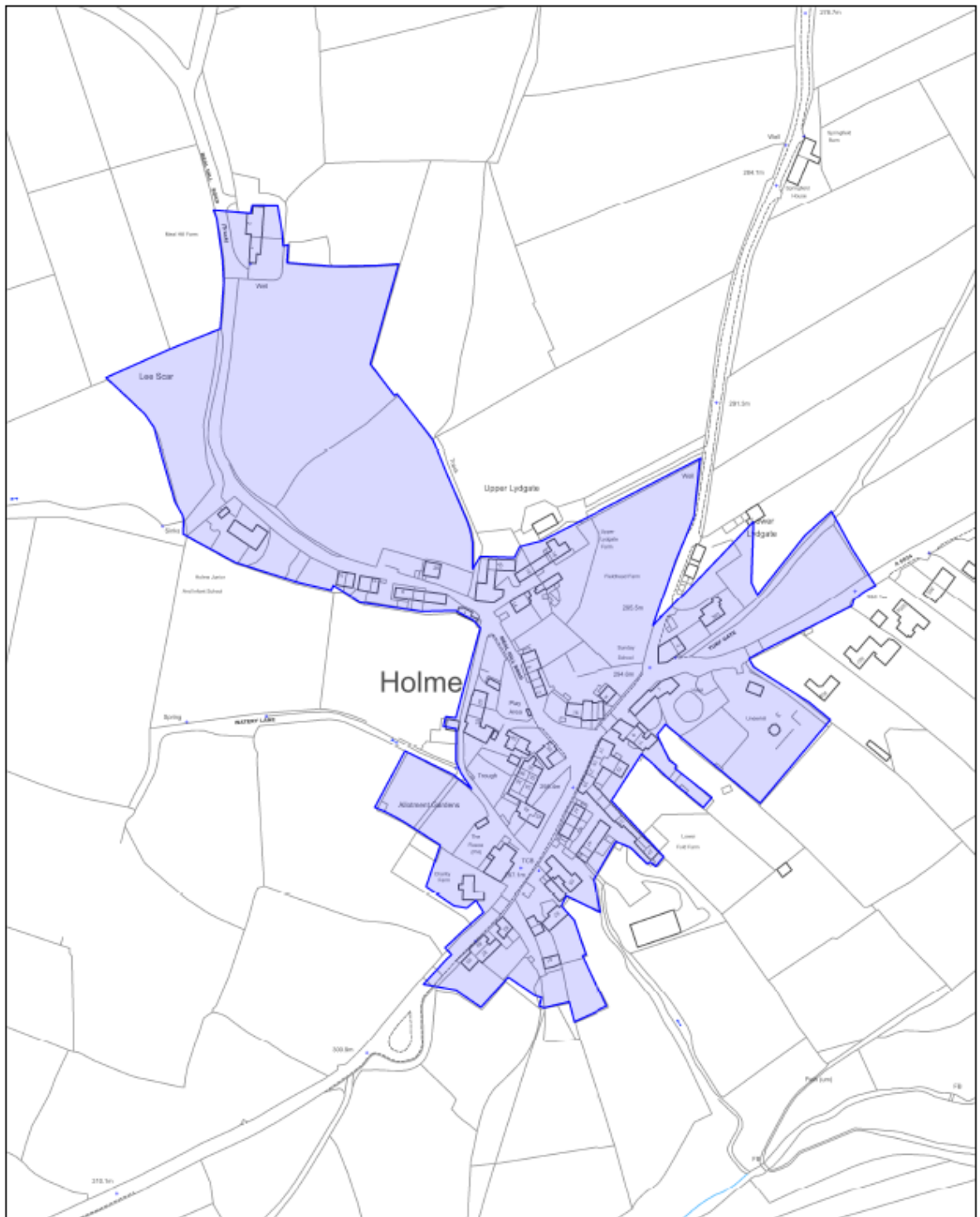
Conservation Areas in the Holme Valley



Holme Conservation Area

- 4.2.4 Holme Conservation Area is situated in LCA 2 *Holme Moorland Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.5 Holme Conservation Area was designated in 1982 and was extended in 2007 following the preparation of a Conservation Area Appraisal. Holme is a small clustered settlement located on a hilltop close to Holme Moss. The village has a compact layout with a central nucleus, it contains weavers' cottages (developed for wool manufacturing), farmhouses, barns, a school, a church and a Sunday School.
- 4.2.6 Due to the location of Holme, there are significant views of the conservation area when approaching, and views of the surrounding moorland from the conservation area. These should be preserved to maintain the setting and special character and appearance of this historic settlement. The conservation area appraisal notes the following use of materials in buildings and structures:

- **Building materials:** *Apart from Under Hill, all the buildings in Holme have been constructed using the local gritstone. The visual uniformity achieved by the use of this building material throughout the village has created a harmonious feel throughout the village and is complementary to the surrounding environment.*
- **Roof Material:** *Stone flags is the dominant roof covering material that is used in Holme. There are a few examples of properties which have used blue slate and in the case of Underhill the materials used for covering are ecologically considerate.*
- **Windows and Doors:** *The majority of windows found in the conservation area are simple timber casements between stone mullions. In some of the later houses and farmhouses sashes still remain but many have been replaced by modern alternatives.*
- **Boundary Walls:** *The vernacular boundary walls are a very important aspect in the definition of the Holme conservation area and should be preserved or enhanced wherever and whenever possible.*
- **Floorscape:** *The main carriageways within the conservation area, i.e. Woodhead Road, Field Head Lane and Meal Hill Road are all surfaced with tarmac, with the main exception being the stone setts situated at the bottom of Meal Hill Road, which helps to distinguish the village core. There are very few areas of pedestrianised walkways within the village.*
- **Street Furniture:** *The street lighting and signage that can be observed in Holme is not sympathetic to the character of the village as they are mainly free standing as opposed to wall mounted and are of poor design. The local village well is situated within a high stone wall along the northern side of the Woodhead Road, and a stone trough can also be found within the confines of the conservation area.*

Map 3 Holme Conservation Area

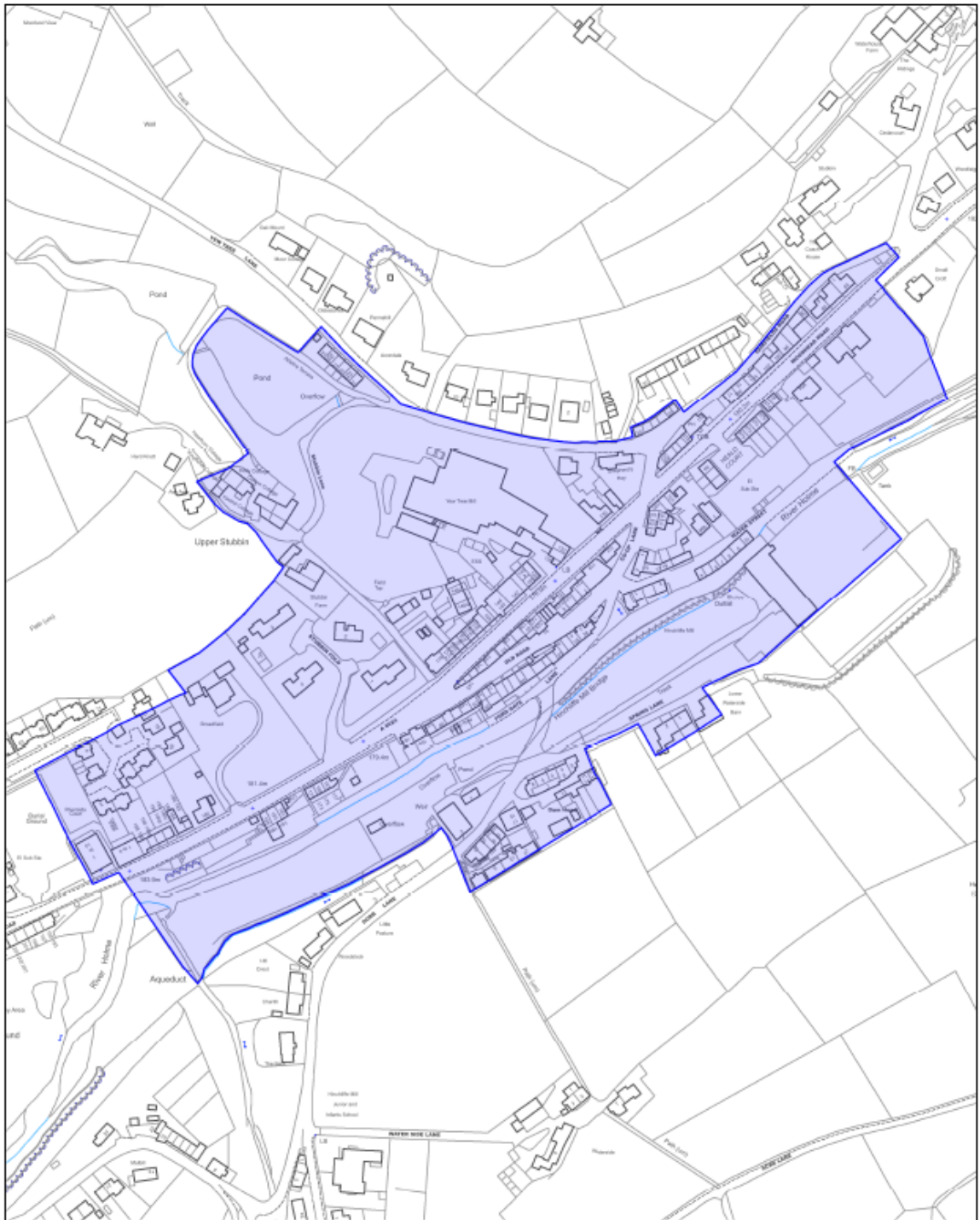




	Kirklees Council Planning	Holme Conservation Area	
		Date: 18/02/2020	
		Scale: 1:2000 @ A3	
© Crown Copyright and database right 2020. Ordnance Survey 100019241			

Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area

- 4.2.7 Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.8 Hinchliffe Mill conservation area was designated in 1980. It is a medium sized settlement between Holmfirth and Holmbridge.
- 4.2.9 Hinchliffe Mill originated as a farming community in the early 18th Century and grew when scribbling and fulling mills were built along the River Holme in the late 18th Century. Growth continued with the development of steam power and the increased use of the A6024 Woodhead Road as a trade route towards Huddersfield and Holmfirth. There is still a significant mill, Roberts Mill, in the village.
- 4.2.10 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 4 Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area



	Kirklees Council Planning	Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area	
		Date: 19/02/2020 Scale: 1:2000 @ A3	
<small>© Crown Copyright and database right 2020. Ordnance Survey 100019241</small>			

Holmfirth Conservation Area

- 4.2.11 Holmfirth Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.12 Holmfirth conservation area was designated in 1972 by the former West Riding County Council. It is the largest settlement within the Holme Valley and is located in the valley bottom along the banks of the River Holme. Historic England has placed this conservation area on its 'at risk' register.
- 4.2.13 A Conservation Area Appraisal has been prepared by a local voluntary group, Holmfirth Conservation Group. Endorsed by Historic England and shared with Kirklees, its key conclusions are outlined below.

It identified six character areas within its boundary. New Town, Old Town, Hightown, St. John's, Riverside and Cliff.

Special characteristics were identified in each area:

- *New Town: the riverside walk with bird-life and Holmside gardens*
- *Old Town: historic core, oldest buildings, weavers windows and stone-setted tracks*
- *Hightown: terraced houses with stone-arched ginnels and some of the best views of Holmfirth*
- *St John's: imposing houses, views to the moors*
- *Riverside: last remaining mill pond, historic Upperbridge, tall 4 storey under and over houses*
- *Cliff: significant buildings e.g. Druids Hall, Bamforth's, railway station*

Holmfirth has been a Conservation Area since 1972 and is described by Historic England as being 'at risk'. A Management Plan is needed to address the issues in the Conservation Area, and to create an environment which will attract new businesses, residents, shoppers and tourists.

The main issues in Holmfirth, derived from the analysis of this Appraisal, lie in the following areas:

Open Spaces, Natural Environment and Views:

- *Maintaining the walls and paths*
- *Improve access to the parks, graveyards and river*
- *Improve provision of amenities*
- *Maintenance of trees and increase variety of species*
- *Consideration of succession tree planting*

Existing Buildings:

- *Maintaining the historic features of heritage assets, Listed Buildings, Key Buildings (referred to as non-designated assets in this document) and other positive buildings*
- *Resisting the erosion of character through the cumulative effect of small-scale change*
- *Kirklees to use existing legislation more often, and more rigorously, to protect Listed Buildings and the fabric of the Conservation Area*

- *Maintaining and enhancing traditional shopfronts*
- *Strengthening controls over advertising in shop windows, fascia boards, shop lighting, security shutters and 'A'-boards*
- *Encouraging reinstatement of original architectural design features*

New Development:

- *Taking consideration of the duty to preserve and enhance character of the Conservation Area*
- *Complement the scale and form of neighbouring buildings*
- *Making use of locally sourced natural sandstone*

The Riverside:

- *Maintain the views*
- *Enhance and improve access to the river*
- *Removal or control of invasive species in the river, along its banks and adjoining structures*
- *Improving the style, materials and painting of the footbridges*

Public Realm:

- *Maintain the stone steps, setts and flags*
- *Maintenance of pavements and kerbs, to use stone and setts as appropriate*
- *Reduce and standardise street signage*
- *Coordinate street furniture, including streetlights, seating, railings and litter bins*
- *Develop streetscape manual*
- *Maintain stone retaining walls and boundary walls*
- *Minimise parking in the main streets and particularly in narrow streets*
- *Reduce impact of traffic on buildings and environment in the Holmfirth Conservation Area*
- *Find suitable locations for commercial bins*
- *Remove overhead wires*
- *Improve provision for community noticeboards*
- *Preserve the spectacular views and vistas of Holmfirth*

It is important that these issues are taken forward into a Conservation Area Management Plan for Holmfirth.

However, it should be noted that the Conservation Area Appraisal and proposed Management Plan are not, yet, adopted by Kirklees Council, and proposed actions and other content may be subject to change.

Map 5 Holmfirth Conservation Area

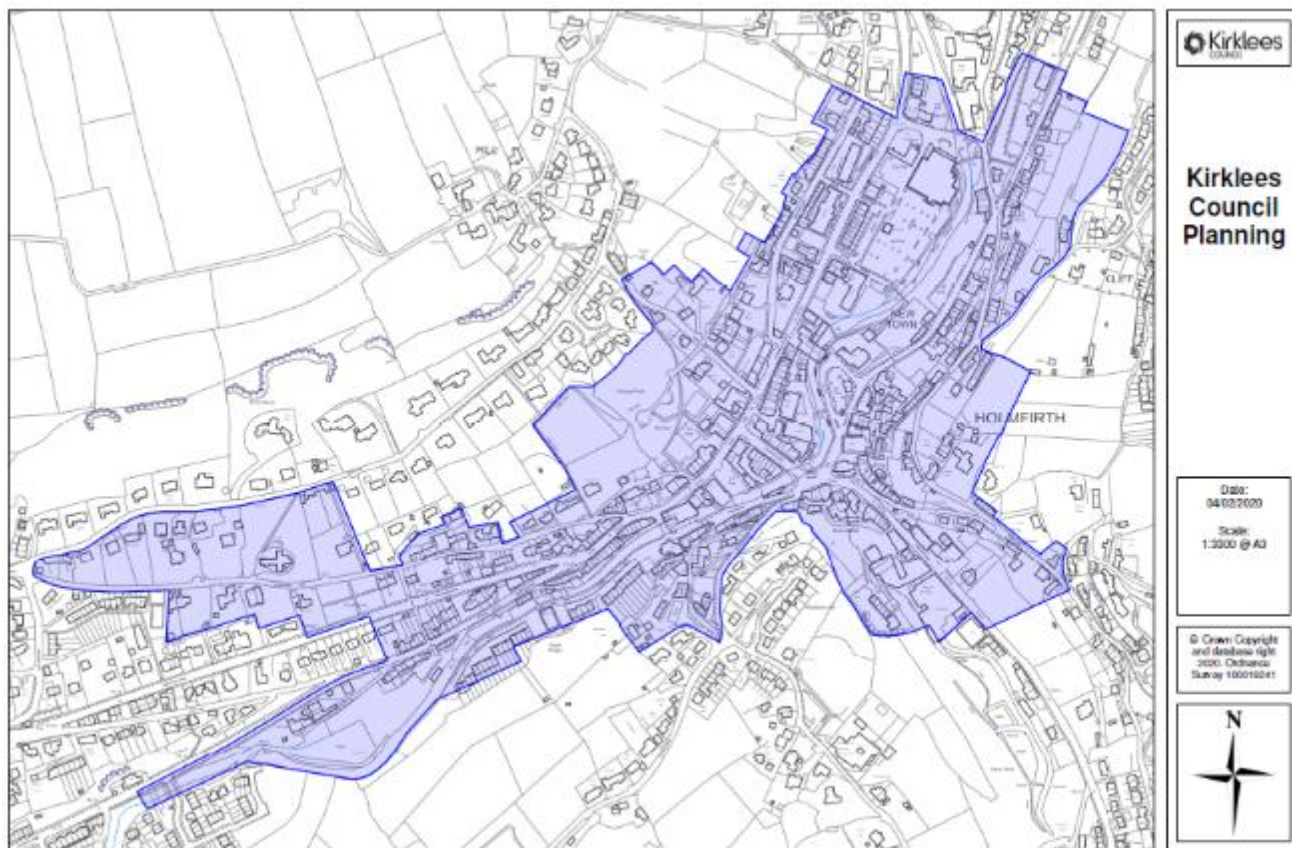
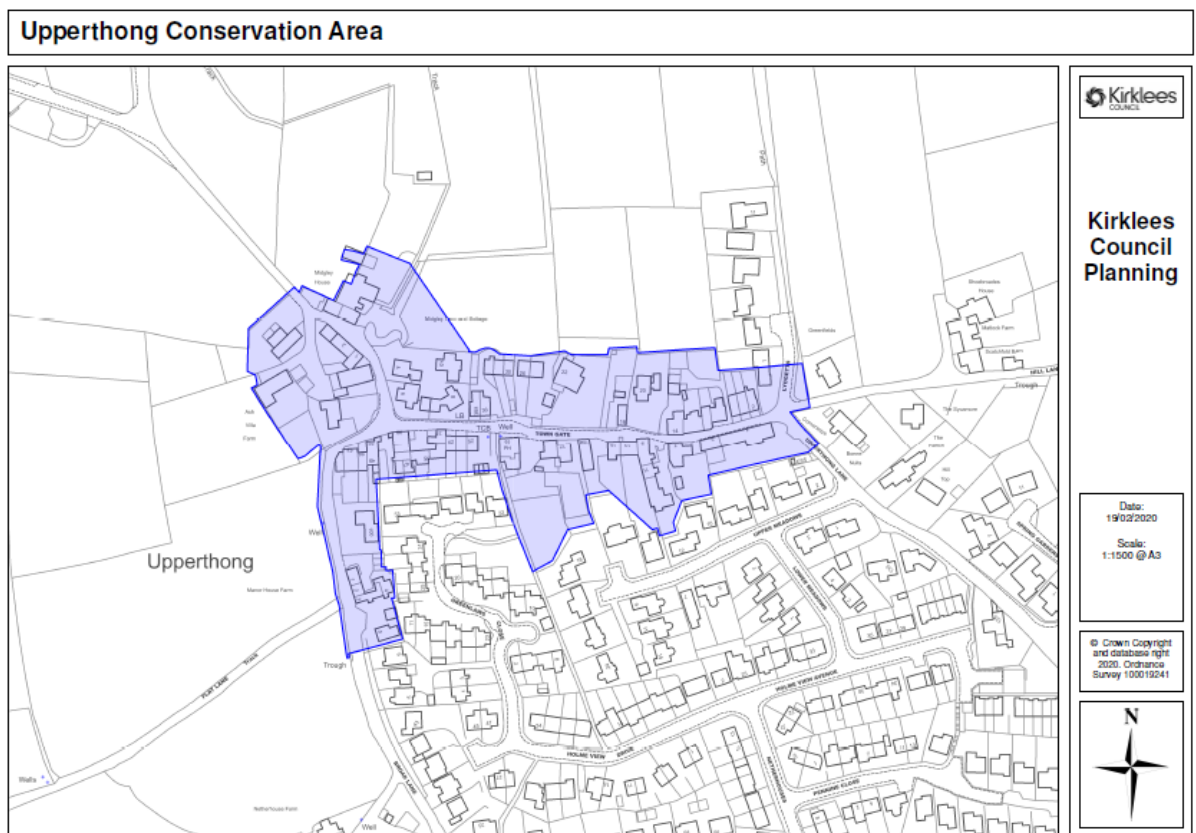


Figure 11 – Centre of Holmfirth Conservation Area

Upperthong Conservation Area

- 4.2.14 Upperthong Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* and very small parts in LCA5 *Netherthong Rural Fringe* and LCA2 *Holme Moorland Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.15 Upperthong conservation area was designated in 1975. Upperthong is a small tight-knit settlement located on a hilltop and developed in the 18th Century as a weaving and agricultural village.
- 4.2.16 There is no Conservation Area Appraisal at the current time.

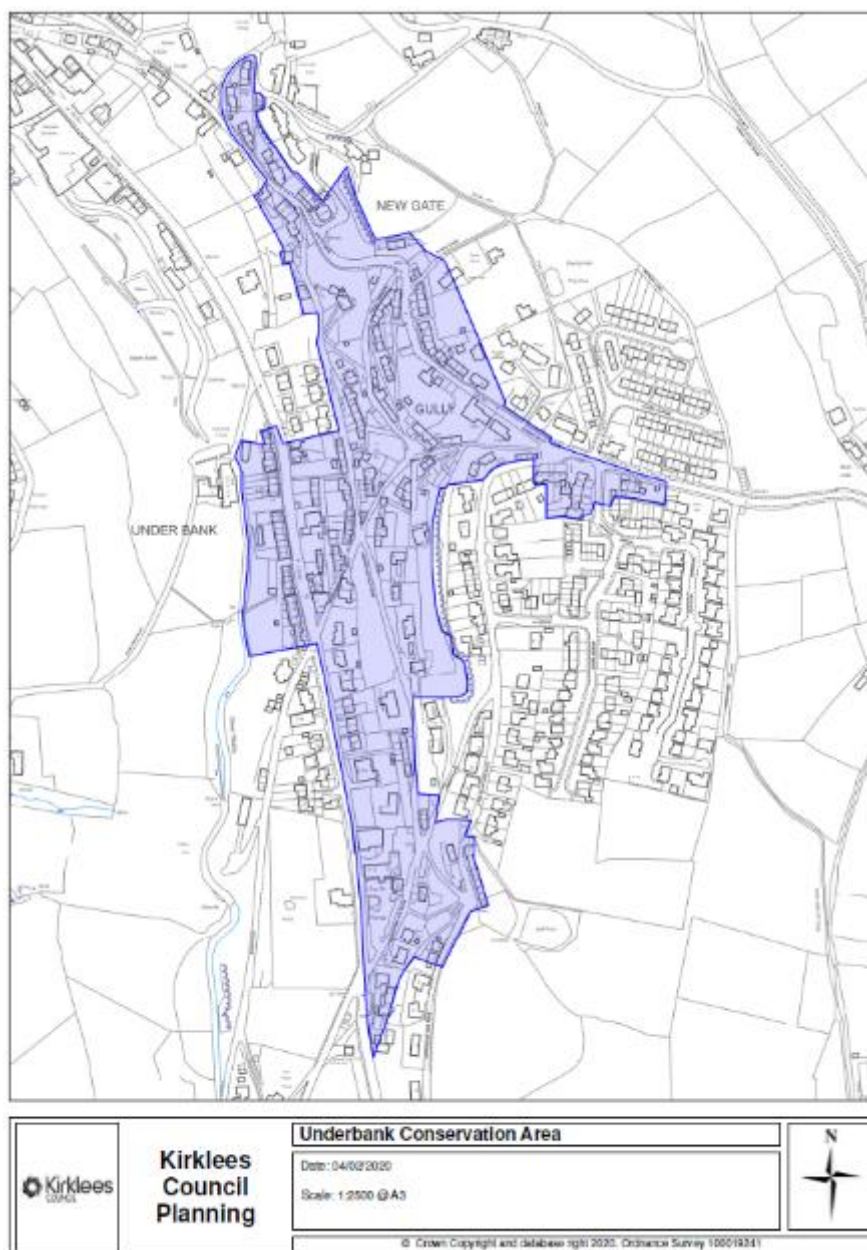
Map 6 Upperthong Conservation Area



Underbank Conservation Area

- 4.2.17 Underbank Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.18 Underbank conservation area was designated in 1981. It is a small settlement located on the hillside to the south-east of Holmfirth and comprises of rows of houses which line the steep valley sides. This area is predominantly residential and developed following the construction of large mills in the valley bottom to house the mill workers in Holmfirth.
- 4.2.19 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

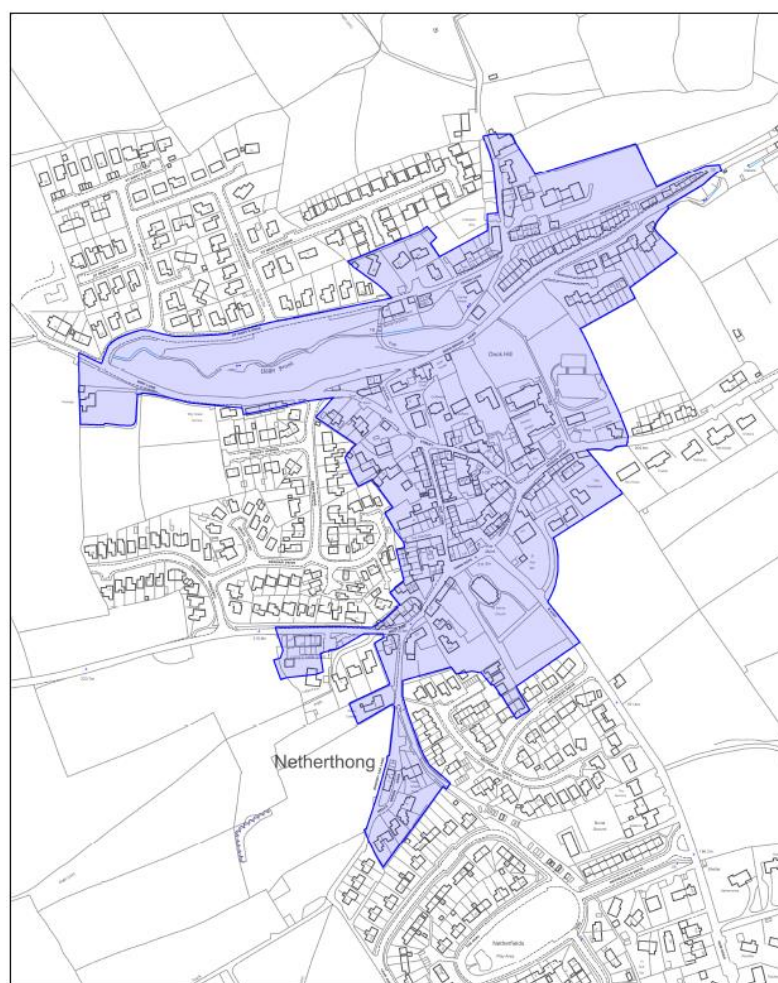
Map 7 Underbank Conservation Area



Netherthong Conservation Area

- 4.2.20 Netherthong Conservation Area is situated in LCA 5 *Netherthong Rural Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.21 Netherthong conservation area was designated in 1976 and comprises of the village of Netherthong and the hamlet of Deanhouse to the north. The area is historically known for weaving and farming and the majority of the buildings are two and three storey weavers’ cottages with stone mullioned windows which reflect the 18th Century development of the domestic wool textile industry.
- 4.2.22 The settlement of Netherthong has a nucleated form with small groupings of dwellings surrounding courtyards. Deanhouse has a predominantly linear plan form developed along the Dean Brook with the construction of a woollen mill and mill worker houses in the 19th Century.
- 4.2.23 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 8 Netherthong conservation area

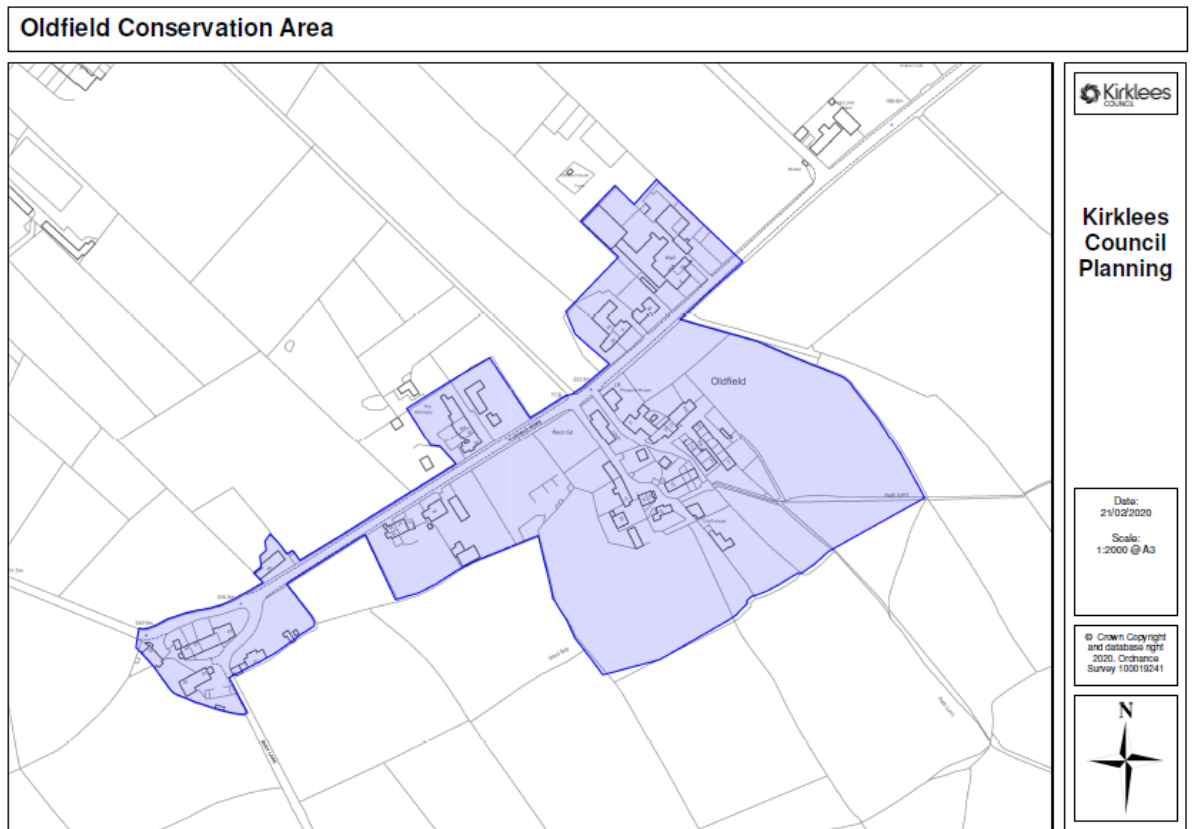


 Kirklees Council Planning	Netherthong Conservation Area	
	Date: 21/02/2020 Scale: 1:2500 @ A3	
© Crown Copyright and database right 2020. Ordnance Survey 100019241		

Oldfield Conservation Area

- 4.2.24 Oldfield Conservation Area is situated in LCA 5 *Netherthong Rural Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.25 Oldfield was designated in 1976 and extended in 2007. It consists of two nucleated settlements, the main village of Oldfield and another village, Upper Oldfield, to the north. Oldfield developed initially as an agricultural hamlet and grew in the 18th Century with the expansion of the weaving industry. The buildings within Oldfield are grouped together around courtyards: this layout provides protection from the elements due to the elevated siting of the village.
- 4.2.26 The Oldfield Conservation Area Appraisal notes the use of the following materials in buildings and structures:
- **Building Materials:** *The use of course local natural stone is almost exclusive within this area and is purely functional for such an exposed location, where protection from the elements would have been of great necessity at the time of construction.*
 - **Roof Material:** *Stone slate was used for earlier roofing and can still be found in the conservation area.*
 - **Windows:** *Within the Oldfield conservation area are a variety of different styles of windows with examples of stone mullion casements, surrounded by stone jambs, cills and lintels within certain properties and a number of properties that display wooden sashes.*
 - **Boundary Walls:** *The vernacular boundary walls are a very important aspect in the definition of the Oldfield conservation area and are a very prominent feature of the surrounding agricultural fields, with the historic field patterns remaining, and therefore should be preserved or enhanced wherever possible.*
 - **Floorscape:** *Within the conservation area both the main carriageway of Oldfield Road and the small amount of pavement seen within the settlement have been surfaced with tarmac and in the case of the pavements, have been edged with concrete curbing. The tracks which lead down to the cluster of dwellings of Oldfield, are mostly unmade in nature.*

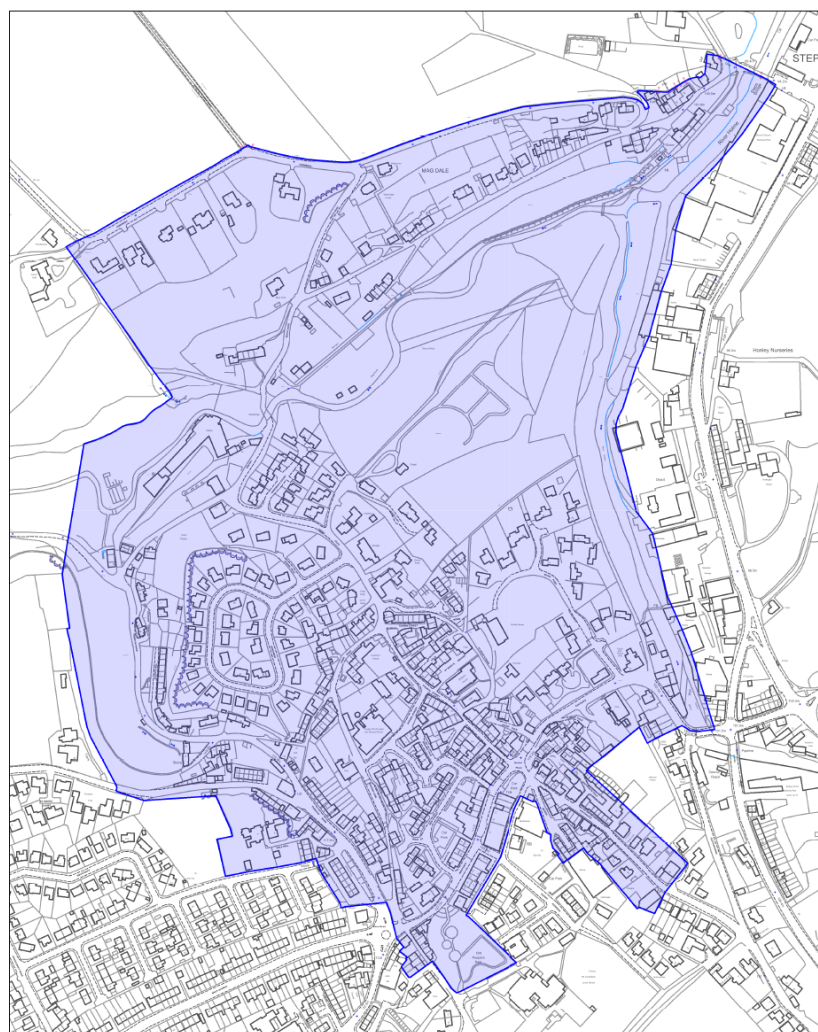
Map 9 Oldfield Conservation Area





Honley Conservation Area

- 4.2.27 Honley Conservation Area is situated in LCA 6 *Honley Village Centre* with a very small part in LCA 7 *River Holme Wooded Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.28 Honley Conservation Area was designated in 1973 and contains numerous buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The historic core is compact with narrow streets which lead up through the village. The oldest buildings are found in the historic core surrounding St. Mary's Parish Church which was constructed in 1843 to replace an earlier church building. Weavers' cottages with rows of mullioned windows are also found throughout the village.
- 4.2.29 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 10 Honley Conservation Area

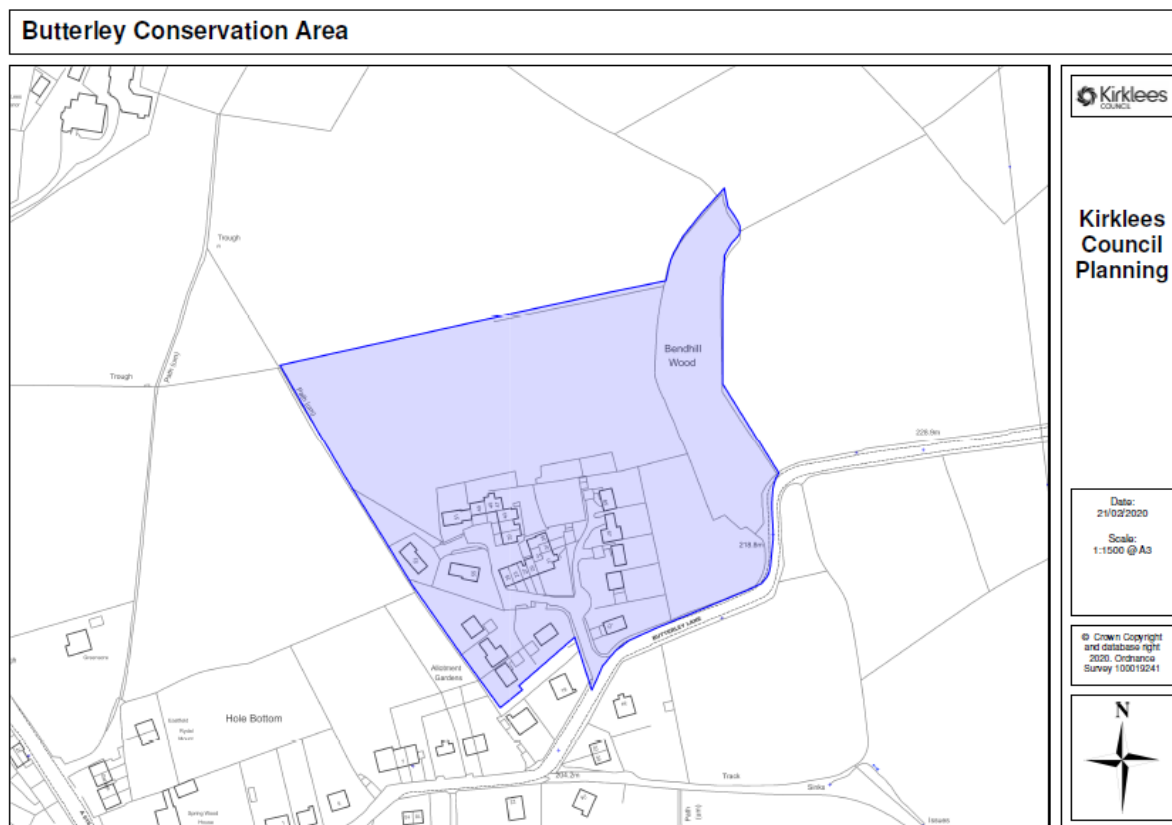


 <p>Kirklees Council Planning</p>	<p>Honley Conservation Area</p> <p>Date: 21/02/2020</p> <p>Scale: 1:3000 @ A3</p>	
	<p><small>© Crown Copyright and database right 2020. Ordnance Survey 100019241</small></p>	

Butterley Conservation Area

- 4.2.30 Butterley Conservation Area is situated in LCA 7 *River Holme Wooded Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.31 Butterley conservation area was designated in 1981. It is a small rural hamlet located on the hillside above New Mill. The hamlet comprises two L-shaped blocks of houses dating from the 18th Century with modern late 20th Century housing surrounding the historic core. The small hamlet has historical links to agriculture, coal mining and cottage industry. In the 1700s Butterley was being farmed as well as mined for coal from a shaft on Butterley Lane.
- 4.2.32 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 11 Butterley Conservation Area



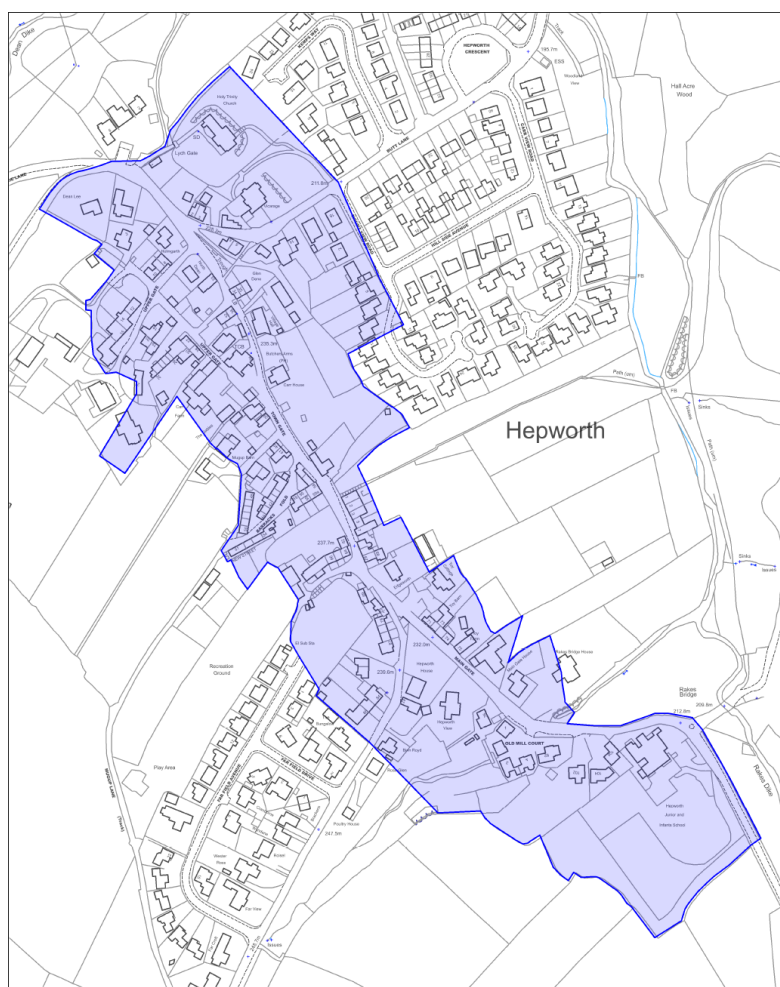
Hepworth Conservation Area

4.2.33 Hepworth Conservation Area is situated in LCA 7 River Holme Wooded Valley and LCA8 Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley as identified in section 4.1.17.

4.2.34 Hepworth Conservation Area was designated in 1976. Hepworth village developed as a settlement which depended on agriculture, coal mining and domestic textile production. The village maintains its pattern of folds leading off the main spinal route of Towngate and Main Gate with farm complexes located off Upper Gate. The majority of buildings in the village are dwellings, former weavers’ cottages and converted farm buildings. There has been a large amount of late 20th Century development within the conservation area, some of which does not reflect the local vernacular or local building style.

4.2.35 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 12 Hepworth Conservation Area

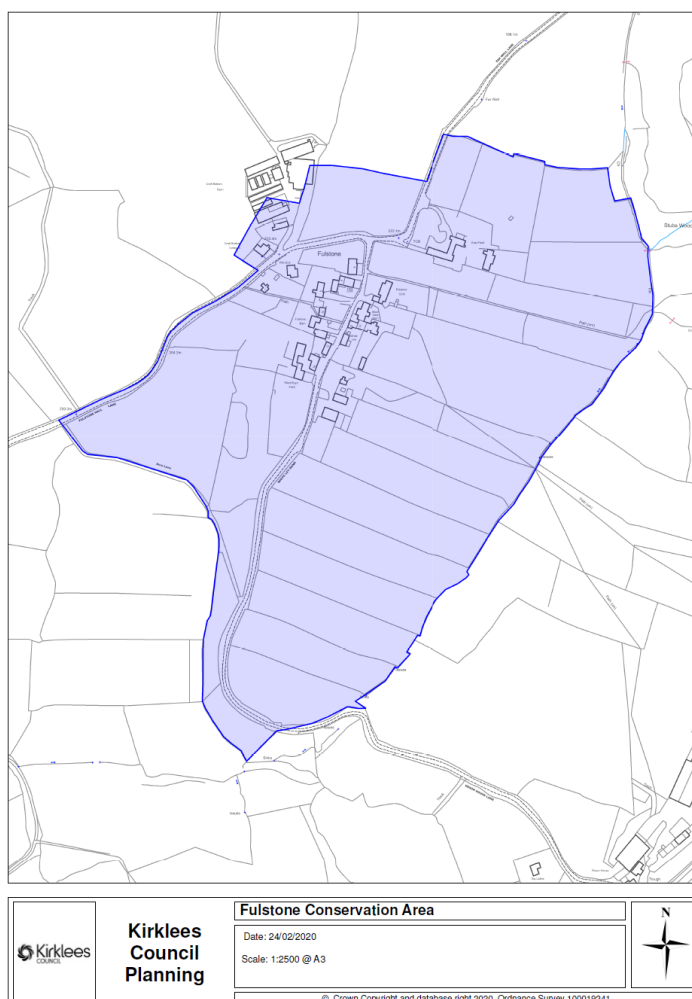


 Kirklees Council Planning	Hepworth Conservation Area	
	Date: 24/02/2020 Scale: 1:2000 @ A3	
<small>© Crown Copyright and database right 2020, Ordnance Survey 100019241</small>		

Fulstone Conservation Area

- 4.2.36 Fulstone Conservation Area is situated in LCA 8 *Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.37 Fulstone Conservation Area was designated in 1981. It forms a small hamlet which has developed from its agricultural and coal mining origins. Coal mining was common in the Fulstone area and evidence of former mines can still be found in the surrounding moorland and fields in the form of mounds, hollows and stone plateways. In addition, the long narrow fields in the South-East of the area are excellent examples of the medieval field systems which occur all over the Holme Valley. These are a valuable landscape asset and reflect that local townships in ancient times all comprised the settlement, their associated township fields and a related area of moorland for common pasture and peat-cutting⁶.
- 4.2.38 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 13 Fulstone Conservation Area

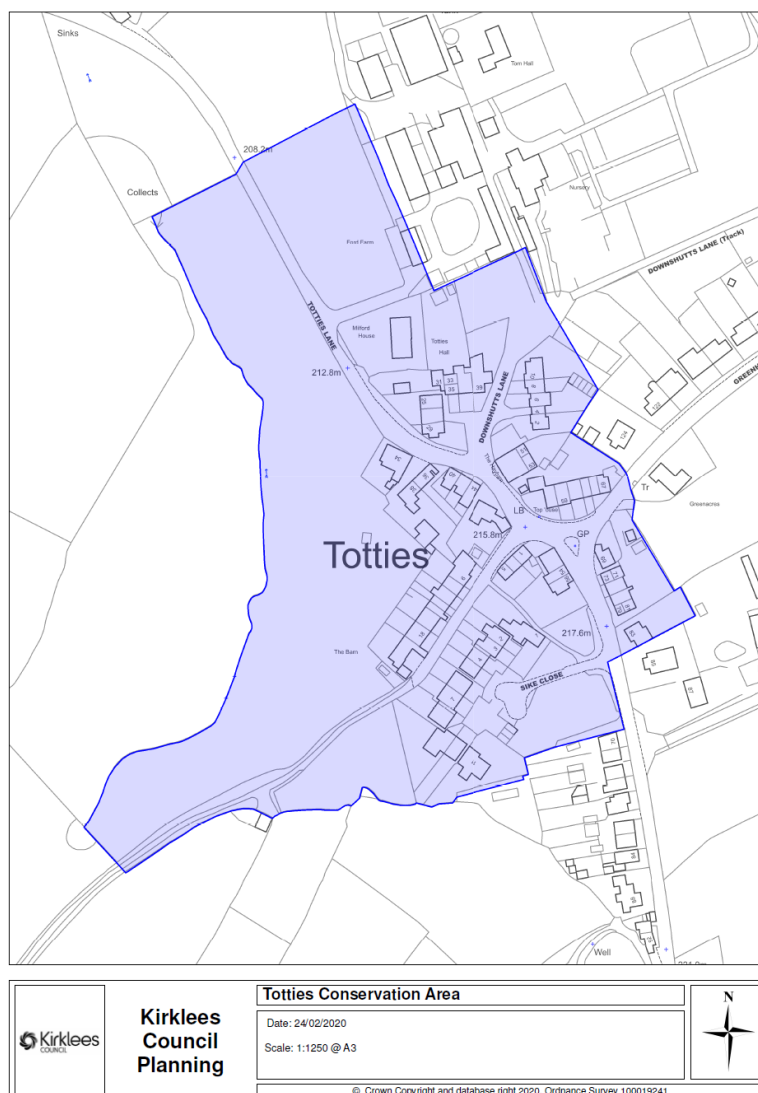


⁶ Faull and Moorhouse, *West Yorkshire: an Archaeological Survey to A.D. 1500*, West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, 1981.

Totties Conservation Area

- 4.2.39 Totties Conservation Area is situated in LCA 8 *Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley* and partly in LCA7 *River Holme Wooded Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.40 Totties conservation area was designated in 1981. It is a small farming and textile manufacturing hamlet which was established in the 17th Century. The hamlet is located within a hilltop area. The conservation area contains a number of two and three storey weavers’ cottages, farms and agricultural buildings which centre on Totties Hall. In addition, there are a number of modern properties which have been constructed in the late 20th Century. The majority of these dwellings have attempted to reflect the local vernacular, using elements from weavers’ cottages and barns, though several have used other elements and appear incongruous.
- 4.2.41 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

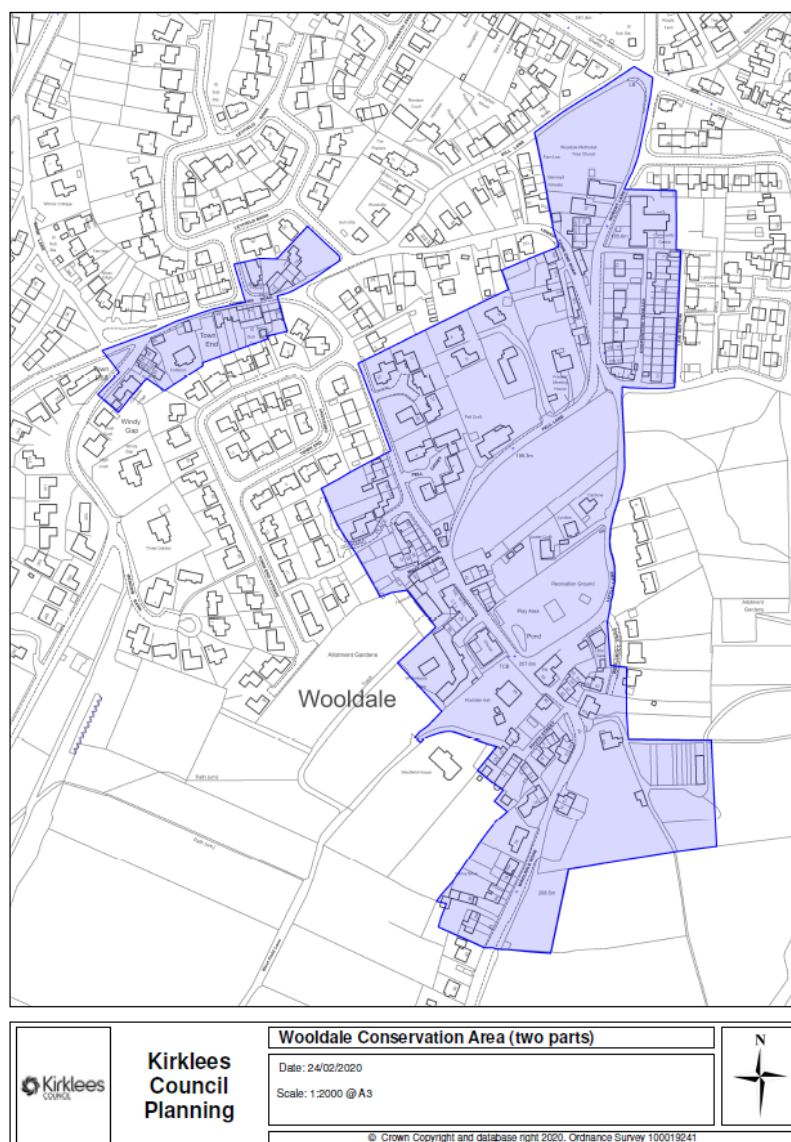
Map 14 Totties Conservation Area



Wooldale Conservation Area

- 4.2.42 Wooldale Conservation Area is situated in LCA 8 *Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley* and LCA4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.43 Wooldale Conservation Area was designated in 1981. It is a medium sized village located on the hillside above Holmfirth. Wooldale conservation area is split into two sections, the first part of the north-west contains 18th Century weavers' cottages and the second part contains the historic core of the village comprised of 17th Century farmhouses and barns. The land tax returns between 1781-1832 shows that the Wooldale area was still mining coal.
- 4.2.44 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 15 Wooldale Conservation Area



- 4.2.45 The information in the Oldfield and Holme Conservation Area Appraisals and the Holmfirth Area Conservation Appraisal (compiled by the volunteer group in 2018), together with the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment have been used to inform Policy 2 which aims to protect the special and distinctive built character and heritage assets of the Holme Valley.

Kirklees Planning Policies

- 4.2.46 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment sets out (among other criteria) that consideration should be given to the need to: '*a. ensure that proposals maintain and reinforce local distinctiveness and conserve the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets; and b. ensure that proposals within Conservation Areas conserve those elements which contribute to their significance.*'
- 4.2.47 Local Plan Policy LP24 Design sets out that proposals should promote good design by ensuring: a. the form, scale, layout and details of all development respects and enhances the character of the townscape, heritage assets and landscape. The Neighbourhood Plan endorses the design approach given by the Kirklees LP24 as it considers good design as a vital part of sustainable development. Policy LP52 Protection and Improvement of Environmental Quality provides protection from pollution and promotes wellbeing and improvements to the environment.

Community Consultation and Engagement

- 4.2.48 A key issue identified in the Issues and Options 2017 consultation was the design of future development and ensuring all new development was in keeping with the surrounding area and would meet the needs of the local population. This is both in terms of its existing demographic and future demographic needs.
- 4.2.49 Our 2017 public consultation identified that residents expected to see planning rules being adhered to with use of traditional styles or local stone building materials mentioned by over half the respondents. Effective utilisation of existing planning controls was cited as very important along with the desire to include modern and sustainable design.
- 4.2.50 As one respondent put it, "build homes out of local stone but enable all the modern features to be installed (e.g. solar panels)". Another said, "Have a set of guidelines which all developers are required to follow in order to have a more energy efficient and sustainable home" whilst the view of many was summarised by "Don't grant planning permission for anything that doesn't meet high standards". Guided by these views, the following policy has been proposed to cover all new developments in the valley. Actions for the Parish Council identified to support the NDP Planning Policy include to provide more detailed design guidance in the future, to encourage Kirklees MBC to undertake conservation area appraisals for conservation areas which currently do not have them and to promote enforcement action where development has taken place which is contrary to policy.

A Built Heritage Policy for the Holme Valley

- 4.2.51 Building new homes in a design which is 'in keeping' with the local style is an important part of balancing the need for new homes with preserving the character of the valley. Small scale developments can be done sympathetically and blend in effectively when appropriate styles and materials are used as shown by the photograph below of a development of seven new houses in Upperthong (see Figure 12).



Figure 12 - New build homes being constructed to fit in with the local style, Upperthong

- 4.2.52 The HVNDP Environmental Report, 2020 advised that '*the sheer volume of identified assets within the Plan area depicts the strong historical values associated with the settlement areas and beyond.*' There is a need for the NDP to recognise the value of heritage to a sense of identity, place and wellbeing for both residents and visitors. The unique sense of place associated with the strongly defined local character and built heritage has significant economic and retail advantages but also has implications for local authorities, public utilities, and private owners.
- 4.2.53 Development should respect existing urban grain of the area - the pattern of the arrangement and size of buildings and their plots in a settlement, and the degree to which an area's pattern of street-blocks and street junctions is respectively small and frequent, or large and infrequent (see *By Design, Urban design in the planning system: towards better practice*, CABE for DETR, 2000). The urban grain in the Holme Valley area varies greatly: in 16th to 17th Century hilltop and farming settlements there is a more informal arrangement of buildings and plots reflecting the agricultural heritage of the area; plot layouts are denser and more formal in the linear terraced forms, squares and courtyards of weaver's cottages, mill buildings and terraced housing from the 18th to 19th Centuries. In more modern, estate type development from the 20th to 21st centuries, urban grain is often informed by the need to accommodate road layouts and parking provision, and residential buildings are often provided in cul-de-sacs with garden plots with driveways. Further detail about the Key Characteristics of and Character Management Principles for each of the LCAs is provided in 4.1.17.

- 4.2.54 High quality design should not only be visually attractive but should incorporate flexibility to allow future adaptation to meet the changing needs of occupiers over time, including meeting the needs of older residents and / or those with changing care needs. Commercial, industrial, community, sports and leisure proposals as well as residential development present an opportunity for innovative design, using modern materials and building techniques that will achieve flexibly planned, sustainable and energy efficient buildings.
- 4.2.55 Development should also maximise accessibility and encourage walking and cycling by maximising permeability and provision of through routes to local facilities, services, employment opportunities and other residential areas. Gated communities which are closed off to public access reduce opportunities for movement through a built-up area. They are not characteristic of the Holme Valley and should be avoided wherever possible.
- 4.2.56 Proposals should also protect residential amenity and avoid environmental pollution wherever possible to protect existing residential communities.
- 4.2.57 Policy 2 aims to protect the special and distinctive built character and heritage assets of the Holme Valley, whilst promoting high quality design in new development. Policy 2 has been prepared to complement Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP24 Design and Policy LP35 Historic environment.
- 4.2.58 Policy 2 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A) The part of the NDP area which lies within the Peak District National Park area is in the Natural Zone and PDNP LDF Core Strategy Policy L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics B sets out that 'other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted.'



Figure 13 - Holmfirth Conservation Area & All Saints Church, Netherthong Conservation Area

Policy 2: Protecting and Enhancing the Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting High Quality Design

Policy 2 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A).

1. Local Character

Building designs in proposals for new development and alterations to existing buildings should respect the key characteristics and character management principles relating to built character, of the Landscape Character Area in which they are located as set out in paragraph 4.1.17. (Recommendation 7B)

They should protect and enhance local built character and distinctiveness and avoid any harm to heritage assets including conservation areas. (Recommendation 7B)

2. Sense of Place

New developments should strengthen the local sense of place by designing the site layout to respect the existing grain of development in the surrounding area and (Recommendation 7C and 7E) through use of local materials and detailing. Where historic features such as mill chimneys function as key focal points, they should be retained and restored as an integral part of new development schemes. (Recommendation 7C)

3. Utilising Existing Assets

Any (Recommendation 7D) significant trees, internal boundaries and water courses on the site should be retained and incorporated in the new design. Proposals should consider the aspect of the site and the ways in which the site contours and vegetation can be used to provide areas of extensive shade or shelter. (Recommendation 7D)

4. Innovation and Responding to Local Context

The use of traditional materials and design will be supported. However, contemporary design and materials will be supported where the distinctive character of the area is enhanced. (Recommendation 7E)

Use of "green" or "living" and "blue" roofs is encouraged where adverse impacts on local character and distinctiveness are minimised. (Recommendation 6G)

5. Gated Communities

Gated communities which restrict permeability are not characteristic of the Holme Valley area and will be resisted.

6. Inclusivity and Accessibility

Designs should promote inclusivity and promote accessibility for all and in particular have regard to the needs of the older population and those with mobility impairments.

7. Public Spaces

New development should make a positive contribution to the public realm. In particular, this should include:

- A clear distinction between streets and other publicly accessible spaces and areas that are intended for private use;
- A design of public spaces (Recommendation 7F) that connects with and relates to the pattern of spaces already present in the area;
- The (Recommendation 7F) “greening” of public spaces by using trees and other suitable planting.
- Open spaces should be designed to meet the needs of the development and located to satisfy their intended, specific function, such as toddler’s play, older children’s activities, sitting out, or visual amenity.

8. Built Form and Materials

Designs should respect the scale, mass, height and form of existing buildings in the locality and the site setting. Development should fit in with and neither dominate nor have a detrimental impact on its surroundings and neighbouring properties. (Recommendation 7G)

Materials must be chosen to complement the design of the development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment. Local millstone grit and stone flags should be used where these are the prevailing material. (Recommendation 7G)

9. Mixed Uses

If a shop or service is proposed as a part of a development scheme applicants will be encouraged to locate the facility where it is accessible to the wider community.

10. Protecting Amenity (Recommendation 7J)

Proposals should be designed to minimise harmful impacts on general amenity for present and future occupiers of land and buildings and prevent or reduce pollution as a result of noise, odour, light and other causes. (Recommendation 7H) Light pollution should be minimised, and security lighting must be appropriate, unobtrusive and energy efficient.

Policy 2 is in general conformity with:**Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031**

Policy LP24 Design

Policy LP35 Historic environment

Policy LP52 Protection and improvement of environmental quality.

Holme Valley Parish Council Actions 1 -3

Parish Actions relating to the built environment and design are set out in Appendix 1. (Recommendation 1B)

4.3 Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets

Introduction and Background

- 4.3.1 Heritage asset is a generic term, defined in the NPPF as applying to ‘a building, monument, site, place, or landscape which has been formally identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest’. Heritage assets have varying degrees of significance and therefore value as components of the historic environment. Consequently, heritage assets are defined on a spectrum of significance and are afforded different levels of planning consideration, in legislative and planning policy terms, in proportion to the significance of the heritage asset affected by development.
- 4.3.2 In the Holme Valley the spectrum of designated heritage assets includes Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF 2019 Glossary). The Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment Report, which informs the NDP, includes in Appendix A buildings in the NDP area which are included on the list published by Historic England as the ‘National Heritage List for England’ (NHLE). This is the official and up to date record of all nationally protected historic buildings or sites in England. These ‘listed buildings’ have adequate protection with primary legislation (Acts of Parliament), the NPPF and policies within the Kirklees Local Plan.

Positive Contributors to the character of Conservation Areas

- 4.3.3 Conservation Areas are statutorily designated heritage assets of special architectural or historic interest. Their designated status imposes additional planning controls on the buildings, sites or monuments within them. However, as noted in the NPPF (paragraph 201) not all elements of a conservation area will necessarily contribute to its significance and it is therefore necessary to identify the most important components which define their character. Such ‘positive contributors’ benefit from the legislative presumption in favour of preservation afforded by their designated status.
- 4.3.4 As part of the HVNDP, work has been undertaken to identify those buildings which are considered to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of conservation areas. This work focuses mainly on Holmfirth Conservation Area but there are other buildings identified in other conservation areas and more will be added when the neighbourhood plan is reviewed. These buildings are listed in Appendix 2A and are referred to as ‘positive contributors’ to the designated conservation area. When considering the potential impact of proposed development, the properties/sites will be subject to relevant consideration under relevant parts of NPPF (Feb 2019) and Kirklees Local Policy LP 35 (1) and (3) Historic Environment.
- 4.3.5 The positive contributors included in Appendix 2A of the HVNDP have been identified using the criteria listed below. Additional properties may be formally identified in due course using the same selection criteria:

- **Architectural Interest.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites considered to be of local architectural interest in terms of their distinctive vernacular form, design, decoration or craftsmanship. Properties/sites may represent significant examples of building types or techniques relevant to the HVNDP area including buildings which display technological innovation or interest. The list may include locally characteristic engineering and industrial buildings as well as examples of craftsmanship or artistic distinction.

- **Historic Interest.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites which are considered to be of local historic interest and illustrate important aspects of the history of the HVNDP area and/or have substantiated close historical associations with locally important individuals, groups or events.

- **Group value.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites which are considered to be components of a group with locally significant value, exhibiting examples of architectural or historic unity or an example of planning (e.g. squares and terraces) or where there is a historical functional relationship between the buildings.

Non-designated heritage assets

4.3.6 Outside of the conservation areas there may be other buildings and sites that contribute to local character and sense of place because of their intrinsic heritage value. Such heritage assets may be offered a proportionate level of consideration by the local planning authority if they have been identified and publicised as being included on a formally adopted 'local heritage list of non-designated assets'⁷. (NDHAs). To date, Kirklees Council do not have a list of such buildings or adopted selection criteria. However, Kirklees has now (April 2021) commenced work on a year-long West Yorkshire initiative to establish a formal process to identify and evaluate candidate NDHAs against relevant selection criteria. The initiative will enable the development of a Kirklees adopted 'local heritage list of non-designated heritage assets' which will extend proportionate planning control for those buildings included on it. The published local list will be developed over time (as per the National Heritage List) but must be based on sound and consistent selection criteria and recommendations from local people.

4.3.7 The fact that a building or site is identified means that the effect of a proposal on the significance of the asset should be taken into account when determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. Consequently, appropriately identified NDHAs would then become more defensible material

⁷ Historic England: 'Historic Environment Advice Note 7' published January 2021 (HEAN 7)

considerations in decision-making, as well as helping to recognise and celebrate protect/preserve local heritage.

4.3.8 Formally identifying NDHAs based on adopted selection criteria will provide a sound, consistent and accountable means of identifying local heritage assets. This will benefit development planning across the neighbourhood area and Kirklees, as well as providing clarity and transparency of decision making to the benefit of owners and developers wishing to fully understand local development opportunities and constraints. Historic England's latest guidance (HEAN 7) will provide the best practice basis for the production of a local heritage list of NDHAs in Holme Valley and across Kirklees. It should be noted that potential NDHAs are not just buildings but could cover locations such as wells or milestone markers. Appendix 2B lists 'candidate sites' which are representatives of building types which could be formally identified as NDHAs. Through inclusion in this Appendix, these candidate sites will be reviewed and evaluated by Kirklees (and the PDNPA if relevant) for inclusion on the initial 'local heritage list' as it is developed over the next few years. The local heritage list of NDHAs will be a live document which will be expanded over the plan period as recommendations are brought forward, evaluated and adopted.

4.3.9 Where the particular significance of a site is currently unknown or difficult to define in spatial terms, but may have some archaeological importance, the NPPF provides a safeguard (paragraph 194b note 63). This is intended to ensure that these potential non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets, in order to reveal and fully understand their significance and sensitivity to development prior to any decision making. Such sites are often below-ground archaeology or locations of ancient activity with only scattered extant remnants.

4.3.10 Policy 3 relates to proposals which impact on non-designated heritage assets in the Holme Valley and the Parish Actions (Appendix 1) are designed to support the implementation of Policy 3. (Recommendation 8C)

Submission Plan paragraphs 4.3.8 to 4.3.10 deleted (Recommendation 8D)

Policy 3: Conserving and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets

A list of buildings and structures which are identified as positive contributors to the designated conservation areas in Holme valley is set out at Appendix 2A. All development proposals affecting these character defining components of the designated conservation areas or their settings will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Part 1.

A candidate list of buildings and structures identified as non-designated heritage assets is set out at Appendix 2B. All development proposals

affecting these locally important heritage assets, (once formally identified), or their settings, will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Parts 2 and 3a and Policy DMC5 of the Peak District National Park Authority Part 2 Local Plan (Development Management Policies).

When designing development proposals for all local heritage assets (positive contributors and (once formally identified) non-designated heritage assets), owners and developers should have regard to conserving the significance of the asset and the components which positively contribute to its character or appreciation as a heritage asset. (Recommendation 8A)

Policy 3 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

Policy DMC5 Assessing the impact of development on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings.



Figure 14 - Holmfirth Masonic Lodge & Choppards Mission

Holme Valley Parish Actions 4 -10

Parish Actions relating to built heritage are set out in Appendix 1. (Recommendation 1B)

4.4 Design in Town and Local Centres and Public Realm



Figure 15 - Examples of shopfronts & signage in Holmfirth which are in keeping with the character of the town © Holmfirth Conservation Group 2018

Shopfronts and Advertisements

Introduction and Background

- 4.4.1 Most public ground floor frontages in town, district and local centres are occupied by shops and other commercial property and shopfronts are the most prominent element of many buildings. The appearance of shopfronts and advertisements can have a major impact on the character of conservation areas and other areas. Whether this impact is beneficial or harmful is dependent on the quality and sensitivity of the designs used.
- 4.4.2 The character of the built environment in the commercial centres and retail cores of the towns and villages of Holme Valley is extremely important as these areas provide a focal point for the style and vernacular architecture of non-residential buildings in each area. The design of shops fronts and ground floors of properties affect both the character and economic vitality of a town or local centre by contributing to the attractiveness of an area and its sense of place. As one retailer commented in the Regulation 14 consultation, ‘window displays and signage make an enormous difference to the look and feel of the high street...it’s very important to keep visitor numbers up which in return boosts economy in the area. If the shops don’t look appealing, numbers will start dropping’.
- 4.4.3 The Holme Valley has two key shopping areas: Holmfirth and Honley along with many other shops and businesses throughout the villages. Both Holmfirth and Honley are conservation areas as are many of the villages as outlined in section 4.2. It is therefore important that traditional shopfronts, particularly in the larger settlements of Holmfirth and Honley are protected and enhanced to help preserve the sense of each place’s identity. Each centre has a unique character and ensuring that changes are sensitive to this local character is essential.

Community Consultation and Engagement

- 4.4.4 Retailers and businesses have a strong preference for standard ‘house’ styles and colours. These interests must be balanced with the need to protect and enhance the unique qualities of the Holme Valley. Experience has shown that with a flexible approach, together with an emphasis on good design and quality, including the use of traditional detailing in conservation areas, corporate image can be adapted.

- 4.4.5 Our consultation highlighted the importance of both built heritage and local shops in its top ten ‘specific features of the Holme Valley which are important’. Retaining the style of shopfronts is an important element of ensuring that shopfronts are designed in keeping with the character of the building and the area they sit within.



Figure 16 - Honley Westgate & Coordinated signage in Holmfirth

- 4.4.6 Developers are advised to discuss proposals for new shopfronts and advertisements in conservation areas or where proposals impact on listed buildings or other heritage assets with the Kirklees Council’s Conservation Team at an early stage.

A Shopfronts and Advertisements Policy for Holme Valley

- 4.4.7 Primary and secondary shopping areas in the valley are identified in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13 Town centre uses and Policy LP14 Shopping frontages identifies shopping frontages. Local Plan Policy LP25 Advertisements and shop fronts provides general guidance for advertisements and shop fronts. Shopfronts within the Peak District National Park Authority part of Neighbourhood Area will not be permitted illuminated signs except in accordance with DMP DMS 5.
- 4.4.8 Many of the Holme Valley’s buildings date from the 18th and 19th centuries. During this period, shopfront design sought to achieve a successful relationship between the shopfront itself and the building as a whole. Some adaption may be necessary to take account of technological change, but such original features should be retained where possible.



Figure 17 - Recent change of Holmfirth shopfront from traditional to modern design

- 4.4.9 Very few early shopfronts survive. Special care is needed to ensure that these are preserved and restored in a sensitive manner and Figure 17 shows how shopfronts can unfortunately erode local character by adopting distinctive modern signage. Sometimes original features such as pilasters and fascias have been hidden by later work and where this is the case such features should be revealed and restored. Consideration should also be given to future maintenance and weather proofing. Shopfronts should be designed to throw water clear of the shopfront to help prevent rot and avoid long-term maintenance issues. Concerns about poor maintenance of shopfronts were raised by residents in the Regulation 14 consultation and whilst this is not a planning matter, the NDP encourages high quality, long-lasting designs in the future.
- 4.4.10 The replacement of modern shopfronts with traditional designs can have positive benefits. Traditional style shop fronts can enhance the street scene and add to the visual interest of the local shopping area, helping to make it more attractive to shoppers and visitors. Large plate glass windows, excessively deep fascias and unsuitable materials such as unpainted tropical hardwood or aluminium should be replaced with more appropriate and sensitive design and materials wherever possible.
- 4.4.11 Whilst protecting the historic and distinctive character of town and village centres in Holme Valley is a priority for the NDP, there is also a need to ensure shops and services are as accessible as possible for all groups. The NDP aims to take a balanced approach by promoting sensitive alterations which support improved accessibility for all groups whilst protecting the historic character. Historic England's document "Easy Access to Historic Buildings, 2004" and the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Planning and access for disabled people: a good practice guide, 2003" provide more detailed information. Barriers to access include:
- external physical elements of the building and its setting, including landscape features, kerbs, exterior surfaces, paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits as well as emergency escape routes
 - any feature arising from the design or construction of a building itself, including architectural details (such as plinths, column bases, staircases, ironwork and door openings), fixtures, fittings, furnishings, furniture, equipment and other materials.
- 4.4.12 The Historic England document notes that easy physical access involves people being able to circulate freely and cope with changes in level. Horizontal movement is most likely to be constrained by floor surfaces, corridors, doorways, thresholds and small changes in level. Improvements to vertical circulation may require alterations to steps, stairs and handrails or involve the introduction of ramps or lifts. All of these can affect the appearance and significance of the building and the advice of conservation officers should be sought at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.4.13 Given the distinctive character of each of the local and town centres, we have created a specific policy (Policy 4) to guide shopfronts and advertisements. Many proposals for shopfronts will be for premises which are located within a conservation area. Whilst these design principles are key to proposals located within these areas, the advice should equally be applied to shopfront proposals across the Holme Valley designated area. The Heritage and Character Assessment report describes local character in more detail in each of the identified Landscape Character Areas.

- 4.4.14 The use of Article 4 directions is a means of controlling works which could threaten the character of an area. We would support such directions where appropriate to allow Kirklees to preserve our built heritage within town and village centres. The proliferation of bold, dominant or illuminated advertising material can have a significant detrimental effect on the visual character of a locality, particularly in sensitive places such as conservation areas and in sensitive rural locations. It is therefore important that advertisements are sensitively designed and this is also addressed in Policy 4. Consideration should therefore be given to withdrawing deemed consent through use of suitable Article 4 Directions and 'special areas of advertisement control' particularly in Conservation Areas).⁸ (Recommendation 8D)

⁸Many fascias and projecting signs do not require consent if they are below first floor level and are not illuminated. Illuminated signs within conservation areas are likely to require a formal application (express consent). The main categories of signage that can be displayed using deemed consent (basically permitted development rights for signage) are set out in Class 3 and 5 as set out in Outdoor advertisements and signs: a guide for advertisers, June 2007 Department for Communities and Local Government There is no 'special area of advertisement control' in the Holme Valley (or Kirklees).

Policy 4: Design Codes for High Quality Shopfronts and Advertisements

Design Principles for Shopfronts

1. General Principles

Proposals for new shopfronts, or alterations to existing shopfronts should consider the following design concepts to ensure that the proposal is sympathetic to the character and amenity of the locality.

Designs should:

- a) Be designed to integrate into the existing building by respecting the period, scale and architectural style of the building and reflect the characteristics of the wider street scene; (Recommendation 9A)

Submission plan principle b) deleted (Recommendation 9A)

- b) Enclose and frame shop windows and entrances with essential visual and functional elements such as pilasters, fascias and stallrisers. Accurate and authentic detailing is essential;
- c) Avoid linking two or more buildings with one fascia unless historically already established by continuous architectural pattern or shop use;
- d) Seek to incorporate moulded cornices weathered with a properly detailed lead flashing above the fascia; (Recommendation 9B)
- e) Make sure that shopfronts have individual distinctive identities with different stallriser heights, window designs and fascias that positively contribute to the character and integrity of the building and the complexity and diversity of the street scene; (Recommendation 9C)
- f) Encourage the use of stallrisers to protect shop windows and provide a visual break between the window and the street surface. Designs for shopfronts should include part-glazed door panels that reflect the height of the stallriser and the sub-division of large areas of glass wherever possible; (Recommendation 9C)
- g) Make use of energy-efficient measures with regard to any illumination arising from the shopfront, particularly through the use of LED lighting where appropriate;
- h) Make use of recessed doorways, single and double to give more three-dimensional quality; and
- i) Avoid use of uPVC windows in historic areas.

2. Retention of Existing Shopfronts

The retention of existing shopfronts, which contribute to the character of the building or area, will be encouraged and special care should be given to the preservation and sensitive restoration of original features where possible.

3. Accessibility

The sensitive alteration of existing traditional shops and town centre buildings to improve accessibility for all is supported. Accessibility should be improved where there is the opportunity to do so provided any special interest of the building is not compromised. (Recommendation 9E) Overall proposals should not prejudice the character of the building or buildings and should have due regard for any features which make a particular building or buildings special or significant.

4. Shutters and Grilles

Solid roller shutters and the introduction of shutter boxes to the exterior of buildings have an adverse visual impact and will be resisted in that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority. Any shopfronts in the Peak District National Park Authority part of Neighbourhood Area will not be permitted to have external security roller shutters.

The following suitable alternatives will be supported:

- a) Security glass with alarm or internal cameras;
- b) A reduction in the size of window glass;
- c) Internal see-through shutters. (Recommendation 9F)

In that part of the neighbourhood area outside the National Park the following additional alternatives will be acceptable:

- External shutters that are removed during working hours – decorative options for these themed on the shop’s trade may be applicable.
- Externally mounted open mesh roller shutters provided that the box housing is concealed behind the fascia and the projection from the face of the building does not result in an increase in depth to the detriment of the appearance of the shopfront. (Recommendation 9F)

Design Principles for Advertisements

1. General Principles

Any shopfronts within the Peak District National Park Authority part of Neighbourhood Area will not be permitted illuminated signs except in accordance with DMP DMS 5.

Where (Recommendation 9G) planning consent is required, proposals for fascia, hanging and projecting advertisement signs should complement the design of the building and shopfront.

Cumulative impacts of advertisements should be considered in relation to street scene and visual clutter. Advertisements should not overly dominate the public realm or have an adverse impact on local character.

Consideration should be given to an advertisement's impact on highway safety. Advertisements which are distracting to road users, by virtue of their scale, design or positioning should be avoided.

Submission plan last paragraph in the general principles deleted (Recommendation 9H)

2. Fascia Signs

Proposals for fascia signs should seek to sympathetically integrate the design of the fascia with the shopfront, making use of traditional design fascias.

Lettering should:

- a) Convey the essential message of the retailer
- b) Either be a sign written onto the fascia or applied as individual lettering in a traditional manner directly to the structure of the building;
- c) Reflect the use and character of the shop and the building;
- d) Be of a style and size that relates to the area of the fascia or sign and building on which it is used;
- e) Use sensitive colours and appropriate shading and blocking of letters which reflect the local character and appearance of the area particularly within conservation areas; (Recommendation 9K) and
- f) Minimise impacts on the historic fabric of the building.
- g) New illuminated boxed fascias that project from the face of the building and the addition of new fascias on top of existing ones should be avoided. (recommendation 9J)

In instances where illuminated fascia signs are proposed outside the National Park (Recommendation 9L), they should be sensitively designed in order to be sympathetic to both the building they are attached to and the surrounding area, particularly if

situated in a historic area. Illumination of fascias should not be excessive or intrusive and should make use of energy efficient methods of lighting such as via LED. Schemes should avoid light pollution into adjoining residential properties and not unnecessarily cause poorly directed light pollution elsewhere.

3. Projecting Signs

Projecting signs will be supported where they are sensitive to the design of the existing building and are a characteristic feature of the surrounding area.

The use of internally illuminated projecting box signs that form a projecting part of a fascia should be avoided.

Where a projecting sign is appropriate, proposals should make use of a traditional hanging sign, which is hung from a metal bracket that can add interest to the street without unobtrusive external illumination. Consideration should be given to the use of hanging symbols denoting the trade being carried on in the premises as an interesting and eye-catching alternative to a hanging board.

Projecting signs should be of a high quality and relate to the size and scale of the existing building façade and do not appear either overly intrusive or inappropriately small. Projecting signs should be carefully positioned to take into account the design and architectural detailing of the existing building – normally below the first-floor windows.

Projecting signs will be restricted to one sign per building and should relate only to the business which occupies the premises.

Policy 4 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP13 Town centre uses

Policy LP14 Shopping frontages

Policy LP25 Advertisements and shop fronts

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

DMS4 Shopfronts (Recommendation 9M)

DMS 5 Outdoor advertising.

Public Realm

Introduction and Background

- 4.4.15 Local and town centres include areas of public realm which can be formal, such as seating areas and parks, or informal, where pavements and street corners naturally offer public spaces. It is important that the character of the local centres is reflected in public realm enhancements, for instance through the style of seating, lighting columns or signage, siting and design of refuse bins and the layout of the highway. More detail is given on highway infrastructure planning in section 4.8.
- 4.4.16 The presence of the river in the centre of Holmfirth is an example of a public asset which is being enhanced by a locally based charity, River Holme Connections. Their investment in the 'duck feeding area' has sought to provide a more attractive public space for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- 4.4.17 Private investment in new railings opposite the Picturedrome now allows people to look down onto the river whilst bespoke art pieces have been prepared by The Children's Art School to liven up the concrete walls along the river. These organisations all recognise the opportunity to create new public spaces even when some of those are new views or vistas rather than new physical places.
- 4.4.18 The Holme Valley has many opportunities to increase visibility of existing locations and enhance those spaces. The Holmepride movement has worked on a number of projects over the last year to clear litter and overgrown vegetation on footpaths and small public spaces. Meanwhile Holmfirth Conservation Group's 'Windows on the Past' trail and existing riverside walks create a sense of shared public space through better understanding of what is already in the area. This Neighbourhood Plan aims to encourage this approach by promoting high quality design in spaces in between buildings, the views from and of them and the wider environment, as well as in buildings themselves.



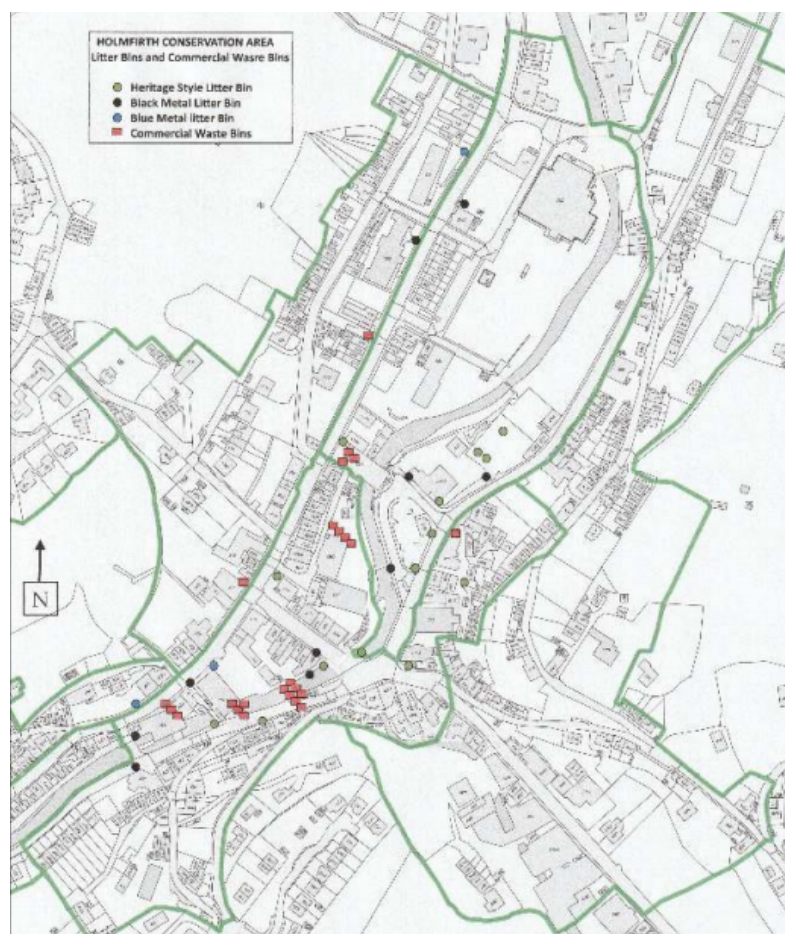
Figure 18 – 'Windows on the Past' Heritage Trail © Holmfirth Conservation Group 2018

- 4.4.19 Holmfirth Conservation Group highlighted in their appraisal the proliferation of different litter bins and the un-coordinated planters and street furniture, as shown in Map 16 below. This is something which Holmepride has helped address in terms of repainting existing litter bins and railings to improve their appearance, but the different

designs remain. The presence of large commercial waste bins on Hollowgate in Holmfirth for example is not only unsightly but also fills a parking space in the centre of the town. Whilst planters, signage and litter bins and lighting columns are all essential parts of any functioning town centre, consideration of their impact on the overall appearance of an area is an important element of building a sense of place and high quality public realm.

Map 16 HCG Map of litter bin styles in Holmfirth Conservation Area

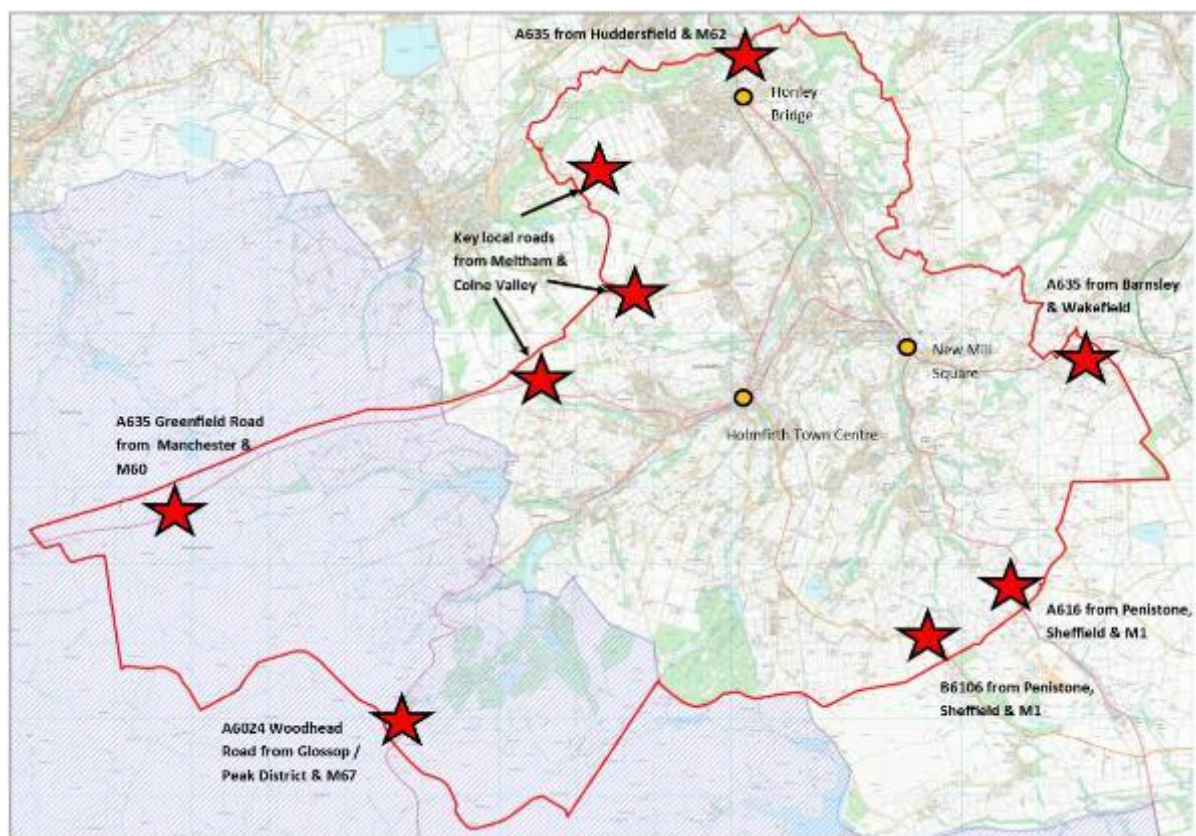
© Holmfirth Conservation Group 2018



- 4.4.20 Similar principles apply across the valley where coherence of design within each village can help promote a sense of shared identity and this has led to the creation of a policy on public realm.
- 4.4.21 The public realm is not limited to highways, but road networks in the valley form a significant part of the public realm of settlements, particularly along the valley floors. There are several specific gateways to the valley as four key roads enter the Holme Valley from different directions: A635 Greenfield Road and A6024 Woodhead Road from the West; B6106 Dunford Road and A616 Sheffield Road from the South; A635 Holmfirth Road from the East and A616 Huddersfield Road from the North. These

routes converge in specific centres: Holmfirth town centre, New Mill square and Honley bridge - see Map 17 Key Gateways.

Map 17 – Overview of key gateways to the valley and convergence points



- 4.4.22 Without careful management, these locations can become dominated by highways and as a respondent to Pre-Regulation 14 consultation commented 'traffic and infrastructure will always be problematic around Holmfirth due to the geography'. However, we believe that applying the principles outlined in the policy below will help ensure that the importance of public realm is recognised not only in these specific 'hotspots' but also in the smaller village centres which have more localised highways challenges."

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.4.23 The public realm policy also highlights the importance of highways in contributing to a positive environment within a village or town centre. As one resident in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation said, 'A dream would be to take all vehicles out of Holmfirth town centre and make it pedestrian friendly' whilst another commented that 'Tackling this very important [traffic] problem will have a huge impact on the quality of life in the valley. The needs of pedestrians must have priority'. Specific concerns regarding traffic and transport are detailed in section 4.8 but recognising the role of highways in the public realm is important.

A Public Realm, Gateways and Highways Policy for Holme Valley

- 4.4.24 Improvements to the public realm offer opportunities to provide physical measures to protect all road users, such as tree and shrub planting as physical landscape barriers. Street furniture such as interpretation panels, bollards, cycle racks, free-standing signs, lamp posts and waste bins can all have a significant impact on the public realm. Careful consideration is needed to ensure designs are sensitive and locations are suitable and support improved accessibility for all. Benches and internal seating should offer a range of heights and a choice between those with and without backs and armrests. There should also be space for a wheelchair user to pull up next to a seated companion. Tables, where they are provided, should be wheelchair accessible. In addition to planning and design policies, the HVNDP includes various actions for the Parish Council, working with other bodies to help ensure the management of the public realm provides a safer and more attractive environment. Street furniture should not form obstacles when set on pedestrian routes and grouping items together can make them more easily visible and thus less of a hazard. Improved management of waste and recycling should help to reduce adverse visual impacts of large commercial bin store areas.
- 4.4.25 Proposals also should contribute towards enhancing Green Infrastructure (GI). Green infrastructure is defined in the National Planning Policy Guidance and can embrace a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits. It can, for example, include parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and 'blue infrastructure' such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies. References to green infrastructure in this guidance also apply to different types of blue infrastructure where appropriate.
- 4.4.26 Policy 5 provides local detail to Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13 Town Centre Uses which requires proposals to be inclusive for all users, and be attractive to pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport users and to conserve and enhance the local character, heritage, green spaces and the public realm where appropriate. Policy LP24 Design advises that places should be adaptable and able to respond to change, with consideration given to accommodating services and infrastructure, access to high quality public transport facilities and offering flexibility to meet changing requirements of the resident / user. The Policy also requires proposals to incorporate adequate facilities to allow occupiers to separate and store waste for recycling and recovery that are well designed and visually unobtrusive and allows for the convenient collection of waste. It also supports accessible and inclusive places, development which contributes towards enhancement of the natural environment and retention of trees. Policy 5 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A)

Policy 5: Promoting High Quality Public Realm and Improvements to Gateways and Highways

Policy 5 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A).

Public Realm

Proposals for public realm improvements should enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike and should be an integral part of transport links through towns, settlements and villages. Such improvements will be supported where they are consistent with advice in the Kirklees Highways Design Guide SPD and where they (Recommendation 10A)

- a) Are of a high-quality design and sensitive to the visual appearance of surrounding buildings and street scene, especially in the case of a Heritage Asset or within a Conservation Area;
- b) Take opportunities to enhance or (Recommendation 10B) open up views towards existing locations of interest, such as the river or public spaces within the town and local centres, so that new developments improve rather than hide existing points of interest.
- c) Prioritise pedestrians and then cyclists, providing seating and safe, accessible routes for all.

Submission plan two paragraphs following clause c) deleted (Recommendation 10C)

Where works are being carried out in the public realm to improve highway safety and efficiency the character of a place should be maintained and the following principles will be applied: (Recommendation 10D)

- d) Design and materials in public realm improvements and highways schemes should be sensitive to local character.
- e) Traffic dominance should be minimised through surface treatment and layout;
- f) Visual clutter should be avoided; (Recommendation 10E)
- g) Provision of shared public space should be maximised whilst accommodating vehicular movement where necessary;
- h) Consideration should be given to accessibility for everyone;
- i) Consideration of Green Infrastructure⁹ should be built into design in the public realm; (Recommendation 10F)
- j) Street furniture should not act as a hazard to pedestrians or distract motorists unnecessarily.
- k) Signage and interpretation should be clear and visually unobtrusive;
- l) Lighting should limit light pollution and the use of columns.

Settlement 'Gateways'

Where major new residential or commercial development is close to 'gateways' into Holme Valley settlements, or at route convergence points or rail and bus stations, consideration should be given to public realm improvements around the 'Gateway' including welcome signage and interpretation and landscaping and planting. (Recommendation 10G)

Policy 5 is in general conformity with:**Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031**

Policy LP13 Town centre uses

Policy LP24 Design

Holme Valley Parish Actions 11 -15

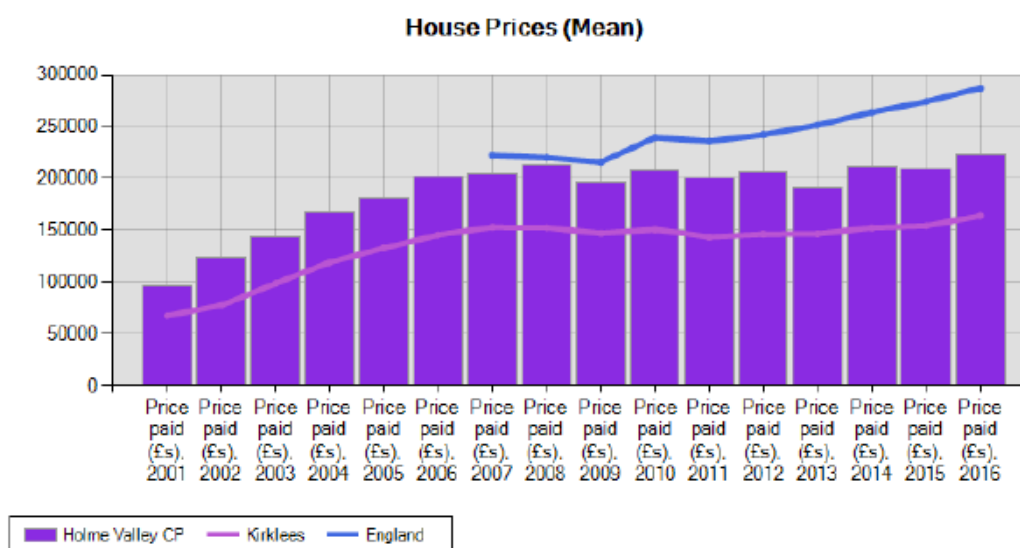
Parish Actions relating to the public realm are set out in Appendix 1. (Recommendation 1B)

9 **Green infrastructure:** A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities (NPPF Glossary).

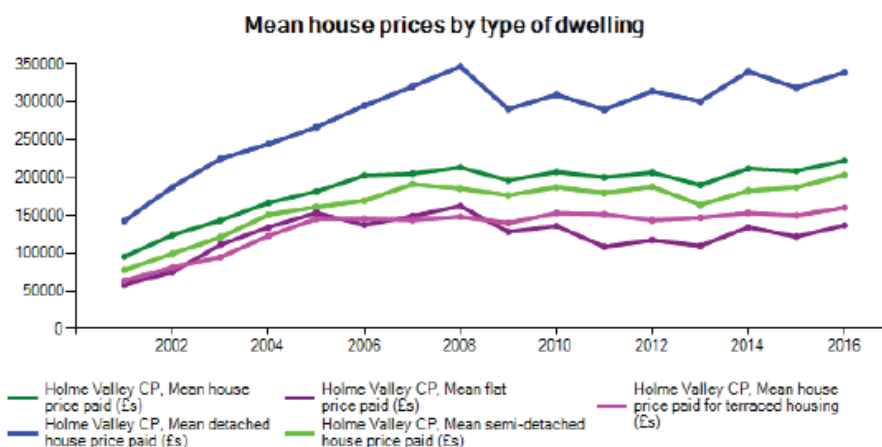
4.5 Building Housing for the Future

Introduction and Background

- 4.5.1 Public consultations for the NDP (see the Consultation Statement, consultation on Issues and Options and emerging First Draft Plan) have shown that housing is a contentious topic in the Holme Valley. The Regulation 14 consultation received the highest number of public comments on this particular issue. Many people accept that more housing is needed, particularly smaller properties to allow people to purchase their first home or to down-size, but the nature of new developments and their location can be at odds with other things people think are important, such as views, and the impact on small communities and traffic. There is growing concern about the impact building on the hill tops and hill sides will have on sewer capacity and road run off as climate changes increase rainfall levels.
- 4.5.2 The 2011 census shows that there were 12,039 properties in the Holme Valley Parish Council area at that time. Of these 33% were whole houses or bungalows compared to 20% in the rest of Kirklees. 26% were semi-detached (33% in Kirklees) and 34% were terraced houses (the same for Kirklees). Only 7% were flats, maisonettes or apartments compared with 13% in Kirklees.
- 4.5.3 The following information is taken from the Kirklees Housing Profile for the Holme Valley and shows that property prices in the Valley are higher than Kirklees' averages but lower than national averages:



4.5.4 The type of property has a considerable impact on price:



4.5.5 Paragraph 8.6 in the Local Plan sets out that 'the Local Plan housing requirement has used the most up to date national household projections (2014-based) as a starting point. Following analysis of this information and consideration of economic assumptions, the Local Plan housing requirement is a minimum of 31,140 homes across Kirklees over the plan period from 2013-31 which will meet identified needs. This equates to an annual housing requirement of 1,730 new homes. As this is based on up-to-date demographic evidence, it takes account of any need arising from shortfalls in delivery against previous targets. The NDP cannot reduce the amount of development from that contained in Kirklees' Local Plan or try to undermine its strategic policies. However, through its policies the NDP can influence how housing sites allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan are developed. (Recommendation 11L)

4.5.6 Kirklees Council has identified an additional 1,087 homes to be located on 27 different sites in the Holme Valley. These are set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2 Local Plan Housing and Mixed Use Site Allocations

Location	Site Number	Number of Houses Proposed	Housing or Mixed Development
Travel Station Yard, Station Road, Honley	HS159	14	Housing
East of Woodhouse Rd, Brockholes	HS161	124	Housing
South of Southwood Avenue, Honley	HS162	17	Housing
Former Thirstin Mill, Thirstin Road, Honley	HS164	24	Housing
South of Gynn Lane, Honley	HS167	50	Housing
North of Scotgate Road, Honley	HS168	93	Housing
North east of Westcroft, Honley	HS171	15	Housing
South of Vicarage Meadows, Cinderhills, Holmfirth	HS174	14	Housing
Bridge Mills, New Road, Holmfirth	HS175	45	Housing
West of St Mary's Rise & St Mary's Way, Netherthong	HS176	21	Housing
North west of New Mill Road, Thongsbridge	HS177	15	Housing
East of Holme View Avenue & Pennine Close, Upperthong	HS178	27	Housing

Location	Site Number	Number of Houses Proposed	Housing or Mixed Development
Dunford Road, Hade Edge	HS179	66	Housing
East of St Mary's Avenue, Netherthong	HS180	32	Housing
East of Ryecroft Lane, Scholes	HS181	39	Housing
South of Sandy Gate, Scholes	HS182	28	Housing
West of Bankfield Drive, Holmbridge	HS183	23	Housing
West of Wesley Avenue, Netherthong	HS184	38	Housing
West of Miry Lane, Thongsbridge	HS185	39	Housing
West of Stoney Bank Lane, Thongsbridge	HS186	53	Housing
Tenter Hill Road, New Mill	HS187	81	Housing
West of Royds Avenue, New Mill	HS188	53	Housing
South of Former Midlothian Garage, New Mill Road, Holmfirth	HS189	12	Housing
South of Water Street, Holmbridge	HS190	19	Housing
Former Midlothian Garage, New Mill Road, Holmfirth	HS191	56	Housing
Dobroyd Mills, Hepworth Road, Hepworth	MXS12	75	Mixed
Lancaster Lane, Brockholes	HS173	14*	Housing
TOTAL		1087	

*The capacity is not included in the phasing, as it is already counted as a commitment as planning permission (application 2016/90146) was given on the site.

4.5.7 There are also areas of 'safeguarded land' which is identified for future development, most likely housing, if required after the current plan period. There are some significant plots of land in the Holme Valley with this designation such as 6.26 ha on the Cliff, 4.29 ha next to the Memorial Hospital and more at Hade Edge. The allocation of sites was fixed when the Local Plan was approved by the Planning Inspector in 2019.

Public Consultation and Engagement

4.5.8 There is considerable concern locally about the number of new dwellings and the impact of the potential associated increase in population on the nature of life in the Valley. One Regulation 14 respondent said 'Before any new housing is permitted there needs to be proper consideration to the infrastructure, not just lip service! Roads, drains, sewerage, schools, shops...' whilst another commented that 'Upperthong area is now at saturation point... Poor sight lines, narrow roadways and limited pavement provision must be obvious problems'. Specific areas are often cited such as 'Scholes, Hepworth, Wooldale: no more housing in these areas, the roads, services, schools etc, can't handle an influx of new residents. New homes should be built on brown fields only. Green belt to be preserved.' It is noteworthy that both Hade Edge and Scholes communities strongly resisted the new housing developments in the Local Plan during its Examination, setting up 'Hade Edge Fight for the Fields Group' and 'Scholes Future Group' to provide coordinated responses to the consultation. The latter contributed nearly 600 objections to the proposed housing site in Scholes and indeed, its size was duly reduced by the Planning Inspector.

Representations were also made on behalf of other local groups and people by the Holme Valley Vision network.

- 4.5.9 Local recognition of the need for smaller and affordable homes which has been expressed repeatedly in local surveys. Holme Valley Vision's Young People's Survey of 1,027 young people in 2012 identified that 'affordable, suitable homes to encourage people to stay in the valley was important for nearly three quarters of the sample' while their wider Residents Survey of 2,640 people identified that over 55% thought it 'important to have more affordable as well as more starter homes in the Holme Valley area. As one respondent to the Regulation 14 consultation stated, '[we need] to address the evident undersupply of homes that are suitable for: (a) younger people, many of whom wish to live and work in the area, but are unable due to unaffordable rents and house prices; (b) older people, many of whom have particular social and health care requirements'. Another commented that 'we need to break the cycle of developers building 4+bed detached houses which suit commuters rather than providing smaller houses for young and old and those needing to downsize. 70% local people said they want more affordable and smaller houses but all the new ones being built are large so are out of kilter with public demand.'
- 4.5.10 The 2017 consultation identified a strong preference for spreading development across the valley with over 300 residents preferring that to concentrating it in large sites which was selected by only 77 respondents. The NDP needs to balance these different interests. For example, the plan needs to ensure that by encouraging building within settlements (Recommendation 11M) it does not contradict the desire to protect the distinct character and sense of place of existing individual settlements. One of the five purposes of Green Belt (see NPPF paragraph 134), is "*b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another*" and therefore in areas protected by Green Belt, towns should be protected from merging by national and Kirklees level planning policies. Policy 6 therefore addresses development in areas not protected by Green Belt.
- 4.5.11 There is also support for the brownfield first policy with 89% consultees in 2017 supporting the use of brownfield sites over greenfield ones and as mentioned in 4.5.9, there was considerable local resistance to housing development on green fields in Scholes and Hade Edge. The lack of activity in developing locations such as up New Mill Road where sites HS177 and HS191 have sat redundant, overgrown and fenced off for years has given the local impression that developers prefer taking on greenfield sites instead. This causes local frustration which has been reiterated through later consultation with Regulation 14 comments including 'Be the first authority to insist on re-use of brown field sites' and 'the NDP should allow for a phased release of sites, preferencing brownfield sites over greenfield sites, small and medium sites over large sites; extant permitted sites over unpermitted sites, to ensure land is released in an orderly and appropriate manner, reflecting community needs, and minimising the potential for land banking of sites by developers and speculators'.



Figure 19 - New developments in Netherthong & Honley

A Housing Policy for Holme Valley

- 4.5.12 The NDP does not allocate sites; this is a function of the Local Plan. Under the new revised NPPF, paragraph 136, "*where a need for changes to Green Belt boundaries has been established through strategic policies, detailed amendments to those boundaries may be made through non-strategic policies, including neighbourhood plans.*" However, the Kirklees Local Plan has been prepared under the previous NPPF so this opportunity is not available. As and when the Local Plan is reviewed in the future, there may be an opportunity to identify amendments to Green Belt boundaries, provided this is supported by strategic planning policies.

Brownfield Sites

- 4.5.13 The Parish Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan as provided in [Appendix 7](#) highlights the role of housing and infrastructure in reducing carbon emissions and the need to 'support development of appropriate housing to suit our community needs'. Sustainable infrastructure and a reduction in the reliance on cars whilst meeting these needs has to be balanced with the importance of protecting the environmental characteristics and heritage of the Valley. Building on previously developed sites and reusing existing buildings should help to support more sustainable, resource efficient patterns of land use and support development in locations close to services and employment opportunities.
- 4.5.14 The NDP can also encourage certain types of development, such as the conversion of former mill buildings for residential use or building multi-storey houses, to reflect the traditional weaver's cottage design. It can also set standards regarding the amount of parking, encourage building close to existing settlements and public transport routes and aim to increase walking and cycling. Consideration of these matters is included in the policies on transport later in the NDP.

Parking

- 4.5.15 Parking guidelines are provided in Kirklees Council's Highways Development Delivery Planning Pre-application and Application Advice Note. This document sets

out general principles which need to be satisfied in relation to site accessibility, forecast car ownership, highway layout and the availability of existing on street parking.

Density

4.5.16 Density of housing is a crucial consideration for the valley as this affects the number of dwellings on a site and the amount of land needed. The capacity of sites in the Local Plan was calculated at a standard density of 35 dwellings per hectare throughout the district, unless a scheme for a different density had already received planning permission or has site promoter evidence justifying a different capacity. However, based on the Local Plan’s identified size of the allocated sites and number of proposed houses, it is estimated that the housing density in the Holme Valley will be approximately 30 dwellings per hectare. Lower density housing suggests larger, more expensive houses and it is generally recognised that these generate more profit for builders and higher council taxes for the Council.

House Types

4.5.17 As shown in Figure 20, the 2017 consultation identified that affordable and specifically small houses were seen as the priority required for residents. Whilst the Holme Valley has a mixed housing stock, it has a larger number of owner occupied houses than Kirklees and a lower proportion of rented accommodation. Local concerns relate to the new developments being too focused on larger houses thereby proportionally reducing the smaller units available to residents seeking to buy in the valley.

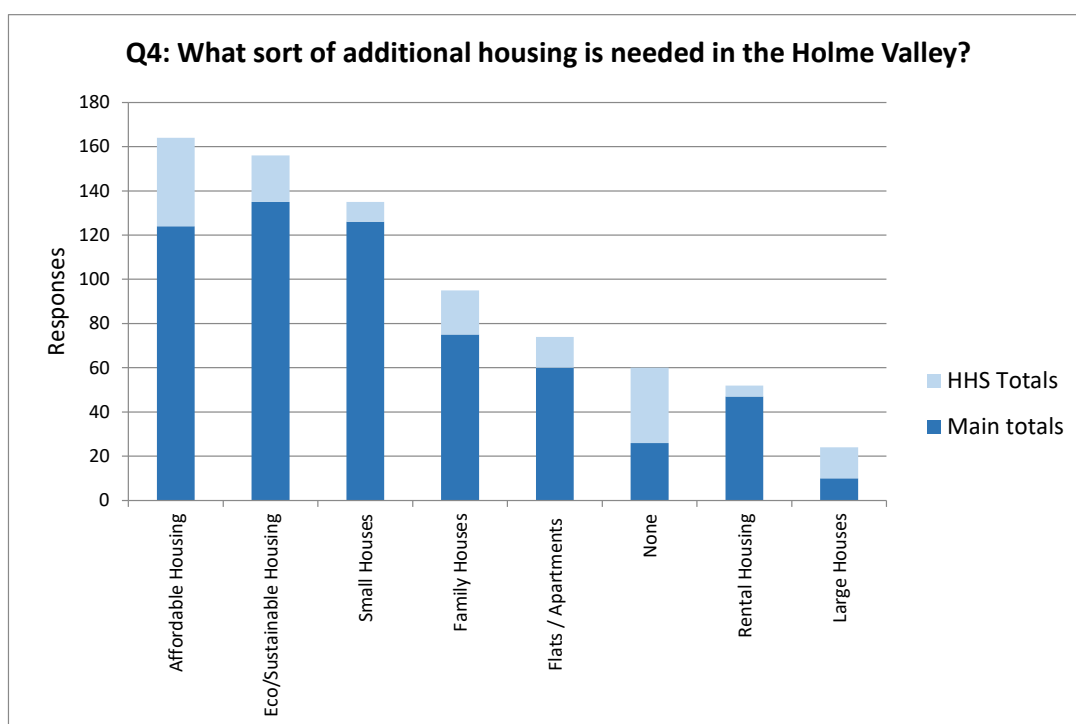


Figure 20 - Results from community consultation 2017 (HHS is Holmfirth High School students; Main is general public respondents)

4.5.18 The Kirklees Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2016 provides the latest available evidence to help to shape the future planning and housing policies of the area¹⁰. The Holme Valley NDP area falls within the Rural West sub area. Section 7 of the report sets out the Need for All Types of Housing across Kirklees. Paragraph 7.6 advises that *'the analysis indicates that there are three key dwelling types particularly required across Kirklees: 3 bedroom houses, 4+ bedroom houses and 1-2 bedroom houses in addition to ongoing development of other property types and sizes'*. In terms of older people, paragraph 7.57 sets out that *"a major strategic challenge for the Council is to ensure a range of appropriate housing provision, adaptation and support for the area's older population. The number of people across Kirklees area aged 65 or over is projected to increase by 28,600 from 71,700 in 2014 to 100,300 by 2031 (39.9% increase).'* Paragraph 7.62 goes on to say that *'by 2030, there is a need for an:*

- *additional 388 units of housing with care for rent*
- *additional 628 units for sale or shared ownership*
- *additional 291 units of provision for older people with dementia.'*

Community Right to Build

4.5.19 Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) were introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and grant planning permission for specific development in a particular area. Community organisations can bring forward a 'Community Right to Build Order' which is a type of NDO. This allows certain community organisations to bring forward smaller-scale development on a specific site, without the need for planning permission. Communities have the freedom to develop, for instance, small-scale housing and other facilities that they want. Any benefit from this development stays within the community to be used for the community's benefit, for example, to maintain affordable housing stock. Through the Regulation 14 consultation, local community group, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT) highlighted that they are currently setting up a Community Land Trust to build affordable low-energy homes in the Holme Valley. This approach is supported by the Parish Council and aligns with Kirklees' Local Plan Policy 11 which says that 'The Council will encourage proposals for custom/ self-build homes where consistent with other policies in the Local Plan'. Kirklees has a self-build and custom housebuilding register to support those individuals and associations who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in their area in order to build homes for those individuals to occupy.¹¹

4.5.20 Policy 6 aims to help ensure appropriate types of property are developed in Holme Valley. The Policy has been prepared to provide local detail to Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP3 Location of New Development and Policy LP11 Housing Mix and Affordable Housing. Policy 6 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A)

¹⁰ A Supplementary Planning Document on Housing Mix and Affordable Housing is currently in production.

¹¹ <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/selfbuild-custom-housebuilding-register.aspx>

Local Consultation

- 4.5.21 Engaging with local people before undertaking significant developments is important to ensure that any new housing fits appropriately with the established community. The Parish Council therefore encourages developers of all housing schemes of 5 or more properties to undertake public consultation with local residents and stakeholders.

Policy 6: Building Homes for the Future

General Principles

Policy 6 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A).

In addition to the housing sites allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan new housing development will be supported subject to the following considerations being met. (Recommendation 11A)

Submission Plan third paragraph deleted (Recommendation 11A)

Submission Plan clauses 1, 2 and 3 deleted (Recommendations 11B and 11D)

1. The proposed housing is located within existing settlements not overwashed by Green Belt or is for housing acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy. (Recommendation 11C)
2. Adequate parking for residents and visitors should be provided in accordance with Local Plan Policy LP22 Parking and the Council's most up to date parking guidelines in the Highway Design Guide SPD. Additional parking provision to accommodate delivery vans is encouraged to minimise additional on street parking on nearby roads. (Recommendation 11E – see Appendix 5)
3. Developments should have good access to public transport routes and encourage walking and cycling by enhancing, expanding and linking to existing routes.
4. Proposals will be expected to demonstrate that densities make best and efficient use of land and reflect local settlement character.

Proposals for residential development involving the redevelopment of previously developed (brownfield) sites or the conversion of mill buildings and other suitable buildings to create low-cost housing and apartments is particularly encouraged. (Recommendation 11B)

Proposals for the conversion of former mill buildings to residential accommodation should take opportunities to include provision for suitable commercial or employment uses as part of mixed-use schemes including live/work type accommodation. (Recommendation 11B)

House types and sizes

All housing (Recommendation 11G) development schemes should demonstrate how they address the identified local housing need

(Recommendation 11G) in terms of density, size, tenure and type of development. Schemes should provide suitable housing in response to the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

New housing developments of more than 10 houses or on sites of 0.4 hectares or greater will be supported, (Recommendation 11H) subject to aligning with other policies within the HVNDP and Kirklees Local Plan and national planning policies, where they:

1. Include a mixture of one, two and three-bedroom properties for sale and rent and (Recommendation 11J)
2. Include housing designed to meet the needs of older people and properties for first time buyers and (Recommendation 11J)
3. Provide a suitable proportion of affordable housing in line with the recommendations in the Kirklees Local Plan and the NPPF. Priority will be given to the delivery of affordable housing and maximising the potential for meeting identified local needs and local affordable needs from appropriate individual development opportunities.

New housing provided through a Community Right to Build Order (following the procedure set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations) or other community led housing project, including self-build schemes, will be particularly encouraged. (Recommendation 11K)

Policy 6 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP3 Location of new development

Policy LP11 Housing Mix and Affordable Housing.

4.6 Helping the Economy Prosper

Introduction and Background

- 4.6.1 Without economic activity, the Holme Valley is in danger of becoming a dormitory belt, with very little local employment. This could have an effect on the viability of local shops and services with fewer economically active residents staying in the valley during the day. This could also impact on traffic levels by increasing peak flows in the morning and evening rush hours.
- 4.6.2 An analysis by Holme Valley Vision in 2016 of Companies House records given in the Fame database of UK companies showed that there are currently over 1,000 registered companies operating from addresses in the Holme Valley. Of these, the majority were sole traders, self-employed or working from home. Businesses ranged from construction, motor repair, services such as hairdressing and care, catering and professional and consultancy services and some engineering. There are also shopping centres, in Holmfirth, Honley, New Mill and corner shops scattered around the Valley.
- 4.6.3 Kirklees Council, through the Local Plan have allocated employment sites, and designated priority employment areas, which are safeguarded for employment uses. However, there are very few such sites in the Valley as the concentration of employment land locally is in Honley and along the Woodhead and Huddersfield Roads in Holmfirth.
- 4.6.4 The NDP seeks to encourage the use of brownfield sites and the Valley bottom for mixed use. As well as providing employment opportunities near to the town centre (vital for its continued viability and vitality), such developments are close to people's homes and will encourage more walking, cycling and use of public transport, thus reduce reliance on the private car. Increasing opportunities for homeworking should also help to reduce the need to travel and where communication technologies support working from home, this can be an attractive option for many residents.
- 4.6.5 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP10 Supporting the Rural Economy sets out various measures which aim to improve economic performance in the rural economy, including the digital economy, small and medium sized enterprises, tourism related development and farm diversification schemes. Policy LP54 Buildings for agriculture and forestry addresses how the economy can be supported in keeping with Green Belt policy. The Peak District National Park Core Strategy Policy L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics, sets out in part B that other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted. Policies guiding tourism related development include RT1: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation, RT2: Hotels, bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation and RT3: Caravans and camping and economic development include E1: Business development in towns and villages and E2: Businesses in the countryside.
- 4.6.6 Small businesses are drivers of local employment and economic growth and have been described by a Government Minister as 'the engine of our economy, fuelling growth and employing 16 million people'. Initiatives such as 'Totally Locally' are

based on the premise that local shops and services create 'strong, vibrant towns and sustainable local economies'. Businesses across the Holme Valley support initiatives which celebrate and promote local spending such as the Holmfirth 'Flip N Save Booklet' and Christmas Elf Trails.

- 4.6.7 The rapid growth in the digital economy presents considerable opportunities for areas such as the Holme Valley. Greater and faster improvements in broadband and mobile connections are essential for local businesses to realise their potential for growth and the creation of more job opportunities. This is being suggested by the newly formed Pennine Cloud company, Pennine Pound initiatives and local representation on the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.6.8 The 2017 consultation responses indicated that small business enterprises were well represented with manufacturing/skilled work and service creative industries also being favoured. Residents expressed the desire to improve the local economy by 'encouraging local makers and business people', 'digital economy jobs' and 'traditional jobs that link to our roots and high-tech jobs that protect future employment'. This confirmed the results of earlier surveys undertaken amongst residents, young people and local businesses by the Holme Valley Vision network over recent years. Retaining this mix of local opportunities for local people is important whilst recognising that the valley's location in the centre of a triangle of the key Northern cities of Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield makes it attractive to those working in those conurbations. The challenge is to have a local economy which offers choice of employment at the same time as encouraging those who earn out of the Valley to spend in the Valley. Loyalty schemes for some local shops and services and strong local business initiatives such as the Honley Business Association help sustain the networks and promote awareness of what is available in the Valley to local residents.

A Policy for Tourism and the Visitor Economy

- 4.6.9 As a visitor destination, Holmfirth is an internationally known brand, and the Valley is renowned for its stunning countryside and character as well as being the setting for the long running television series, Last of the Summer Wine. The duration of the programme and its international popularity still draws visitors from the UK and abroad. The Holme Valley is the key tourist draw in the Kirklees area and whilst historically this was tourist tours for TV shows, it now attracts a much wider range of visitors. Formal attractions such as the Picturedrome, Holmfirth Vineyard, cafes, restaurants and art courses are balanced by informal attractions such as the beautiful countryside, sports opportunities and attractive built heritage.
- 4.6.10 Alongside occasional events such as the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race which will pass through the valley for the third time since its inception in 2015, the area's programme of regular festivals and events such as the Holmfirth Festival of Folk, Honley Show, Holmfirth Art Week, Holmfirth Arts Festival and Holmfirth Food & Drink Festival draw large numbers of visitors. People also come simply for a day out and to make use of the many high-quality cafes and restaurants as well as the high number of independent retailers. The area clearly has an appeal to a range of visitors with the

latest festival addition being the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival which is being organised in the valley in June 2020.



Figure 21 - Tour de Yorkshire 2017 & The Picturedrome

- 4.6.11 Developing Holmfirth's visitor appeal will create more local jobs, provide facilities for local people and contribute to Kirklees' overall economy. In 2015 it was estimated that there were 9.78 million day and overnight visits to the district with an estimated value of £258.18 million. It is not known how much the Holme Valley contributes to the Kirklees total, but the area has the assets and potential to grow the visitor economy. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to support the ongoing development of suitable tourist and visitor facilities within the valley whilst not compromising on the quality of the offer. It therefore includes a range of policies which protect the unique character of the area and sense of place and a more sustainable future for local residents, groups and businesses.
- 4.6.12 One element of encouraging tourism is supporting a distinctive identity for the area either led by the internationally known Holmfirth or the wider Holme Valley. As outlined by Historic England in their Heritage Counts 2016 paper, "Creating places where people want to live, work and visit is a challenge and one that place-making aims to address. Place-making includes regeneration, development, design and community building. While the concept is one that is well used, often overlooked in place-making is the importance of managing the identity of a place and the value of communicating the strengths of a place."
- 4.6.13 This research explains that "Place branding focuses on developing, communicating and managing the perception of a place and is often used interchangeably with the term 'place marketing'. Place brands build on the distinctiveness, character and unique identity of a place." Heritage is an important part of this as "Heritage highlights the unique character of a place and plays an important part in shaping peoples' perceptions and authentic experiences of a place. It has the potential to form a key element of place brands by providing authenticity, distinctiveness and credibility to place brands." This shows that building on the Holme Valley's existing character and celebrating and promoting it is an essential part of helping not only build a stronger local community but also a more vibrant and successful economy. Encouraging the continued range of independent shops rather than national 'chain stores' also helps support the unique character of the Valley and through 'buying local' keeps a higher proportion of the economic benefit within the Valley. Several actions have been

identified for the Parish Council, working with other bodies, to progress ideas for 'place making' and to improve the visitor experience by addressing opening hours and problems with litter.

- 4.6.14 We have therefore developed Policy 7 to support business generation in the valley. This includes recognising the different elements associated with providing desirable tourist and visitor attractions to boost the local economy. Policy 7 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A).

Policy 7: Supporting Economic Activity

Policy 7 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. (Recommendation 1A).

Supporting Businesses in the Holme Valley

In addition to site allocations in the Kirklees Local Plan, proposals will be supported which result in the creation or sustainable expansion of existing and new businesses¹² (other than retail businesses covered in NDP Policy 8), (Recommendation 12A) particularly those defined¹³ as micro (sole traders or those with fewer than ten employees) or small (ten to fifty employees). (Recommendation 12A)

Such proposals will be supported where the following all apply:

1. The site is located outside the Green Belt or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy; (Recommendation 12B)
2. The proposal supports new business investment or the expansion of an existing business; (Recommendation 12C)
Submission Plan clause 3 deleted (Recommendation 12D)
3. The site can be connected to the existing highway network and will not result in severe adverse traffic impacts on surrounding roads; (Recommendation 12E)
4. The site is large enough to accommodate car parking, service areas and landscaped areas appropriate to the scale of the business; (Recommendation 12F)
5. The proposals recognise the overall aim to reduce carbon emissions through sustainable design and promoting access by walking, cycling and public transport.
Submission Plan clause 6 deleted (Recommendation 12G)

Business development which involves the sensitive conversion or redevelopment of existing buildings or makes use of a previously developed site will be particularly encouraged. (Recommendation 12D)

Supporting Homeworking

Proposals which promote the role of home-working within the economy will be supported. These include, where planning permission is required, improvements to broadband and telecommunications infrastructure and extensions (Recommendation 12H) to existing residential dwellings which are subsidiary to the main dwelling, subject to other policies in the NDP, Kirklees adopted Local Plan Policies LP10 and LP20 and national planning policies.

Development proposals should incorporate suitable infrastructure to support integrated communication technologies as part of the initial design process.

Encouraging Tourist and Visitor Facilities

Proposals that contribute to and strengthen the visitor and tourist economy of Holme Valley will be supported. These include the creation of new accommodation and tourism facilities through the conversion of existing buildings or associated with existing attractions and new development, where proposals are acceptable having regard to other local and national policies.

All proposals must demonstrate how they meet the following specific criteria:

1. The site is located outside the Green Belt or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy. (Recommendation 12J).
2. Development for new and of existing caravan, chalet, camping, cabin or lodge style developments, or other visitor accommodation, may be supported where they:

Submission Plan Clause a) and f) deleted (Recommendation 12K)

 - a) Contribute to improving the offer to tourists;
 - b) Are appropriately screened;
 - c) Provide adequate car parking spaces;
 - d) Are accessible to people with disabilities;
 - e) Do not generate traffic movements of a scale and type likely to have severe adverse impact on highway safety and efficiency; and (Recommendation 12L)
 - f) Mitigate any adverse impact on the capacity of road, sewerage or other infrastructure (Recommendation 12M)

Policy 7 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP10 Supporting the rural economy

Policy LP54 Buildings for agriculture and forestry

¹² The definition of a business is an organisation which produces and sells goods or which provides a service (Collins Dictionary 2020)

¹³ Taken from the EU's definitions of small or medium-sized enterprises in EU Recommendation 2003/361



Figure 22 - Honley centre & Holmfirth Food & Drink Festival

Holme Valley Parish Actions 16 -17

Parish Actions relating to the local economy are set out in Appendix 1. (Recommendation 1B)



Figure 23 - Board on the Holme Valley Riverside Way & Dancers in Victoria Park at Holmfirth Festival of Folk



Figure 24 - Holmfirth Arts Festival Parade & the Honley Show

Town Centres

- 4.6.15 Kirklees Local Plan Strategy Policy LP13 Town Centre Uses identifies the hierarchy of town centres. Holmfirth is defined as a Town Centre, with a town centre boundary, with primary and secondary shopping frontages. Honley is identified as a district centre also with a defined boundary. Brockholes and New Mill are defined as local centres. Other Local Plan policies which apply include Policy LP14 Shopping Frontages, Policy LP15 Residential Use in Town Centres, and Policy LP16 Food and Drink Uses and the Evening Economy. Permitted Development Rights mean that some changes of use, such as for the change of use from retail to residential do not require planning permission.
- 4.6.16 Holmfirth has had a privileged insight into trends and patterns of town centre change through its involvement in the Government funded “Big Data for Small Users” project run by Manchester Metropolitan University and the Institute of Place Management. Footfall, sales and vacancy rates in Holmfirth have been recorded throughout the year, highlighting patterns for comparison with other towns across the UK. Overall, the research has revealed that many towns are failing to adapt to the new expectations of residents and visitors and the future of retail and the High Street will be fundamentally different. This will lead to a re-thinking of the purpose of town centres as they transition from being a place where people go to acquire goods to being a place where they go to meet others, access shops, facilities and services, work, have a leisure experience and live. As town centres give an area identity and a focal point, it is essential that they adapt in line with changing demands and expectations of the people who live in and around them.
- 4.6.17 Holmfirth has monitored footfall and vacancy rates since 2017 through the Big Data Springboard project and whilst its vacancy rate has remained very low at a level of only 2.8% in October 2019 comparing favourably to 10% national average, its footfall has been in steady decline. The town has a very high level of independent retailers standing at 85.7% compared to a UK average of 37.5% and its identity comes from its mix of independent shops, cafes and services and the many events that take place during the year, as well as its historic character. It is worth noting that between 2009 and 2012, there was fierce opposition led by lobby group ‘Keep Holmfirth Special’ to the proposed building of an out-of-town supermarket in Holmfirth due to concerns about its impact on the viability of the shops within the town. It was a divisive issue with the balance between convenience and the impact on the community debated at length. The application was finally refused on highways grounds but slightly smaller supermarkets along the Woodhead Road have subsequently been constructed. Local people do value the independent retailers with the 2017 informal consultation including comments about the specific features which should be protected including ‘small town independent shops and pubs, not obviously big corporate chains’ and ‘[we need] affordable units appropriate and convenient for local specialities: leather work, forges, jewellers as well as baker, butcher and grocery stores’. Whilst others in the Regulation 14 consultation stated that ‘Holmfirth needs more ‘proper’ shops – not charity shops and cafes’, sustaining a mix of town centre uses is challenging for any town and economic viability is dependent on having a mix of retail, residential and commercial activities which draw people in.

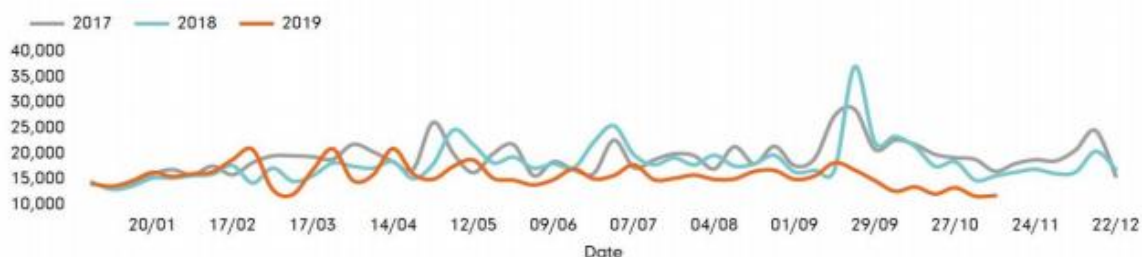


Figure 25 - Footfall trends in Holmfirth Town Centre (Springboard Research for Big Data Project, 2019)

4.6.18 Holmfirth’s successful image should be protected and promoted. More needs to be done to encourage new businesses that will contribute to both the day and evening economy as well as enabling the town centre to diversify and adapt. This imperative applies equally to Honley and may mean, in future, that the balance between retail, commercial and residential will have to shift from the 70% traditional town centre uses in primary shopping areas. The role of community facilities such as libraries, education facilities and large buildings such as the Holmfirth Civic Hall and former Adult Education Institute, now called the Tech, in offering places for people to meet, learn and socialise complements economic functions within the town centres. More detail is given about these and other facilities in section 4.7.



Figure 26 - Local businesses in Holmfirth & Honley

The Night Time Economy

4.6.19 The retail and business mix in the town and local centres has changed over time as the economy has shifted away from manufacturing towards knowledge industries and the service sector. This has resulted in a growing night-time economy in Holmfirth and Honley comprising a range of restaurants and bars. Holme Valley Vision’s Residents Survey of 2,640 people in 2012 identified that two-thirds of people felt that the town centres were ‘good places to visit for nightlife / evening entertainment’. Since 2012, the number of bars and restaurants has increased with an old bank and derelict building being converted into eateries.

4.6.20 In Holmfirth, the Picturedrome draws in hundreds of visitors from across the region to music events. This has shifted footfall patterns with shops bringing in visitors in the daytime and the range of eateries attracting a different clientele in the evening.

In practice, this has an impact on the nature of both Holmfirth and Honley in the evening with later opening hours and a greater vibrancy through the weekend with quieter periods in the week.

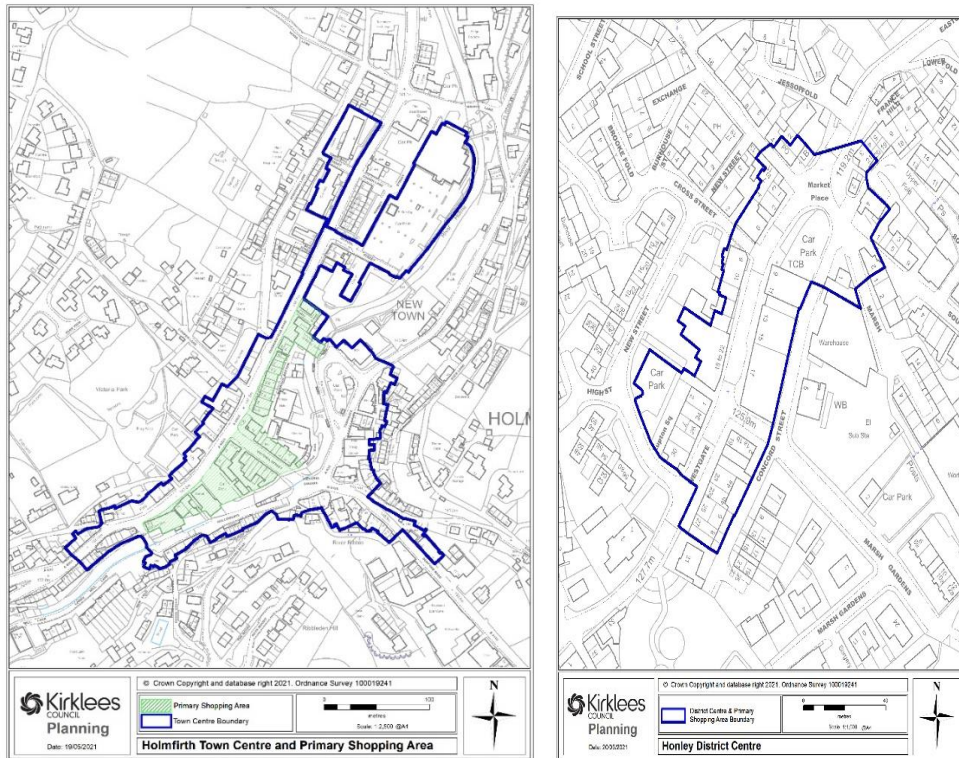
- 4.6.21 Whilst the NDP welcomes the diversity of the night-time economy and the growth of high quality evening destinations for visitors and residents, we need to be mindful of the negative consequences that this can bring. This is particularly important for residents who live within the town centres and the potential increase in littering and anti-social behaviour. We therefore encourage control over opening hours and expect new developments to manage litter reduction.
- 4.6.22 The Night Time economy is considered in the Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP16 Food and Drink Uses and the Evening Economy. Paragraph 9.32 sets out the *'The growth in food and drink premises has also led to an increase in outdoor areas for eating, drinking and socialising. Whilst adding vibrancy to a centre, this can lead to detrimental impacts for local amenity depending on their use and hours of operation. Such developments therefore require careful consideration, and the policy seeks to ensure that such uses are appropriate for their location. Mitigation measures that could be used to make development acceptable through applying the appropriate conditions dependent on circumstances of the particular scheme include the following:*
- *Changes to the design/layout to remove 'pinch points' e.g. narrow passageways and stairwells and ensuring no hiding places are created or are available*
 - *Changes to external layout such as gating off alleyways to prevent loitering and inappropriate behaviour*
 - *Security standards of doors and windows*
 - *Improvement or introduction of exterior lighting*
 - *CCTV coverage for inside and to the immediate exterior of the premises*
 - *Management of the premises such as opening hours and/or having supervisory staff.'*
- 4.6.23 The following policy, Policy 8 relates to development within the hierarchy of centres and should be read in conjunction with the NDP Policy 4 relating to shop fronts, advertisements and Policy 5 which addresses the public realm. The provision of NDP policy 2 should also be considered as both Holmfirth and Honley centres are within conservation areas.

Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres

- 4.6.24 Within Brockholes and New Mill, there are small shops and services concentrated together which perform an important function serving each of the local areas. These have both been defined as Local Centres in the Kirklees Local Plan. They include a convenience store for top-up shopping along with a mix of other services such as health and beauty salons, hot food takeaways and pubs.
- 4.6.25 The role of Local Centres is to provide for top-up shopping and local services particularly food and drink as set out in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13. Development within them should be appropriate in scale to complement and support existing businesses in the centre and the visitor experience.

4.6.26 Residential areas are immediately adjacent to these local centres and there are some residential properties intermixed with the shops and services. It is therefore important that any development protects or mitigates against any impacts on residential amenity. (Recommendation 13K)

Primary shopping areas of Holmfirth and Honley Map 18



Policy 8: Facilitating Development in Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District Centre and Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres

Within Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District Centre, development for retail, leisure, office, commercial, cultural and tourism and other main town centre uses¹⁴ will be encouraged where they help enhance the viability and vibrancy of the centres.

Development proposals in town, district and local centres will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. New developments and changes of use should complement existing provision and ensure that the town, district or local centre offer provides a range of uses appropriate for the relevant type of centre. Care should also be taken to ensure that development does not adversely affect other amenities and facilities, such as open and green space.
2. Proposals should be designed to secure easy pedestrian access and cycle and car parking to standard (including electric vehicle charging points). The development should be within easy walking distance of public transport facilities, use clear signage and provide facilities for the disposal of litter. (Recommendation 13B)
3. Retail development should be located in the primary shopping areas of Holmfirth and Honley as defined in Map 18. If retail development is to take place outside the primary shopping areas proposals will be subject to the sequential test¹⁵. (Recommendation 13C)
4. The reuse of upper floors for residential use will be supported subject to the use being compatible with ground floor commercial uses. (Recommendation 13D)
5. Distinctive and detailed historic architectural features of buildings should be retained and enhanced in accordance with HVNDP Policies 2 and 4. (Recommendation 13E)

Submission Plan paragraphs beginning 'Within the primary shopping areas...' and 'Proposals which would lead.' deleted. (Recommendation 13A)

Within Brockholes and New Mill local centres, development for top-up shopping and local services, particularly food and drink as set out in Local Plan Policy LP13, will be considered acceptable in principle providing:

6. They are of an appropriate scale in relation to the other units within the local centre (Recommendation 13G); and
7. The amenities of local or adjoining residents or users are protected or suitable mitigation measures are provided to address any adverse

impacts on residential amenity resulting from additional noise, smell and visual intrusion. (Recommendation 13H)

Policy 8 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP13 Town Centre Uses

Policy LP14 Shopping frontages

Policy LP15 Residential use in town centres

Policy LP16 Food and drink uses and the evening economy

¹⁴ NPPF Glossary: Main town centre uses: Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment and more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

¹⁵ The 'sequential test' is a "planning principle that seeks to identify, allocate or develop certain types or locations of land before others. For example, brownfield housing sites before greenfield sites, or town centre retail sites before out-of-centre sites.

4.7 Community, Education, Health and Well-being

- 4.7.1 The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of services that affect the well-being of local residents and the quality of their lives. These are referred to in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP47 Healthy, Active and Safe Lifestyles, Policy LP48 Community Facilities and Services, Policy LP49 Educational and Health Care Needs and Policy LP50 Sport and Physical Activity.

Community Facilities

- 4.7.2 Community facilities are defined as facilities which are of value to the local community and they will be protected, developed and enhanced wherever possible. This could be shops, meeting places, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship but could also include emergency services and statutory services. It is therefore not defined by ownership with both privately and publicly run provision included. This Neighbourhood Plan has therefore regarded community facilities as a broad category which can include any facility actively used by a number of people living in the Holme Valley.



Figure 27 - Honley Feast & Sands Recreation Ground

- 4.7.3 At the moment, the Holme Valley is fortunate to have a good range of local community facilities. These include village halls, a swimming pool and sports facilities (both public and privately provided), recreation grounds and sports fields, tennis and cricket clubs, children's play areas, churches, village pubs and good schools. Young people have identified, however, that there is a need for better provision for teenagers and young adults. The 2017 consultation responses from the Holmfirth High School students were particularly clear that they viewed facilities for young people as limited. Comments about what additional services were needed included 'A trampoline park and more things for teenagers to do' and 'more youth clubs'.
- 4.7.4 It is clear that community facilities are important to residents of the Holme Valley given the recent asset transfers of the Holmfirth Civic Hall and Wooldale Community Centre and the imminent transfer of Honley library. It is interesting to note that in the 2017 consultation, 55 responses said that no facilities were missing in the Valley with one respondent saying, 'The Valley meets all my needs' and another saying 'Nothing [is missing] that cannot be found within half an hour's drive'. The Holme Valley has a larger number of local facilities and it must be recognised that whilst having larger

facilities available nearby can be desirable, in practice, the viability of large sports venues, conference centres, specialist healthcare etc. depend on the larger population of the urban conurbations of the cities. It is therefore important that a balance is struck between what can and should be provided locally and how access can be improved to allow residents of the valley to readily travel to larger provision wider afield.

- 4.7.5 There is a growing need for facilities to meet the needs of the elderly population who may be less mobile and have greater needs for locally based services and facilities. The Holme Valley has an ageing demographic as shown in the census figures from 2011 and local access particularly to healthcare and leisure opportunities to maintain social networks is important.

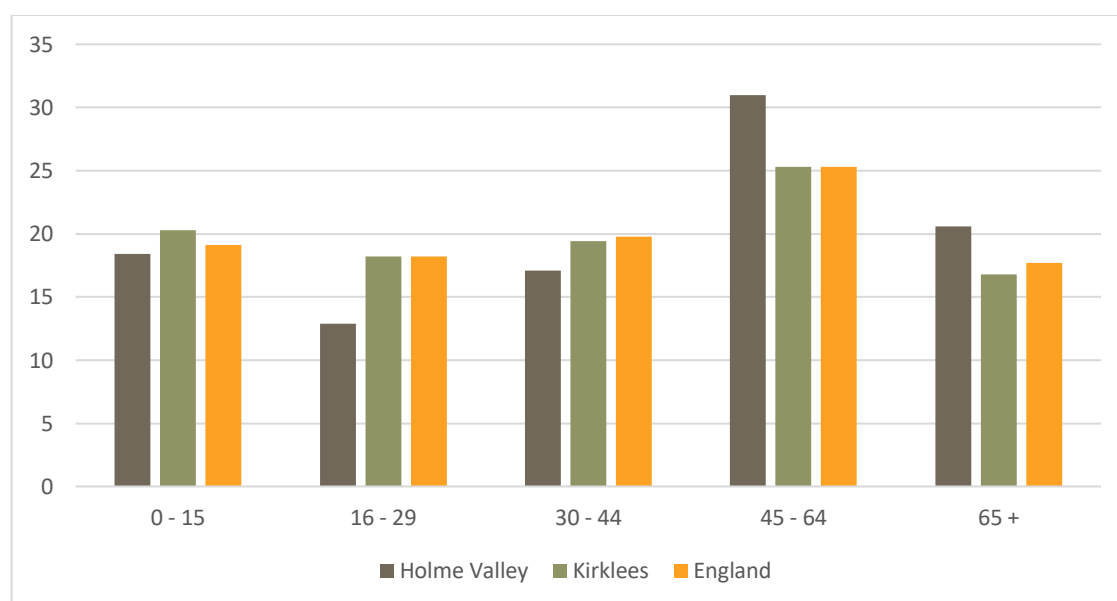


Figure 28 - 2011 Census data showing the percentage of each age group in the Holme Valley

- 4.7.6 As well as protecting existing facilities, the Plan could support investment and development of new facilities in areas of housing growth.
- 4.7.7 There are also a number of disused or underused buildings in the Holme Valley which have the potential for their re-use for purposes that would have benefits for local people. In 2019, the former Adult Education Institute in Holmfirth was reopened by a newly established Community Benefit Society as 'Holmfirth Tech' and this successfully secured the mothballed building from Kirklees College in May 2020. This positive step to utilise the building has clearly fulfilled a local demand as it is already in daily use for regular music, art and social groups alongside providing desk space for local businesses.

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.7.8 As recognised in Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, the area has a wealth of local community facilities and these are regarded as extremely valuable to the area. One community group, for example, outlined that 'protecting community facilities which

are a focal point in each village should be more than an ambition... it should be an uncompromising and determined commitment'. It also recognised the need to 'develop close working relationships with community groups as... it is impossible to separate community facilities from those groups and volunteers which run them'. Recognition of the role of both physical resources in terms of buildings and locations alongside the human resources of volunteers and expertise to utilise facilities is a key part of sustaining community assets. In fact, the larger percentage of retired people in the Holme Valley (just over 20% (Recommendation 21) all residents were aged 65 or over in 2011 as opposed to 15.2% in Kirklees as a whole)¹⁶ potentially creates a wider pool of volunteers who may be able to offer their time and expertise to support the ongoing development of these facilities.

- 4.7.9 Resident feedback from the pre Regulation 14 consultation identified the importance of making effective use of community facilities: one respondent observed that 'we cannot ossify the past: market halls, village halls, schools, churches not required should be closed'. The Holme Valley has such a range of facilities both old and new and the challenge is identifying the best way to sustain them in a way that cherishes the past whilst recognising and embracing the potentially different uses of the future. Another respondent commented that 'local community facilities should not only be protected but also be enhanced and further developed to meet the needs of all residents and visitors'. The Neighbourhood Plan has therefore not sought to identify a comprehensive list of locations but instead provides examples of what we regard as community facilities.
- 4.7.10 Community facilities are defined as facilities which are of value to the local community and they will be protected and enhanced where possible. They are recognised as an essential part of providing accessible and varied services for the area. For the purposes of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan this includes buildings and open spaces. Examples of the types of building and facility that fall under this category include but are not limited to:
- Village Halls
 - Civic Halls
 - Community Centres
 - Churches
 - Libraries
 - Parks and Gardens
 - Recreation grounds and facilities
 - Leisure facilities
 - Village Greens
 - Schools, colleges and adult education facilities
 - Market Halls
 - Doctors Surgeries
 - Medical services
 - Cultural and performance venues. (Recommendation 14E)
- 4.7.11 Community facilities ultimately provide a venue to offer a service and we have therefore sought to create a policy (Policy 9) which highlights their importance in

¹⁶ 2011 Census

facilitating groups and services to run. These are essential parts of building a community and are particularly evident in supporting high quality education, health and wellbeing in the valley.



Figure 29 - Holmfirth Civic Hall & Upperthong Cricket Club

Education, Health and Wellbeing

- 4.7.12 The Holme Valley has 13 Primary Schools: Holmfirth J&I, Upperthong J&I, Hinchliffe Mill J&I, Netherthong Primary, Kirkroyds Infants, Wooldale Juniors, Holme J&I, Scholes J&I, Hade Edge J&I, Brockholes J&I, Hepworth J&I, Honley Infants, Honley Juniors. It also has two Secondary Schools: Holmfirth High School and Honley High School.
- 4.7.13 The Primary school provision generally consists of small community-based schools of either half, one or two forms per year and the retention of schools within the existing villages is strongly supported. Whilst there has been recent pressure on school places, the advice from Kirklees through their 'Securing Sufficient High-Quality Learning and Childcare Places' 2015-2018 has been that there is forecast to be a decline in school age population across the Valley in the future. The future trend for local schools is therefore a declining number of pupils, not a shortage of school places. For the reception in-take of 2017, only two schools within the Holme Valley area were over-subscribed with all pupils living within their catchment accommodated. This downward trend in child population is expected to continue and with the current approach to funding schools per pupil, this will put pressure on school budgets.
- 4.7.14 This is a challenge for the Local Education Authority, but it should be noted that it runs counter to the local perception that schools are 'already full' since the classes for older pupils reflect the population bulge of the past. The proposed level of housing development in the Valley may fill some of the places and cause small areas of pressure on the education system but overall, the valley's schools should be able to accommodate the predicted population growth. This is particularly as the growth in population within Kirklees is expected proportionately to change more at the older end of the demographic. This is visible on Kirklees 'Factsheet 2016 on Population and Households' as shown below.

Kirklees projected population 2015 - 2025

	2015 No	%	2020 No	%	2025 No	%	Change from 2014 %
0 - 4	28,600	7	28,400	6	28,900	6	1
5 - 15	59,400	14	62,800	14	63,600	14	7
16 - 24	51,000	12	50,200	11	51,300	11	1
25 - 44	112,500	26	113,200	25	115,800	25	3
45 - 64	109,700	25	113,600	25	113,400	25	3
65 - 84	64,400	15	70,400	16	76,400	17	19
85+	8,800	2	9,800	2	12,300	3	37
All Ages	434,300	100	448,500	100	461,500	100	6

Source: ONS revised 2014 - based Subnational population projections, ONS Mid Year Estimate 2015 Columns may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 30 - Predicted percentage growth in each age group

- 4.7.15 Policy LP49 of the Kirklees Local Plan reflects the need for development to support suitable school places and appropriate healthcare provision. The Parish Council recognises that the existing provision of small primary schools serving local areas both reduces the need to travel and are an important part of the social sustainability of communities.
- 4.7.16 The Neighbourhood Plan supports this policy but also recognises that education is not just for children and providing learning opportunities for all is a vital part of supporting a vibrant community. A number of Parish Council Actions are identified in the HVNDP to support projects which promote lifelong learning and improvements to health and community facilities provision. Local groups such as the Women's Institute, University of the Third Age (U3A), Sports Clubs, and groups such as the Phoenix Owls or Civic Society all offer opportunities to meet, socialise and learn new skills. As already outlined, having a range of community facilities is important to support the provision of these activities and the NDP will support the principle of life-long learning.
- 4.7.17 Learning opportunities can be accessed within the valley through a physical or virtual space and the provision of residential high-speed broadband is an important means of supporting this. In addition, it is important to retain facilities for internet facilities for young and old alike through continuing computer provision in public libraries and youth clubs alongside the encouragement of wi-fi in local cafes. Kirklees Council announced in 2019 that they were working to extend its full fibre network to offer high speed broadband through Cityfibre within Huddersfield. The NDP is keen to support its further delivery into the Holme Valley in the future.
- 4.7.18 In addition, learning opportunities may be further afield and retaining access to provision of both over 16 education and adult education through effective transport infrastructure and specifically public transport is essential. This is covered in more detail in the transport section of the NDP.

- 4.7.19 In light of the Holme Valley's ageing population, it is particularly important that action is taken to retain suitable healthcare provision in the Valley and measures are taken to avoid social isolation. The Valley has three GP surgeries and the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital which offers services such as day surgery and school health. The NDP supports the continuing provision of these services and in light of concern over the proposed changes to the healthcare provision of Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, any opportunities to provide minor surgery clinics or similar within the valley would be welcomed.
- 4.7.20 There are a large number of community and voluntary groups based within the Holme Valley undertaking a huge range of different activities such as environmental projects (Earthworks – New Mill Community Garden), music groups (brass bands, ukulele groups), sports teams (football, rugby, tennis) and art projects to counter social isolation (Friend to Friend). In addition, the array of events and festivals in the Valley are predominantly organised by volunteers. Residents responding to the pre Regulation 14 consultation commented that 'Holmfirth Arts Festival, Folk Festival etc. should be encouraged and supported. They make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of local residents as well as contributing to the local economy' and 'I'd like to see buildings other than schools (such as pubs, warehouses, restaurants etc.) being used to support and promote health and wellbeing out of normal trading hours'.
- 4.7.21 As now recognised, improving connectivity with the natural world can also help reduce mental health problems and this is linked with our policy on building a sustainable future for the valley. The NDP therefore supports proposals to increase opportunities for all ages to access both the built and natural environment. This includes encouraging access to local green spaces to enable 'Forest School' learning in the valley. 'Forest School' is child-centred learning that takes place in a woodland or natural environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world and is already offered by qualified practitioners in local schools such as Upperthong Junior & Infant School.
- 4.7.22 Kirklees Council's Living Play 2020 Draft Playable Spaces Strategy sets out in section 3.1 Increasing diversity of play, that *'Forest Schools are becoming increasingly popular in Kirklees as the importance of wild play and a child's connections with nature are appreciated. By providing more natural environments for play, not only are potential platforms for Forest Schools increased so too are the opportunities for children to re-enact and further explore wild play as well as allowing them the opportunity to share their experiences with others.'*
- 4.7.23 The Strategy also sets out in paragraph 4.1.1.2 Across Kirklees, that *'while a reviewed approach to play may see a reduction in manufactured play equipment across the district and less 'designated' play areas, there will be an increase in natural play provisions and this will result in more natural looking landscapes. Implementation of the strategy will result in an increase in play quality and more play opportunities which will provide more learning opportunities throughout Kirklees. Encouraging 'wild' play and providing more natural playable spaces will not only make nature more accessible, it will increase the biodiversity and the ecological base of Kirklees. Increasing areas of natural play areas will increase the level of through-age play provisions within Kirklees, providing more play opportunities for older generations and more multi-generational opportunities.'*

- 4.7.24 Kirklees Local Plan Open Space Study 2015 (Revised 2016) Open Space Assessment Report notes that there are deficiencies in several types of open space provision in the two wards of Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South. Paragraph 7.10 notes that *'The most notable deficiencies in the provision of amenity greenspace are in the Huddersfield and Kirklees Rural areas. The greatest deficiencies are in the Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South wards with only 0.01 and 0.05 hectares of amenity greenspace per 1,000 population. However, other types of open space, such playing fields, parks, recreation grounds also play an important role both in terms of their physical and aesthetic value and thereby providing important amenity benefits.'* Paragraph 8.12 goes on to advise that *'The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) suggests there is a high demand for allotment provision in the Lindley and Greenhead areas of Huddersfield, and in the Colne Valley and Holme Valley in the Kirklees Rural area.* Table 8.2: Provision of allotments compared to the district wide quantity standard (0.5 ha per 1,000 households) identifies deficiencies in Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South Wards. Table 11.4: Summary of Open Space Deficiencies in the Kirklees Rural area identifies deficiencies for Holme Valley North and South Wards in natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotments.
- 4.7.25 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP61 Urban Green Space seeks to protect urban green spaces as identified on the Policies Map from development. The designated Urban Green Space in the Holme Valley Parish is included in Section 14 of the Kirklees Local Plan Allocations and Designations. This list is reproduced in Appendix 6.
- 4.7.26 In addition to the identified Urban Green Spaces, there are other means of protection for existing spaces such as Cliff Recreation Ground which is a 'Field in Trust'. This offers it legal protection in perpetuity through a Deed of Dedication and an active group of volunteers, Friends of Cliff Rec, organise local events and activities to make use of this open and scenic heathland above Holmfirth.
- 4.7.27 Participation in the community and access to open space helps support both physical and emotional well-being and the NDP supports the continuing provision of these usually locally driven activities and projects and providing suitable facilities to accommodate them. Our local community facilities policy reflects their importance.

Policy 9: Protecting and Enhancing Local Community Facilities

Community facilities of value to the local community as listed in paragraph 4.7.10 will be protected and retained for community use. Development or change of use proposals involving their loss will be managed in accordance with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP48. (Recommendation 14A)

Where the proposal involves a community facility listed as an Asset of Community Value on a Community Assets Register the community must first be given the opportunity to acquire the asset to continue its operation before planning permission for an alternative use or development can be granted. (Recommendation 14B)

Education, Health and Community Learning

1. Proposals to create, expand or alter schools will be supported, particularly where the proposal will assist the retention of small community-based schools. (Recommendation 14C)
2. The expansion of health provision in the Valley will be supported.
3. Proposals to expand the provision of Forest Schools and natural play environments, and to improve provision of accessible natural and semi natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotments, will be supported subject to being in accordance with HVNDP Policy 12 and Policies LP31, and LP63 of the Kirklees Local Plan. (Recommendation 14D)

Policy 9 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP47 Healthy, active and safe lifestyles,
 Policy LP48 Community facilities and services,
 Policy LP49 Educational and health care needs
 Policy LP50 Sport and physical activity

Holme Valley Parish Actions 18 -21

Parish Actions relating to community facilities are set out in Appendix 1. (Recommendation 1B)



Figure 31 - View of and from Cliff Rec

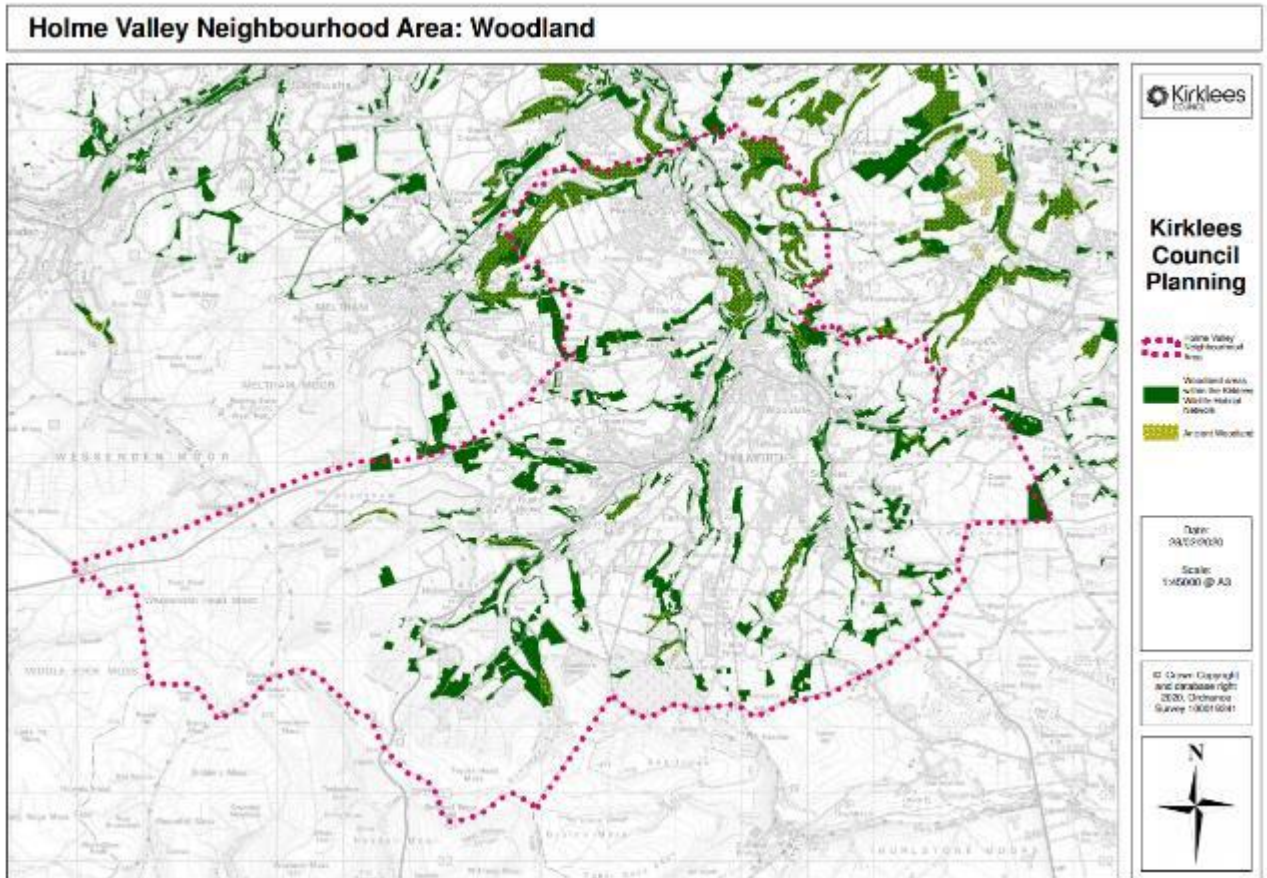
Areas of Woodland

- 4.7.28 Ancient woodland is also given particular protection with the 2018 National Planning Policy Framework stating that “development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons”. Kirklees already expressed its commitment to the value of woodlands through its Trees and Woodland Strategy and the principles of protecting existing trees and extending tree cover are supported by this NDP. Map 19 below identifies that the NDP area is dotted with areas of valuable deciduous and ancient woodland. They often coincide with the river corridors which local charity River Holme Connections is striving hard to enhance and protect. It also illustrates areas in the valley where grants have been awarded over recent years through the Government’s Woodland Grant Scheme. These include small and large areas across the valley but most notably in the southern areas, where tree planting is underway. A local community group, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT), is currently working with local landowners and school groups to plant native trees supplied both by the Woodland Trust and by local people growing them from seed. The Parish Council Climate Emergency Action Plan also states that it will ‘encourage the planning and management of more trees and woodlands in our Valley for carbon sequestration’ and River Holme Connections has already planted 4,773 native trees and hedges across the area in the winter of 2019/2020. This demonstrates local commitment to the woodlands which are valued as a ‘green’ resource in the valley.



Figure 32 - Local tree planting

Map 19 Key Woodland Areas in the Holme Valley



Local Green Space

- 4.7.29 A NDP can identify areas of land known as Local Green Space. This is space which is of particular local significance and should be protected from new development in a similar way to Green Belt protection. The plan has to set out clearly the justification for such areas if they are to be protected. The NPPF paragraph 100 sets out that:
- 'The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:
- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.'
- 4.7.30 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP62 Local green space seeks to protect identified areas of Local Green Space from development, giving them the same level of protection as Green Belt. There are no Local Green Space designations within the Holme Valley so local people were asked to identify sites that should be afforded protection so that the NDP could identify any appropriate sites.
- 4.7.31 The 2017 consultation identified a large number of different parks and green spaces which were important to residents. These included formal parks such as Sands Recreation Ground with its skate park, football pitches and swimming pool and various playgrounds and other green spaces. However, many residents said that formal facilities were not the only green spaces they valued with one respondent saying, 'even the daffodils on the verges are important' and another saying they wanted a 'place where you can bike ride, horse ride and do things like that'. 'Green fields, woodlands and fields near my house' were cited by respondents so the overall message was that green space either in an informal or formal setting is valued by local people and should not be developed without sufficient engagement with the local community.
- 4.7.32 The Pre-Regulation 14 consultation question about Local Green Space produced many replies advocating the protection of woodland with identified locations such as Hagg Wood and Honley Wood. However these are already protected through separate designation as Local Wildlife Sites and afforded protection under Local Plan policy LP30 so do not need to be given protection as designated areas of Local Green Space. In the same consultation, respondents were asked to identify potential Local Green Spaces and 155 different responses were given with a variety of specific spaces proposed and others seeking to protect all green spaces: 'There is so little left, all is of enormous importance'. The Steering Group considered all the locations and identified 12 for discussion and review against the NPPF criteria given above.
- 4.7.33 Four specific sites have been identified for formal designation as Local Green Space. The justification for each Local Green Space is provided in [Appendix 4](#).
- 4.7.34 The four Local Green Spaces are identified on Maps 20, 21, 22 and 23 and are:
1. Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden
 2. Scholes Sandygate Fields
 3. Wooldale 'Chapel Field'

4. Hade Edge 'Gateway Triangle'

Policy 10: Protecting Local Green Space

The following sites are designated and protected (Recommendation 15) as Local Green Space in the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan. Development affecting Local Green Spaces should be considered against Local Plan Policy LP62:

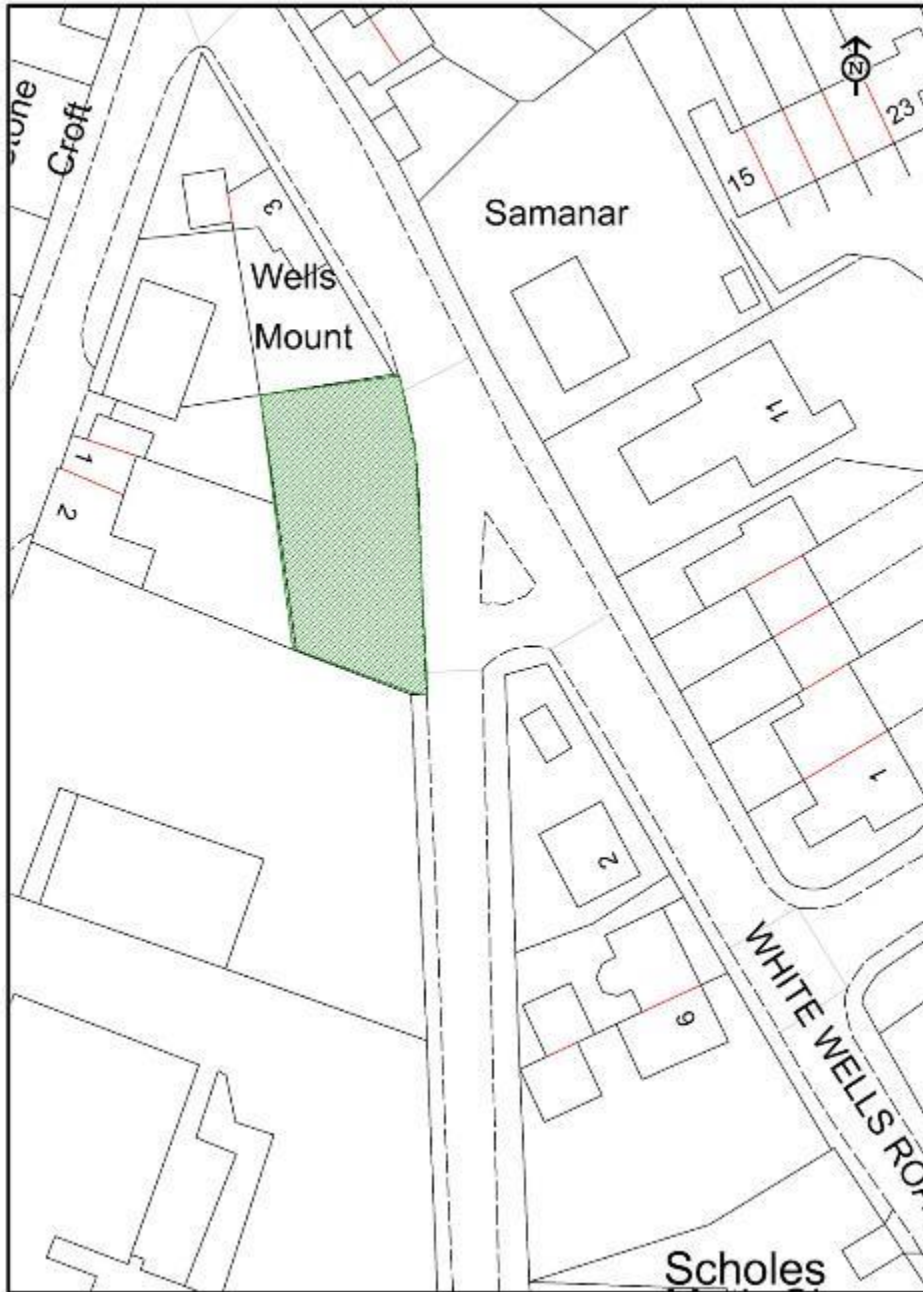
1. Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden (Map 20)
2. Scholes Sandygate Fields (Map 21)
3. Wooldale 'Chapel Field' (Map 22).
4. Hade Edge Gateway Triangle (Map 23)

Policy 10 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031
Policy LP62 Local Green Space.

Map 20 Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden

Local Green Space - Well Garden, Marsh Road, Scholes



Copyright Ordnance Survey - PSMA Number: 0100053855

Map 21 Scholes Sandygate Fields

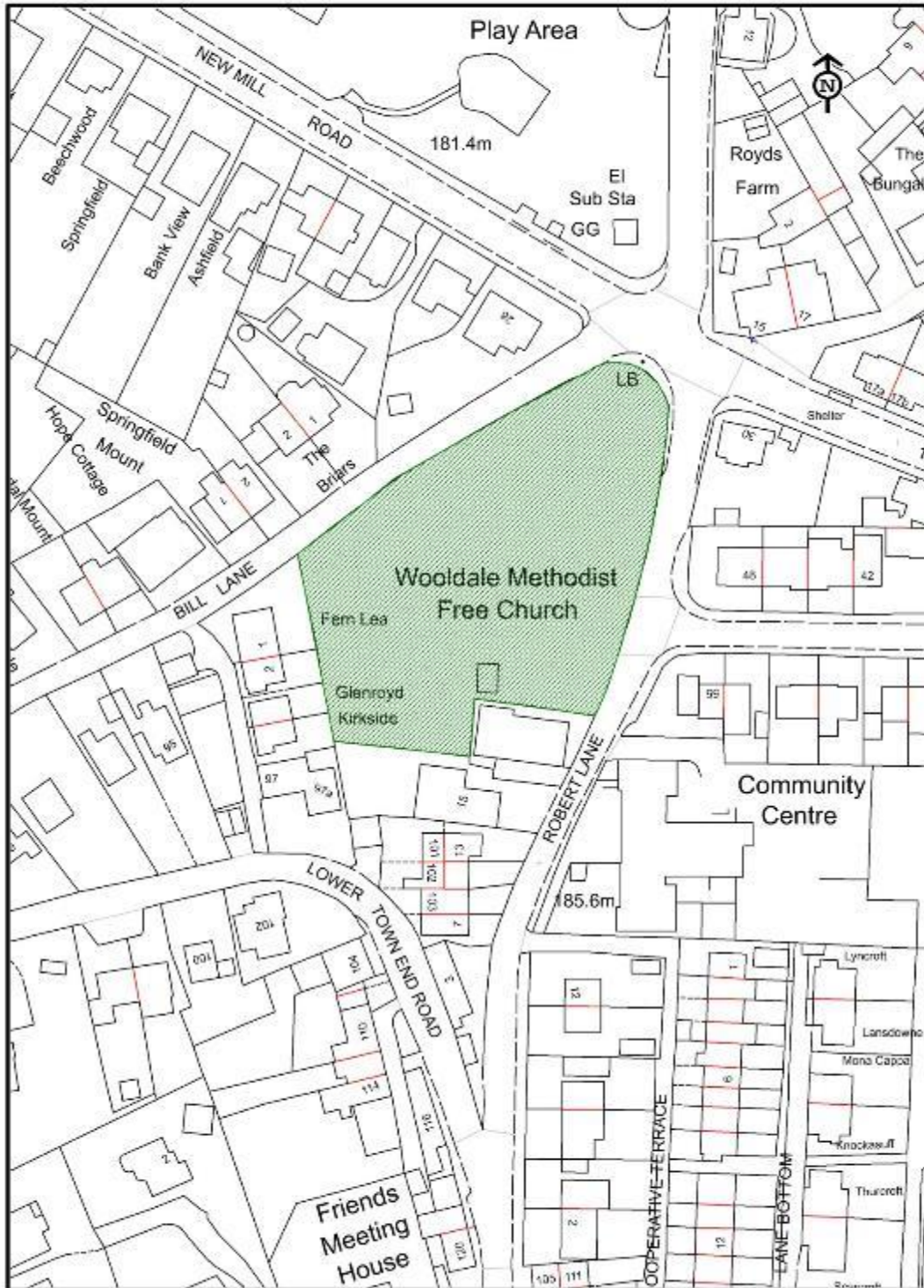
Local Green Space - Sandygate, Scholes



Copyright Ordnance Survey - PSMA Number: 0100053855

Map 22 Wooldale Chapel Field

Local Green Space - Wooldale Chapel Field



Copyright Ordnance Survey - PSMA Number: 0100053855

Map 23 Hade Edge Gateway Triangle

Local Green Space - Hade Edge ground opposite Bay Horse



Copyright Ordnance Survey - PSMA Number: 0100053855

4.8 Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure

Traffic and Transport Infrastructure

- 4.8.1 Traffic is seen as a problem and in the 2017 consultation, improving traffic featured as the number one thing people would like to see addressed in the valley. Alongside this, the 9th highest concern was the need to slow down traffic with limiting HGVs also in the top 15 responses. Residents had suggestions which broadly tackled three issues:
- **Road safety and speed** e.g. 'Make all village centres 20mph zones, to ensure drivers are respectful of people's places where they live and feel they can walk safely'
 - **Road usage and HGV traffic** e.g. and road networks; more 'unsuitable for heavy traffic' signs; one-way systems around villages; timeslots for unloading goods lorries.'
 - **Road congestion** e.g. 'Solve all the traffic congestion problems, especially Holmfirth centre'.
- 4.8.2 Holme Valley Parish Council is not the local planning authority and does not have the powers to control, enforce or implement highway infrastructure or other infrastructure projects. The Highways planning authority within the Holme Valley is Kirklees Local Authority as there are no trunk roads through the valley. The nearest is the A628 'Woodhead Pass' which is the key route between Manchester and Sheffield. When it is closed by high winds or snowy weather, traffic is diverted through Holmfirth (via the A635) creating significant tail-backs and congestion throughout the valley. These diversions include HGVs which cause particular irritation with feedback in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation including 'do whatever we can to discourage HGVs, not make it easier for them to drive through Holmfirth' and 'prohibit HGVs from passing through Holmfirth except for access'. The key trans-Pennine routes are the A628, A62 and M62 and the increasing use of the A635 through Holmfirth as an alternative by HGVs is a source of local concern. Recent incidents with large HGVs ignoring weight limit signs and getting stuck on Hollowgate in the centre of Holmfirth have damaged infrastructure, caused significant delays and added to local frustration. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan cannot direct transport infrastructure, it can offer guidance on what the local community expects to see in terms of considerations in any transport design and improvements.



Figure 33 - Truck stuck on Hollowgate, Holmfirth & HGV damage to 'bell' protecting bridge on Hollowgate

4.8.3 To some extent traffic is always viewed negatively as it delays journeys and causes air pollution but it is an inevitable result of dependence on private cars. According to the 2011 Census data on travel to work over 50% people in the Holme Valley travel to work by car or van (either as the driver or a passenger) and this inevitably has consequences for congestion particularly at peak times. As the Valley is a large semi-rural area, it is not surprising that according to the 2011 Census, over 85% households have a car or van with over 44% having two or more.

4.8.4 Travel to work data provided by Kirklees from the 2011 Census is given in Table 3 below and shows that 18.8% people travel to work within the Holme Valley whilst 35% travel elsewhere in Kirklees. Given that the Holme Valley is near the border of Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, it is not surprising that commuting outside of Kirklees or West Yorkshire is relatively high. The very limited public transport connectivity to these other locations contributes to a high level of commuting outside of Kirklees by car.

Table 3 Travel to Work

Work Location	People	Percentage
Greater Manchester	425	3.1%
Within Holme Valley	2619	18.8%
Elsewhere in Kirklees	4876	35.0%
Barnsley	314	2.3%
Bradford	287	2.1%
Calderdale	535	3.8%
Leeds	707	5.1%
Wakefield	395	2.8%
Sheffield	191	1.4%

Elsewhere in UK	627	4.5%
At home / not fixed	2940	21.1%
Total	13916	100.0%

Figure 34 - 2011 Travel to work data using the 3 MSOAs covering the Holme Valley area

4.8.5 Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to encourage a shift towards more sustainable use of public transport, in reality, seeking to reduce the negative impact of traffic and car use is a more realistic aim. Providing better infrastructure to accommodate electric cars through the provision of a network of charging points through the valley could encourage drivers to consider utilising a more sustainable type of car. In addition, promoting safer walking and cycle routes could help people to consider avoiding car use for short journeys. As one respondent commented in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, 'promote walking to and from school... ban parking on narrow roads, bends and village centres'. Creating a pleasant environment for walking or cycling is not a purely a result of preventing vehicular access but rather changing the emphasis so cars are not seen as the priority in particular locations such as village centres or around schools. Sustainable transport reduces reliance on imported oil, reduces carbon emissions, increases travel options, improves air quality and reduces congestion and traffic noise. It improves access to services and employment and supports community cohesion and health and quality of life. In addition to planning policies, the HVNDP also sets out a number of Actions for the Parish Council, working with other partners to address issues of accessibility and movement across the NDP area.

Infrastructure Design

- 4.8.6 The Heritage and Character Assessment report by AECOM provides more detail about the distinctive local characteristics of routes and networks in the Holme Valley. Narrow winding streets and use of stone setts in road surfaces are prevalent in built up areas, and more rural roads are often edged with grass verges and dry stone walls. The characteristics of each defined Landscape Character Area are defined in the report and summarised in paragraph 4.1.17 of the HVNDP. (Recommendation 5C)
- 4.8.7 In settlements it is particularly easy for the public realm to be dominated by traffic and the 2019 Holmfirth Town Centre Action Plan undertaken by Kirklees was strongly opposed by local residents when it was viewed as prioritising traffic flow over the town's heritage. The creation of a one-way system in the centre to speed up travel through the town was viewed by 80% of 2,500 consultation respondents as damaging the very character of the town causing safety concerns. Kirklees Council had never received such a high level of feedback on a scheme and are currently working on an alternative to balance

highways improvements with the public realm. Kirklees Council also recognised the high level of frustration with HGVs travelling through the centre and have reported that they are considering how to take action to reduce the use of routes through the town centre by lorries seeking diversionary routes across the Pennines. The Parish Council is supportive of any initiatives that reduce the congestion and pollution associated with large lorries based outside of the local area unnecessarily passing through our towns and villages.

- 4.8.8 Allowing the public realm to become dominated by traffic can sever connectivity for pedestrians and non-car users, reduce the quality of the environment and undermine the sense of place in a location. Honley for example has speed humps and a 20mph limit through its centre and as a result, the speed of traffic and potential conflict with other road users is reduced. Its form like many other villages includes narrow, cobbled streets and these inherent parts of the village's character limit traffic flow and speed, thereby avoiding cars dominating the centre. Many villages do not have pavements making traffic calming to create the environment safer for pedestrians particularly important. Exploring opportunities to create 20mph speed limits through the centres of towns and villages across the Holme Valley is an aspiration of this Neighbourhood Plan.



Figure 35 - Magdale Quiet Lane & 20mph speed restriction in Honley

- 4.8.9 Opportunities for pedestrianisation should be assessed; and amendments to the road layout to facilitate vehicular movement should be a consideration, whilst creating more public space and opportunities for shared surfaces, where safe and practical to do so. Holmfirth in particular attracts a large number of visitors for its festivals and its long history as a tourist location and the ease of access along streets, footpaths for all users including those using wheelchairs, pushchairs and partially sighted users' needs to be considered. As a resident commented in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, 'Holmfirth is dreadful for wheelchair users...no use getting into town in the car and then

getting stuck on the pavement'. Creating shared spaces or surfaces, rather than segregating traffic from pedestrians can potentially both enhance the public realm and improve safety.

- 4.8.10 There is one road in the Valley, Magdale, which is a 'Quiet Lane' which is a shared space for pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists and cars and encourages careful driving by highlighting its mixed use. Whilst the principle of slow considerate driving along the many narrow rural roads in the Valley, where people may wish to walk, cycle or ride, is welcomed, the Neighbourhood Plan does not wish to identify a list of other locations which could become official 'Quiet Lanes'. Where specific locations are identified by the local community, this should be considered but a balance must be struck between providing signage and potentially undermining the appearance of the rural landscape. In addition, by identifying specific routes, this could by default lead to the assumption that all other unmarked roads should be dominated by motorised traffic. However, a number of opportunities are available in terms of encouraging more considerate driving such as the use of mirrors round corners, verges being cut back less frequently to give the appearance of a narrower road and public awareness about popular walking routes.
- 4.8.11 The Peak District has recently published a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on transport design policy within the Peak District and this is open to consultation. As part of the Holme Valley (Holme village) sits within the Peak District, it would apply in that area and it offers many useful principles which could equally apply to the wider Holme Valley. According to the document, "the SPD will be used to ensure that the purposes and special qualities of the National Park are reflected in the planning, designing and installing of transport infrastructure. For this to be achieved there is a need for a consensual approach with stakeholders, in particular with transport infrastructure providers."
- 4.8.12 The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan would like to capture some of these Peak District principles regarding transport infrastructure planning and these are reflected in Policy 11. Fundamentally, street layout will vary from village to village, so it is important to reflect specific local character in a particular settlement. An element of road infrastructure, such as a junction on a rural road, may be considered relatively low in impact when viewed only as the metalled road surface itself. However, once the need for road widening, signage, visibility splays, verges, drainage, fencing, and changes to boundary walls or hedges is considered, the overall result can be a significant change in the character of the place. Any design process for highways should therefore be holistic and consider both the safety of road users and its specific location and sense of place.

4.8.13 The key principle which the Neighbourhood Plan wishes to highlight is that traffic flow is clearly important as it is a vital part of residents and businesses transporting themselves and their goods around the Valley. However, it must not dominate the environment and conflict with the character of the area which is so important to the community. Road widening to accommodate new vehicle movements should consider the aesthetic and traffic flow effect of the removal of verges and dry-stone walls and changes to the local character should be limited.

Parking

4.8.14 Parking is a source of local frustration with regular complaints about car parking provision in the settlements but also the proliferation of on-street parking which in turn narrows local roads. Respondents to the 2017 consultation cited 'better roads' and 'more parking' in their top five infrastructure changes with one person saying 'The road system and network needs addressing. The valley is already choked by cars and the level of roadside parking is ridiculous'.

4.8.15 The topography of the valley is a constraint on road design and traffic is concentrated on the main roads which creates congestion particularly in Holmfirth, New Mill and Honley Bridge. As the number of households rises, there is concern that the roads will become more congested and alongside traffic flow, the number of cars parked on the highway will increase. There is a balance to be struck with encouraging private parking off the highway and recognising that parked cars along the side of roads such as the Woodhead Road and Huddersfield Road act as informal traffic calming measures by slowing vehicles down. Judicious use of passing places with appropriate 'white lining' may help enable traffic flow and reduce the risk of gridlock whilst not unreasonably limiting the parking required for houses built before the advent of the car. The excessive use of white lines and road markings should be avoided within conservation areas to reduce the dominance of highways over the local character.

4.8.16 In many villages, houses pre-date the car so parking is in the front gardens or converted outbuildings. This approach can work as the car is often screened behind boundary walls or vegetation and its presence is intermittent and not permanent, thereby limiting its visual impact. However, within Conservation Areas in particular, the loss of front gardens to parking may create a negative impact on setting as well as having sustainability implications in terms of water run-off. In some areas such as the historic centres of Uppertong, Hepworth, Netherthong, where the houses do not have gardens, the result has been increased pressures from high levels of on-street parking. The narrow lanes are often constrained and create pinch-points for traffic to the frustration of local residents.



Figure 36 - Narrow streets in Netherthong & Upperthong

- 4.8.17 Parking provision is a challenge in the valley as workers and residents wish to have long-term parking whilst shoppers and visitors often only need short-stay provision. People want to park close to the facilities they wish to access. In Holmfirth for example, the lack of long-stay parking for workers and the opportunity to park at no cost on residential streets has led to all day parking along the key routes into the town such as the Greenfield, Huddersfield, Dunford, Station and Woodhead Roads. This causes frustration for residents who cannot park outside their properties and in specific places on the Dunford and Station Road, bays have been marked out for permit parking. This may provide localised relief for residents but does little to improve the situation for workers within the town, which as considered in the economy section of this plan, are a key part of retaining a sustainable town centre. Encouraging new ways of maximising existing parking provision and helping facilitate temporary solutions is the short-term aim but in the long run, improving access to non-vehicular or public transport is essential.
- 4.8.18 The Parish Council would like to see more imaginative solutions for effective parking provision such as the use of underground designs, screened communal parking and temporary parking provision for large events. This can be seen when the Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival uses part of Sands Recreation Ground as a 'park and walk' facility to accommodate the visitors in addition to the normal parking provision in the town centre. This approach is encouraged and the work by River Holme Connections to enhance riverside walkways into Holmfirth from both the Sands and Holmbridge may improve the viability of promoting the use of 'park and walk' and cycling access for visitors all year round.

Accessibility and Public Transport

- 4.8.19 Enabling residents and visitors to access services and facilities within the Valley is a crucial part of maintaining a thriving community. The built heritage often has steep steps and narrow lanes to fit within the varied topography which can pose challenges for maintaining accessibility for all. The traditional setts, snickets and steps to enter shops can make access difficult particularly in the towns and villages for those with limited mobility or encumbered by

pushchairs. It is important that consideration is given to improving access wherever possible for example through the inclusion of lifts in public buildings, disabled parking bays and handrails on steep ramps or steps. In addition, opportunities to explore more shared space rather than seeking to segregate pedestrians from cars would be welcomed.

- 4.8.20 Accessibility is important in terms of encouraging more sustainable means of travel either through private or public transport and LP20 of the Kirklees Local Plan relates to sustainable travel.
- 4.8.21 The Holme Valley has two train stations at Honley and Brockholes and these currently offer an hourly service towards Huddersfield or Sheffield. These stations are part of the Penistone Line Partnership which is a voluntary organisation which supports and promotes community involvement along the Huddersfield to Sheffield railway line. It draws together train operator Northern, Network Rail, local authorities and users to raise awareness of the railway in the local community, promote and market it more effectively, develop ideas and arrange funding for local improvements. Any move to increase services on these routes would be supported by this Neighbourhood Plan as would any opportunities to improve awareness of the journeys available particularly for bringing in visitors to events.



Figure 37 - Honley Train Station & Local Minibus Service in Holmfirth Bus Station

- 4.8.22 Historically, there was a train line into Holmfirth but this was closed in 1965 and whilst some residents called for its reopening in the Pre-Regulation consultation, in reality much of the line has been sold off for development so this is not a realistic prospect. Similarly, opportunities to create a 'parkway' facility in terms of large parking areas at Honley and Brockholes stations to allow people to drive to the station and then travel by train to further destinations are thwarted by the recent development of land near these stations. This is regrettable but there are still ways to support improved services for those able to readily access train services in that part of the Valley whilst encouraging connectivity between other transport and the stations.

- 4.8.23 Whilst not strictly public transport, taxis are often a lifeline for those unable to drive as well as those wishing to use them for an evening out. They can offer a convenient and affordable means of travelling, particularly if shared. Provision of appropriate taxi ranks in Holmfirth and Honley is therefore supported.

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.8.24 Views on the current provision of public transport were mixed in the 2017 consultation with some commenting that the 'public transport network is good' but others saying, 'I would like to be able to use more public transport, but it is just not practical'. Overall the highest response about how easy people found it to move around the Valley and further afield was 'good by car or using my own transport' with 'poor or impractical public transport' in second place. However nearly 75% respondents indicated that it was very easy or easy to move around the Holme Valley and further afield with only 4% saying it was very difficult. Anecdotally, those who are frequent users of the bus services think they offer good connectivity towards Huddersfield in particular and the network of mini-buses currently subsidised by the Parish Council help maintain connectivity between the villages. Providing a range of bus services which support both weekday journeys to school, work and college, also needs to be supported by effective journey opportunities for leisure including Sunday services and evening opportunities.

Cycling and pedestrian access

- 4.8.25 Cycling in the valley can be challenging given the steep hills but roads in the valley bottom such as the Woodhead / Huddersfield Road provide relatively level routes into Huddersfield. Opportunities to improve routes for cycling are encouraged at a Kirklees level. Parts of the Huddersfield Road from Thongsbridge already have marked cycle lanes and cycling has a strong presence in the valley as a leisure pursuit with Holmfirth Cycling Club having over 400 members after its creation in 2013.
- 4.8.26 As well as cycling purely for pleasure, there is considerable potential to grow the number of people who may choose to cycle for regular short journeys within the valley as electric bikes become more affordable and they provide access for more people on the challenging topography. To encourage this, provision of racks for bicycles in central locations and near community facilities within Holmfirth and Honley are required so users have the confidence that secure locations are available to park their bicycles. The Parish Council's recent Climate Emergency Action Plan includes the aim to 'promote a walking and cycling culture, reducing the need for vehicle transport whilst also improving our health and well-being etc, providing pathways, cycle routes and safe parking facilities for bikes, trikes, cargo-bikes and e-bikes'.

- 4.8.27 Cycling and walking need to be safe, desirable alternatives to private car use and effective planning can help facilitate this. For example, in highways planning, opportunities to improve access for bicycles should be considered with cyclists allowed to use lanes in both directions on one-way streets and the use of advanced waiting areas at key traffic lights. This should be considered on a location by location basis but when consideration for cycling is included from the outset, all road users can benefit. Similarly offering well-maintained, direct and appropriately lit walkways to schools and local facilities will make walking a more attractive option for all ages. For example, joining up key sections of route such as linking the riverside walking route from Holmbridge into Holmfirth in the Prickleden Mills area and connecting off-road paths from Sands Recreation Ground to Thongsbridge would create attractive alternatives for those reluctant to walk along the busy A6024 or A635.
- 4.8.28 The Travel to Work data identified that nearly 5% people walk to work which is slightly higher than other Kirklees Rural locations such as Kirkburton but is still lower than the more urban parts of Kirklees. This is not surprising given the dispersed nature of settlements across the valley. Means of travel to work are related to distance but there is an opportunity to combine both easy access with economic growth in the local area. If people are able to enjoy the natural environment, access good quality local facilities and feel safe walking along routes into village and town centres, they are more likely to choose to walk. Improving pedestrian access can be as simple as maintaining the existing network of footpaths and bridleways across the valley. Holmepride for example has worked hard to clear overgrown paths around Holmfirth, whilst Friends of Holmfirth Library and Tourist Information Centre organised a 'Walking Festival' in September 2018 to celebrate the opportunities for walking in the area. A Holmfirth Walkers are Welcome group has also now developed in the valley with walking clearly a popular pastime for locals and visitors alike.
- 4.8.29 Improving pedestrian access has many benefits in terms of access for residents, making the area more desirable as a visitor destination and improving health alongside potentially reducing congestion through fewer car journeys. The Neighbourhood Plan supports traffic calming measures on key walking routes to schools for example to be considered so those who wish to walk to school can actively choose to do so rather than regard it as a last resort. As already outlined in Policy 6, new developments should encourage opportunities to both walk and cycle in their designs.
- 4.8.30 Kirklees Walking and Cycling Strategic Framework 2018 - 2030 sets out that the Strategic Framework will:
- Help make walking and cycling of all types more attractive and available for the benefit of all sectors of the Kirklees community.
 - Help raise awareness and understanding of the many benefits of being more active and travelling in a more sustainable way.

- Influence other people's agendas and decision makers in the allocation of resources.
- Enable co-operation with other agencies at district, sub-regional and regional levels on a co-ordinated basis.
- Ensure that new infrastructure is appropriate.
- Encourage us to question how we travel.
- Use local and national evidence to support planning and interventions.

4.8.31 In the NDP area, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT) have been working to identify how a cycle way could be created to link the Holme Valley to Huddersfield. *'The proposal seeks to create, as far as possible, an off road cycle path between the town centres of Huddersfield and Holmfirth, together with link paths from other significant Holme Valley settlements, notably Honley, Brockholes, Netherthong, New Mill and Wooldale. In addition to these settlements there are a number of other significant workplace and school destinations linked to or on the proposed route, notably Thongsbridge, Armitage Bridge, Lockwood, Folly Hall, Kirklees College, and Honley and Holmfirth High Schools. Where an off road path is not considered to be achievable, the proposed route utilises the road network, with appropriate amendments and improvements to create a safe cycling environment. Existing routes include some off road paths which are usable and used currently for cycling, and which will become part of the complete route, subject to any necessary improvements. Where off road paths connect to the road network, and for on road elements of the route, improvements to create a safe cycling environment are proposed.'* A map of the proposed route can be found on the HoTT website at:

<https://hott.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/cycle-2015.pdf> .

4.8.32 We have sought to bring together all the themes around transport and accessibility in the following policy, whilst recognising that elements of them are contained in other NDP policies (Recommendation 21) around design and public realm. Whilst some elements are not within the remit of the NDP, there are positive ways that the Parish Council can work with other bodies to improve transport across the valley and these have been captured as actions.



Figure 38 - Leisure on footpaths, bridleways and quiet rural roads in the valley

Policy 11: Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure

Traffic Management and Design

1. In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, proposals should follow the principles set out in Kirklees Council's latest guidance on highway design¹⁷. In the part of the Neighbourhood Area which is in the Peak District National Park Authority Area proposals should follow the principles set out in the Peak District National Park Authority Transport Design Guide.
2. Traffic management interventions should be designed on the basis of two principles:
 - The user hierarchy set out in the Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP20 and
 - Interventions that are the minimum necessary to achieve the traffic management objective and which do not adversely impact on the historic environment and public realm. (Recommendation 16B)
3. Any highway works associated with new development should aim to protect the key characteristics of the Landscape Character Areas of the Holme Valley. These include for example grass verges, (Recommendation 16 C) traditional road surfaces such as stone setts, and dry stone walls as reflected in other policies. Road widening schemes to improve traffic flow should also consider potential impacts on non-car users (pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and wheelchair users).

Accessibility and Infrastructure

4. All development proposals should take opportunities to provide safe access to local streets, footpaths (Recommendation 16D), and publicly accessible spaces for all users to help support healthier lifestyles and active travel. Developments adjacent to the River Holme should consider access improvements to the River Holme footpath network.
5. Existing local (Recommendation 16E) green infrastructure should not be compromised by new development, and proposals to enhance access, particularly to the River Holme for leisure activities, will be supported.
6. Highway layouts should be imaginative in approach and include traffic calmed streets using a sense of enclosure to reflect the

traditional design and layout found in the Valley (Recommendation 16F).

7. Designs should take account of and link to public transport, pedestrian and cycle routes especially where these (Recommendation 16F) can provide safe and convenient routes to schools, local shops and other facilities. The potential to connect the new development to the existing settlement by providing pedestrian and other non-vehicular routes through the site should be fully explored.

Submission Plan clause 8 and 9 deleted. (Recommendation 16G)

Parking Provision and Standards

8. Where planning permission is required proposals to convert existing garaging into non-parking provision will be discouraged unless suitable alternative off-road parking is available.
9. In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, proposals to develop 'park and walk' or 'park and ride' facilities where planning permission is required (e.g to access Holmfirth Town Centre) (Recommendation 16H) will be supported provided they mitigate (Recommendation 16H) any detrimental impact on the landscape through appropriate surfacing and screening as necessary. Park and ride would not be appropriate in the Peak District National Park part of the Neighbourhood Area as it would harm the valued characteristics of the area.
10. New developments in that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, should provide off-road parking provision in line with Kirklees Local Plan policy LP22 (Parking) and the Council's latest guidance on highway design¹⁸. In

¹⁷ Current guidance is in the Kirklees Highways Design Supplementary Planning Document November 2019 (Recommendation 16A)

¹⁸ As above in footnote 18.

the Peak District National Park parking provision should accord with Peak District Local Plan Part 2 Policies DMT6-8 and associated parking standards. (Recommendation 16J)

11. Parking areas should be designed sensitively and use suitable materials which are sympathetic to the character of the local area. Proposals should also aim to maximise accessibility for all groups through careful and considerate design. (Recommendation 16J)
12. Where communal parking is required for apartment development, it should be conveniently located close to the dwellings it is intended to serve.

Policy 11 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP20 Sustainable travel
Policy LP21 Highways and access
Policy LP22 Parking
Policy LP23 Core walking and cycling network.

Holme Valley Parish Actions 22 - 47

Parish Actions relating to traffic, transport and parking are set out in Appendix 1. (Recommendation 1B)

4.9 Sustainability and Biodiversity

Introduction and Background

4.9.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is keen to support the development of the Holme Valley as a low carbon neighbourhood in order to:

- Improve health
- Empower the community
- Improve quality of life
- Benefit the local economy
- Improve resilience
- Address climate change
- Reduce energy bills

Public Consultation and Engagement

4.9.2 In our 2017 consultation, eco / sustainable housing was cited by over 150 consultees as a consideration for any additional housing built in the Valley. Comments included 'All new housing should be eco or sustainable as an investment for the future' with another stating that they 'would love to see modern eco houses added to the stock to accentuate the higgledypigledyness of the Holmfirth area'. The importance of the local landscape and environment has already been highlighted with wildlife and biodiversity featuring highly as features of the Valley needing protection.

Actions to tackle the Climate Emergency

4.9.3 The Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019, pledging that the Parish would become carbon neutral by 2030, in order to 'help in making our planet safe for ourselves, our children and future generations'. A formal Action Plan was developed and adopted in October 2019 and the Parish Council established a Climate Change Committee with dedicated budget to drive forward a number of projects through 2020 and beyond. The summary leaflet detailing the Action Plan is available at [Appendix 7](#). This demonstrates the high level of community interest and engagement in sustainability and how it has emerged as a clear local priority. This Action Plan has calculated the carbon emissions of the Holme Valley as about 180,000 tonnes per year and sought to identify the relative contribution of eight different elements, all of which have local actions associated with them.

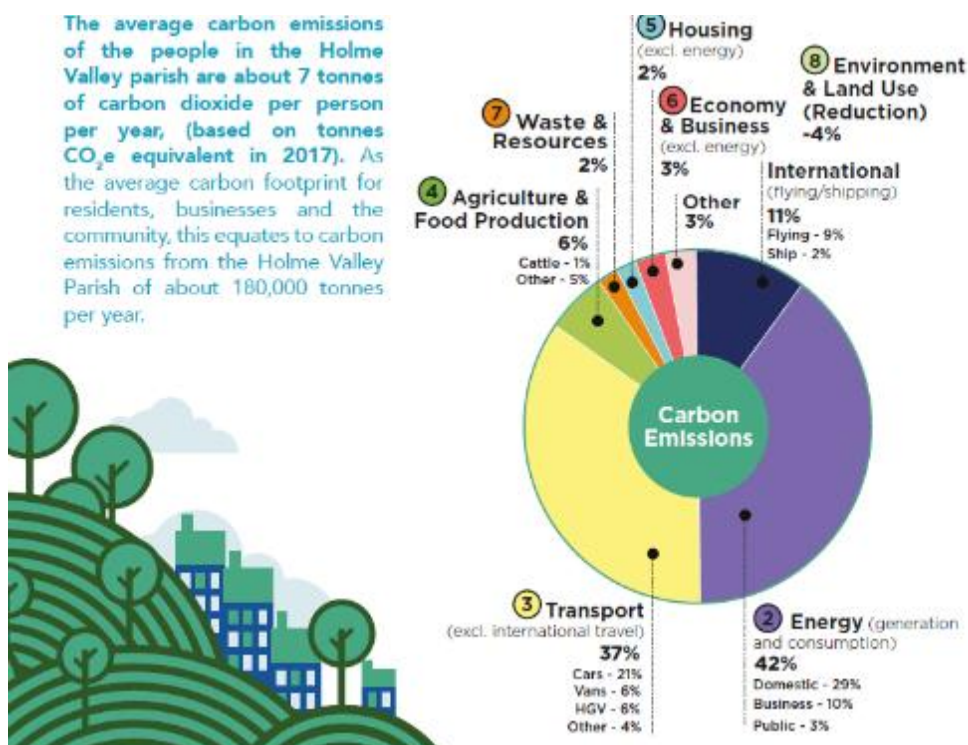


Figure 39 - Carbon Emissions in the Holme Valley (Climate Emergency Action Plan)

- 4.9.4 A local community group, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT) started in the valley in 2010 and has been involved in a number of initiatives with the aim of encouraging sustainable low-carbon living in the Holme Valley. It has been instrumental in the local Affordable Warmth Initiative, preparing Feasibility Studies for Energy Projects and raising awareness of the implications of climate change.
- 4.9.5 The dairy, Longley Farm, is a long-standing and important employer in the valley based in Hade Edge and it installed the first commercial wind turbine in the UK, in November 1986. Its aim was to provide a degree of energy security for the Longley Farm Dairy at a time of great uncertainty in the energy market, but with sensitivity to the landscape and local people.



Figure 40 - Community Wind Turbine 'HoTTWind@Longley' & HoTT Edible 'community garden'

- 4.9.6 When the turbine reached the end of its operational life, HoTT worked with Longley Farm to launch its first community energy project for a 225-kW wind turbine near Holmfirth. This renewable energy scheme, known as HoTTWind@Longley near Hade Edge, is in its third year of operation with some 180 investor members, 80% from the Holme Valley. This project generates enough green energy to supply 188 homes saving about 287 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year and is also generating funds for more low-carbon projects in the Holme Valley through the Bright Green Community Trust. Over its 20-year lifetime, the turbine is expected to provide local organisations in excess of £500,000 of funding to help deliver a greener cleaner valley and encourage more sustainable living.
- 4.9.7 In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming. The report responded to a request from the Governments of the UK, Wales and Scotland, asking the Committee to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets. The CCC recommended a new emissions target for the UK:
- A net-zero GHG target for 2050 will deliver on the commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement. It is achievable with known technologies, alongside improvements in people's lives, and within the expected economic cost that Parliament accepted when it legislated the existing 2050 target for an 80% reduction from 1990.
 - However, this is only possible if clear, stable and well-designed policies to reduce emissions further are introduced across the economy without delay.
 - In June 2019, the updated target was legislated by the UK Government.¹⁹
- 4.9.8 Reaching net-zero emissions requires an annual rate of emissions reduction (15 MtCO₂e per year, 3% of 2018 emissions); that is 50% higher than under the UK's previous 2050 target and 30% higher than achieved on average since 1990. This is an indication of how substantial the step up in action must be to cut emissions in every sector.
- 4.9.9 The NDP has an objective to promote sustainability, reduce impact on climate change and move towards a zero-carbon local economy by 2030, which is the driver behind our policy on sustainability. Whilst sustainability is a principle which applies to all elements of life, we have separated it into two elements: one which is focused on human activity (Policy 12) and the other which focuses on wildlife and biodiversity (Policy 13). They should both be read in conjunction with all other policies as they indicate the aspirations of the community to ensure that the Holme Valley makes a contribution towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. In the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, 97% respondents supported the proposed sustainability policy with comments such as 'I would like this policy to be more prominent in the plan' and 'I would like to see it further integrated into all other policies in the plan'. Whilst we have sought to reflect sustainability principles in the other policies, we still felt it was important that there was also a stand-alone policy which captured the overall aims of sustainability as well as a specific policy highlighting biodiversity. The Valley has an important role in biodiversity in Kirklees in terms of its sites of environmental significance as listed in Appendix 3 and the breeding sites it has for lapwings and

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>

curlews. The policies have been informed by the guidance document produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on 'Low-carbon Neighbourhood Planning'.



Figure 41 - Protected birds: Lapwing & Curlew

4.9.10 The three different elements of the policy are:

a) Renewable energy

Building renewable energy sources reduces reliance on fossil fuels, decarbonises energy supply and balances local supply with demand to increase local resilience. Community energy projects create revenues that can be reinvested in the community and have the potential to reduce energy bills and fuel poverty. Holmfirth lies at a high elevation ideal for efficient wind turbine production of energy and its south facing hillsides offer opportunities to consider small scale solar arrays where they can be achieved in a manner sympathetic to the aesthetics of the landscape. District heating from renewable resources can reduce local reliance on fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions and reduce heating costs. The Holme Valley is underlain by Millstone Grit Sandstone which is suitable for the production of open loop ground source heating. The cost and efficiency of renewable energy is improving as technology evolves and this NDP wants to encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources in all new build wherever possible.

b) Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency such as updated boilers, double / triple glazing and insulation reduces reliance on finite sources of fossil fuels, improves comfort and health in warmer homes, reduces energy bills and fuel poverty. It also decarbonises energy supply and reduces reliance on imported oil and gas. Developers are encouraged to carry out a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) sustainability assessment method if a proposal falls within its remit. BREEAM provides third party certification of the assessment of an asset's environmental, social and economic sustainability performance allowing it to be compared to other developments. It works to raise awareness amongst owners, occupiers and designers of the benefits of taking a sustainability approach. It helps them to successfully adopt sustainable solutions in a cost effective manner, and provides market recognition of their achievements thereby seeking to reduce the negative effects of construction and development on the environment.

In the Peak District National Park Authority part of the Neighbourhood Area, renewable energy generation will be permitted only where valued character is not compromised and proposals for anaerobic digestion must be related to individual farms or those in close proximity. 'Moorland areas' within the NDP are in the natural zone where development is not permitted.

c) Sustainable living

In addition to planning policies, the NDP includes various Actions for the Parish Council, working with other bodies, to promote more sustainable lifestyle choices for everyone. Encouraging effective recycling and reducing plastic usage is an important way to reduce expensive landfill and protect the local environment by limiting the amount of litter which is visible on verges and in the river. This is important both from an environmental point of view in terms of harm caused to wildlife but also undermines the Valley's desire to offer an attractive landscape which will bring visitors and tourists to the area. Living sustainably also involves using local shops and services thereby reducing food miles and supporting the development of community gardens and allotments. Kirklees Council's Open Space Assessment Report 2015 (Revised 2016) set out that *'17% of respondents from the Kirklees Rural area and 12.4% of respondents from the Batley and Spennings Dale area are very or quite dissatisfied with the availability of allotments. This may reflect the lower number of allotment sites available within these areas and the high number of people identified on allotment waiting lists in these areas.'* Sustainable living decreases reliance on imported food and goods, reduces waste and increases health and well-being. HoTT established a HoTT Edible group in 2017 which following the lead of local towns such as Todmorden 'Incredible Edible' initiative has established new community food growing areas such as by Holmfirth Library and Longley's Café in Holmfirth. Supporting the use of local shops and services and maintaining their viability helps reduce food miles and initiatives to 'buy local' should be encouraged as they not only reduce the impact on the environment but also support the local economy. Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP43 Waste management hierarchy sets out that the council will encourage and support the minimisation of waste production, and support the re-use and recovery of waste materials including, for example, recycling, composting and Energy from Waste recovery.

A range of Parish Council Actions are set out to complement NDP Policy 12 (Recommendation 21) and to promote more sustainable lifestyles locally.

Policy 12: Promoting Sustainability

All development is expected to be designed to contribute to the following elements of sustainability and all major development (as defined in the NPPF) must prepare a sustainability statement which outlines how the development will contribute. (Recommendation 17A)

Promoting Renewable Energy

Submission Plan clause 1 deleted (Recommendation 17B)

1. In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, proposals for individual and community scale energy from hydro-electric, solar photovoltaic panels, biomass, anaerobic air (Recommendation 17C) digestion and ground source heating will be supported where they can be achieved without conflicting with the NDP policies (Recommendation 21) to protect and enhance the landscape and built character of the Valley.
2. New developments should develop opportunities to deliver on site heat networks using renewable energy sources. (Recommendation 17D)

Energy Efficiency

3. Sustainable, energy efficient designs should be used in all new buildings. (Recommendation 17E)
4. All new non-residential buildings should be designed to achieve (Recommendation 17F) a BREEAM rating of excellent or outstanding.
5. All new buildings should aim to meet a high level of sustainable (Recommendation 21), design and construction and be optimised for energy efficiency, targeting zero carbon emissions. This might include:
 - a. Orientation to optimise passive solar gain.
 - b. Use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials, subject to consideration of local character and context - see Policies 1 and 2.
 - c. Installation of loft and wall insulation and double/triple glazing.Submission Plan clause 6d deleted. (Recommendation 17G)
6. All new buildings should incorporate technologies which generate or source energy from renewable, low carbon sources. (Recommendation 17G)

7. Retrofitting of older properties to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy is encouraged where proposals are sensitive to local character. Alterations to existing properties where planning permission is required (Recommendation 17H) should be designed to reduce energy demand and comply with sustainable design and construction.

Encouraging Sustainable Living

8. The inclusion in development proposals of community gardens and (Recommendation 17J) further allotment space in the valley for local food growing will be supported.

The requirements of this policy will be expected to be met unless it can be demonstrated that this would render the development unviable. In this case, developers must demonstrate that they have worked with third parties, (commercial and community), to assess the viability of opportunities.(Recommendation 17K)

Policy 12 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP1 Presumption in favour of sustainable development

Policy LP24 Design.

Policy LP26 Renewable and low carbon energy

Peak District National Park Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD 2011 - 2026

L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics

CC1: Climate change mitigation and adaptation

CC2: Low carbon and renewable energy development

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

DMC2 Protecting and managing the Natural Zone

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- 4.9.11 Green infrastructure is essential to health and well-being and is a crucial element in adapting to climate change and protecting biodiversity. Green spaces should provide a habitat for wildlife, routes for walking and cycling, space for food growing, regulation of micro climates and increased flood retention and reduced surface water run-off. The Holme Valley has a key role to play in supporting biodiversity as outlined in the Kirklees Biodiversity Strategy which highlights the economic and social importance of managing land for biodiversity. The NDP area is in the south west of Kirklees and

as can be seen from Figure 43, it features several of the key Biodiversity Opportunity Zones.



Figure 42 - Local wildlife: Heron & Brown Hare

- 4.9.12 Local organisations such as River Holme Connections are working hard to tackle invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam along the riverbank and have raised awareness of the issue amongst 1,600 school children in 2017. Educating young people about valuing their environment is also a key element of the Forest Schools initiative which as mentioned earlier in the plan, we are keen to support. Encouraging awareness of how we can actively improve biodiversity, not just halt its decline is essential if the Holme Valley is to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability.
- 4.9.13 We support the positive action being led by Kirklees to improve biodiversity and local group, River Holme Connections is working with a number of different organisations including Yorkshire Water, Aire & Calder Catchment Partnership (ACCP), Peak Park and the Environment Agency on partnerships to improve the river catchment in the Holme Valley. This includes supporting better ecological quality and River Holme Connections commissioned a report through the Wild Trout Trust to identify ways of raising the quality from moderate to good over forthcoming years. This partnership working and engagement between experts and local people is encouraged.

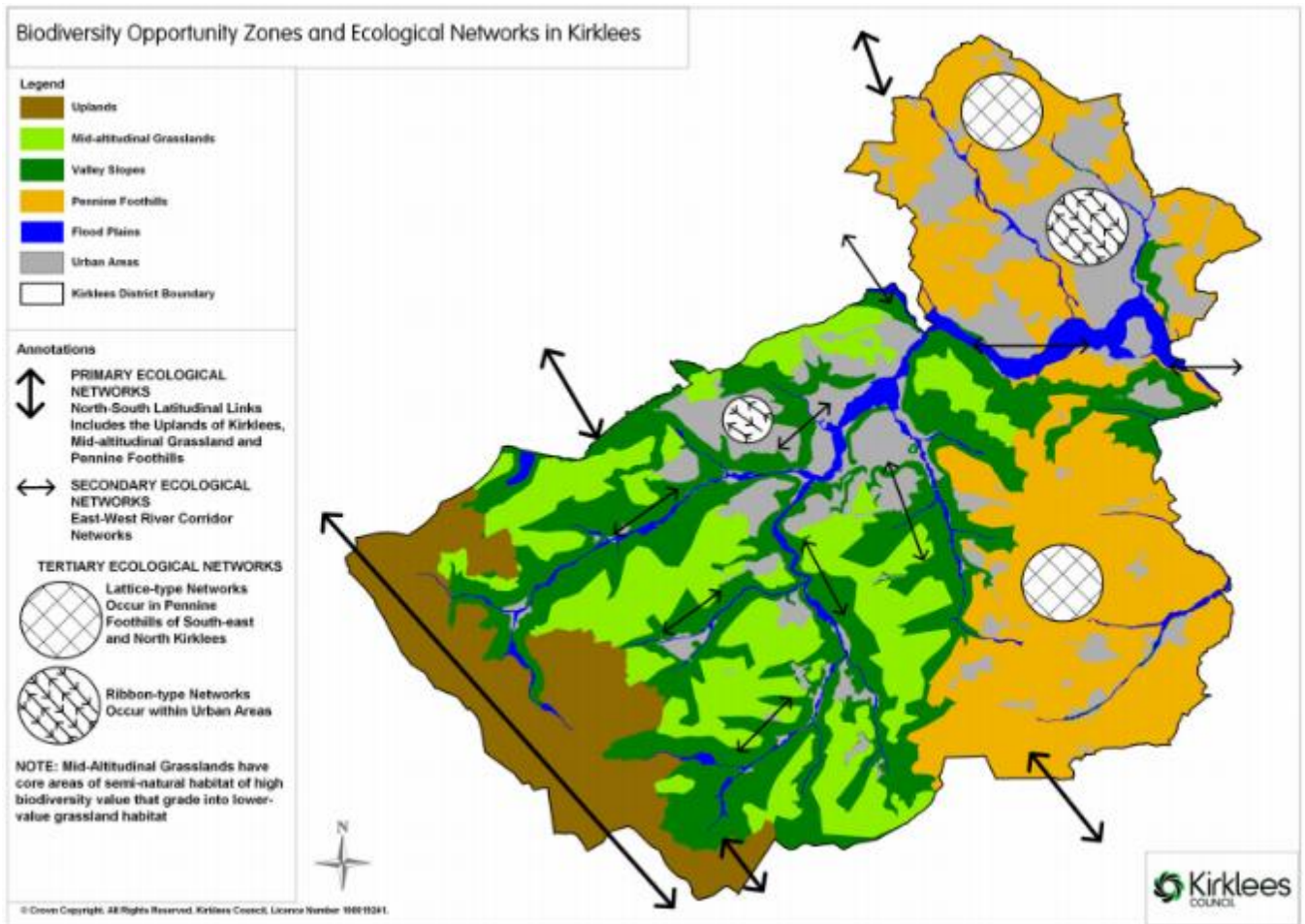


Figure 43 - Map of the Biodiversity Opportunity Zones & Ecological Networks in Kirklees

- 4.9.14 In their response to the Regulation 14 public consultation (and other informal public consultations) and following the SEA process, Kirklees Council recommended the addition of a further Policy in the NDP to protect and enhance local biodiversity. Policy 13 Biodiversity has been prepared to add additional detail to Local Plan Policy LP30 Biodiversity and Geodiversity.
- 4.9.15 Paragraph 170 of the NPPF advises that '*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: ... d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.*' Where appropriate, biodiversity offsetting is an option available to developers to fulfil their obligations under the planning system's mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, mitigation, compensation, net gain).
- 4.9.16 Biodiversity net gain delivers measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with development. Biodiversity net gain can be achieved on-site, off-site or through a combination of on-site and off-site measures. The biodiversity net gain approach involves the use of a metric to calculate the difference in a score, expressed in 'biodiversity units', for a site prior to development and post development. This score is based on the extent, type, quality, connectivity and strategic location of the habitats present, and development proposals are required to demonstrate a proportional increase in biodiversity units.
- 4.9.17 A biodiversity net gain can be achieved through a variety of measures, including retaining and improving existing biodiversity features on-site but also through the creation of new biodiversity opportunities, such as creating green corridors, planting trees or forming natural spaces, either within the development site or off-site elsewhere. In circumstances where mitigation is not possible developers may be required to pay a levy for habitat creation or improvement elsewhere.
- 4.9.18 Such biodiversity net gain can be achieved through development by:
1. managing habitats retained within the development site to improve quality;
 2. securing local off-site habitat management to provide an overall benefit;
 3. a combination of the above.

Policy 13: Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain

All development (Recommendation 18A) proposals should demonstrate how biodiversity will be protected and enhanced including the local wildlife, ecological networks, designated Local Wildlife Sites and habitats.

New development (Recommendation 18A) should create a measurable net gain in natural capital and biodiversity in accordance with the latest national and local guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain²⁰. (Recommendation 18B)

A biodiversity net gain will be expected to be achieved (Recommendation 18C) through development by:

1. managing habitats retained within the development site to improve quality and / or; (Recommendation 18C)
2. securing local off-site habitat management to provide an overall benefit.

Direct and indirect impacts upon biodiversity and/or geodiversity should be avoided. Where impacts cannot be avoided, mitigation and then as a last resort compensatory measures (for example biodiversity offsetting) should be provided.

Policy 13 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP30 Biodiversity & Geodiversity

Peak District National Park Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD 2011 - 2026

L2: Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity importance

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

DMC2 Protecting and managing the Natural Zone

DMC11 Safeguarding, recording and enhancing nature conservation interests

Holme Valley Parish Actions 48 - 51

Parish Actions relating to sustainability are set out in Appendix 1. (Recommendation 1B)

²⁰ Kirklees Council Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note approved 29/6/2021 (Recommendation 18B)

Submission Plan section 4.10 and policy 14 deleted. (Recommendation 19A)

4.10 Implementing and Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan

Implementation

- 4.10.1 The policies in this Neighbourhood Development Plan, once made, will become part of the development plan for the area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework.
- 4.10.2 The policies will be applied by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority through the development management process in the determination of planning applications, together with the use of conditions and planning obligations under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where the tests for these are met.
- 4.10.3 The Parish Council, applicants, developers and the community will be able to use the content and policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to inform representations to the relevant Local Planning Authority regarding planning applications within the Holme Valley.
- 4.10.4 The Parish Council actions set out in Appendix 1 to address the non-planning issues will be progressed by the Parish Council to support the achievement of the vision and objectives for the Holme Valley.

Monitoring

- 4.10.5 The Parish Council will put procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Development Plan through planning application decisions, the use of conditions and appeals.
- 4.10.6 The Neighbourhood Development Plan may be reviewed by the Parish Council in line with changes to the Local Plan with this likely to take place at least once every 5 years from the date made and the Plan updated where necessary. The procedure for reviewing neighbourhood plans in place at that time in Neighbourhood Planning Legislation and the National Planning Practice Guidance will be followed.

(Recommendation 19B)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Holme Valley Parish Actions

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Built environment and design

The Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

1. Prepare a design handbook with specification of acceptable styles which merge with the local style. This may include examples of what is not acceptable such as out of proportion, window layout etc. This applies to both new build and renovation projects.
2. Encourage Kirklees to produce and implement Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans which illustrate the vernacular design for specific areas that should be reflected in new development.
3. Encourage enforcement where appropriate within the Conservation Areas.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Built heritage

The Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

4. Develop a list of non-designated heritage assets building on the suggested sites in Honley from the Honley Civic Society and initial list of key buildings identified in Holmfirth by the Holmfirth Conservation Group in accordance with Historic England's advice note to put forward to Kirklees Council as part of a Local List of Key buildings. Both lists are provided in Appendix 2.
5. Recommend that any changes to reservoir designs (walls, spillways etc.) be done in a sympathetic way to the local environment, using local materials.
6. Support community purchases and development where a heritage asset becomes structurally unsafe for use and encourage community ownership of locally important buildings.
7. Support the provision of workshops and or advice to owners of heritage assets possibly through community groups.
8. Promote and support the adoption of community assets and any redevelopment in sympathetic and financially viable ways.
9. Where an Article 4 Direction is in place, work with Kirklees Council and local stakeholders to protect designated and non-designated heritage assets from harmful change.
10. Work with Kirklees Council to identify potential Heritage Action Zones in the Neighbourhood Area such as Holmfirth Town Centre.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Public realm

The Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

11. Ensure that any new or replaced street furniture such as lighting columns, street-signs, benches and litter bins are designed in a coordinated style which enhances their appearance. This does not preclude allowing bespoke designs to be considered to reflect the character of specific location. This will create a more consistent appearance to street furniture suited to the area concerned.
12. Ensure that overhead wiring and road signage within the public realm are installed in a manner with reflects the town or village's character. Redundant electrical infrastructure or signage should be removed to reduce visual pollution associated with new installations.
13. Ensure that opportunities to develop out-of-sight storage for trade waste bins for existing premises are pursued to reduce unsightly clutter on the public highway.
14. Work with traders and shop keepers to discourage the use of A-boards and clutter to keep routes clear for people who may have mobility or visual issues, or for parents with children in buggies.
15. Work with Kirklees Council to identify and promote more sustainable approaches to waste management in the Holme Valley which support a hierarchy of reduction, re-use and re-cycling. The provision of more effective recycling and waste facilities will be supported.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Local economy

The Parish Council will:

16. Support place-making initiatives seeking to build both community and economic value from our unique heritage and environment.
17. Work with local businesses and Kirklees Council to manage opening hours and control litter.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Community facilities

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

18. Ensure easy access to good quality education for children and adults.
19. Encourage life-long learning by encouraging opportunities for active citizenship, volunteering and participation in the community.
20. Increase the appreciation and understanding of the environment, the arts and the Valley's cultural and industrial heritage.

21. Ensure sufficient health and care facilities are provided to cope with demand and the infrastructure is in place to support the delivery of modern health and social care services, for example improving telecommunication systems to support tele-medicine.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Traffic, transport and parking

Traffic Management

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

22. Implement speed limits and traffic calming measures in town and village centres and around schools and homes of vulnerable people.
23. Implement management of traffic at peak times, particularly around schools and places of employment with one-way systems or drop-off zones considered.
24. Work with Kirklees on any future road improvement schemes in Holmfirth to ensure proposals enhance place-making alongside traffic flow.
25. Share local proposals concerning traffic management on Victoria Street/ Dunford Road / Station Road/ Hollowgate with Kirklees.
26. Work with local residents in villages such as Hade Edge where revised layouts of the road network may improve highways safety.
27. Introduce restrictions to HGV access on particular routes and discourage the use of Holmfirth as a diversion for HGVs off trunk roads.
28. Support proposals to create 20mph speed limits in residential areas.
29. Ensure limited use of warning signs such as dangerous junctions, roads impassable to heavy vehicles or appropriate weight limits with designs being appropriate to the location.
30. Introduce and enforce time zones for deliveries in Holmfirth and Honley.
31. Liaise with other bodies in addition to Kirklees Council regarding the impact improvement works to the Woodhead Pass and the proposed Trans-Pennine motorway will have on the Valley.
32. Consider the introduction of "priority passing/give way" calming measures on narrow rural roads.
33. Ensure that new housing and industrial developments do not exacerbate existing congestion areas, including the centres of New Mill and Holmfirth, and at Honley Bridge.
34. Consider local identification and designation of "Green Lanes" as shared spaces on popular horse riding, walking and cycling routes.

Public Transport

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

35. Ensure that access means accessible to all regardless of age, ability and cultural background, and eliminating unnecessary barriers.
36. Explore opportunities to reduce traffic in town and village centres to improve air quality and health.
37. Support proposals to increase the use of shared cars, buses, trains and cycling.
38. Ensure good quality public transport is maintained, with subsidies considered where appropriate to support local connectivity with smaller rural villages across the Valley.
39. Support initiatives by the Penistone Line Partnership and others to encourage and enable the greater use of rail travel, to improve the route between Huddersfield, Sheffield and further afield.
40. Investigate the feasibility of renaming Brockholes railway station “Brockholes and Holmfirth” and providing a linked shuttle bus service to Holmfirth town centre.
41. Encourage better bus/train connectivity to link villages across the valley with train services and support strategic actions to improve parking and facilities at Honley and Brockholes stations.
42. The provision of taxi-ranks to support the use of taxis as an alternative means of transport will be supported as long as they align with the other policies in the NDP regarding fitting with the local character and avoiding any noise pollution from idling engines.

Sustainable Transport

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

43. Promote infrastructure such as charging points to increase the use of electric vehicles.
44. Encourage the introduction of electric buses and taxis in the area to improve air quality.
45. Develop pathways for safer cycling and walking, subject to landowner permissions for access using natural conduits such as the River Holme and maintain existing pedestrian, bridleway and cycle routes.

Parking Provision

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

46. Investigate the feasibility of providing suitable parking on the edge of Holmfirth to accommodate a “Park and Ride” service.

47. Explore innovative ways of creating additional parking in specific areas lacking sufficient provision such as the de-consecration of part of a churchyard, rental of drives in the daytime or use of private land for specific events.


Parish Council Actions - Sustainability




The Parish Council will:




48. Encourage awareness of a sustainable way of life and the purchase of goods which will last for life, and discourage a throwaway society through effective design, appropriate waste management facilities and education initiatives.
49. Consider the provision of a free water fountain in Holmfirth to encourage the re-use of drinking bottles.
50. Seek to engage with local environmental groups to explore how they can best support their initiatives to increase biodiversity and increase local understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.
51. Encourage proposals to increase the level of recycling of waste. Retail developments must demonstrate how they will manage and reduce their waste in planning statements or other supporting documents. These should include proposals to support the principle of plastic free living.


Appendix 2A: Positive Contributors to Conservation Areas within the Holme Valley (Recommendation 8B)


The following table includes sites, buildings or other structures deemed to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of a conservation area within the Holme Valley. They have been identified using the selection criteria set out in paragraph 4.3.4 of the HVNDP. Further positive contributors may be included over the life of the plan.

Photograph of Positive Contributor to Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Identifier	Name	Location	Description	Significance
	Honley CA	Honley - PC1	Southgate Theatre	Southgate, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6NT	Stone built two storey with double-height upper floor. Slate roof, ashlar entrance with stone steps.	Site of the first Primitive Methodist chapel in Honley (built in 1842), redeveloped in 1899 with a new Sunday School erected in 1914. In 1972, following the demolition of the chapel, the Sunday School was bought by three local men and became the home of "Southgate Players". The building, believed to be the only theatre in Yorkshire owned by its amateur dramatic group, continues to play a significant part in the cultural life of the village.


	<p>Honley CA</p>	<p>Honley - PC2</p>	<p>Old People's Park</p>	<p>Westgate, Honley, Holmfirth Hd9 6AA</p>	<p>Treed open space with lawns and flowerbeds</p>	<p>Contains a small children's play space as well as seats and attractive flower beds, lawns and trees. Land given to the people of Honley by a private donor in 1899. The "green lung" of Honley, providing residents with space to sit and socialise. Also used for community activities such as commemorative events.</p>
	<p>Honley CA</p>	<p>Honley - PC3</p>	<p>Nos. 1 and 5 Southgate</p>	<p>Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6NT</p>	<p>Ashlar stone, 2 storey, central cart arch leading to internal courtyard</p>	<p>Good examples of the local vernacular, these superior quality houses were probably built for supervisory staff.</p>
	<p>Honley CA</p>	<p>Honley - PC4</p>	<p>Nos. 6, 8 and 10 Southgate</p>	<p>Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6NT</p>	<p>Ashlar stone, 2 storey, arched pediment above door</p>	<p>Good examples of the local vernacular, these superior quality houses were probably built for supervisory staff.</p>

	<p>Honley CA</p>	<p>Honley - PC5</p>	<p>Holmeleigh</p>	<p>Southgate, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6NT</p>	<p>3 storey substantial stone house, hipped roof, margin light windows, sash, chimneys and set back from road. Built in 1908 in the "Gothic" style.</p>	<p>This is of historical significance as Mrs. Winder, daughter of Mr. Josiah France, purchased the ground, built and furnished the house as a nurses home. She also endowed a sum of money to provide a trained nurse for the sick and poor of Honley.</p>
	<p>Honley CA</p>	<p>Honley - PC6</p>	<p>Honley Silver Band Room</p>	<p>22 Berry Croft, Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6BP</p>	<p>Single storey building with multi paned windows, stone.</p>	<p>This is the home of the present Honley band which has a proud history going back to 1865. The Band took First Prize on September 1st 1884 at Belle Vue, Manchester, beating such famous bands as Black Dyke Mills</p>
	<p>Holme CA</p>	<p>Holme Village - PC1</p>	<p>Underhill</p>	<p>Underhill, Woodhead Road, Holme, HD9 2QE</p>	<p>Earth sheltered house.</p>	<p>This is a 1970s property which was designed by Dr Arthur Quarmby. It is the first modern earth shelter to be built in Britain and as such is an innovative design of local and national interest.</p>




	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC1</p>	<p>Ribbleden Mill & Chimney</p>	<p>Dunford Road, Holmfirth, HD9 2DP</p>	<p>A striking building on a main road into Holmfirth with its traditional frontage. It still operates as a dyer and finisher, supporting the textile business, which was so dominant in the local area.</p>	<p>The date of this mill is circa 1865 and should be preserved as the last mill existing in the Holmfirth Conservation Area (HCA). It has retained its Georgian venetian windows and multi panelled glass, string course and shallow pitched roof. It also has the last mill chimney in the HCA making it a reminder of the industrial heritage of the area.</p>
---	---------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	---	--


	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC2	Bamforths	Station Road, Holmfirth	Five storey warehouse with distinctive long window on the upper floor.	<p>Bamforth's was established in 1870, and by the end of that century James Bamforth was well-known in Holmfirth as a photographer and artist. In the 1890s the magic lantern was a popular form of entertainment and Bamforth produced slides of these lantern shows. Bamforth was also a producer of postcards and was in at the very beginning of the silent movie era, creating short comic films in the Hollywood style comic but using Holmfirth as the background and local people as the stars and actors in his films. At the outbreak of the First World War film making came to an end. However the production of picture postcards continued and was a lucrative market opened up by Bamforth particularly of the saucy seaside postcards with their "near the knuckle" double entendres. The building has a very long window on the upper floor to provide extra studio light. The</p>
---	--------------	-----------------	-----------	-------------------------	--	---


						<p>Bamforth business closed in 1980s and the building was subsequently neglected. In 2016 renovation work was started on the building. It has a blue plaque.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--



	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC3</p>	<p>Holmfirth Technical College</p>	<p>140 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AR</p>	<p>The Technical Institute, a Victorian building, exhibits elaborate tall gables, steep roof with lanterns, tall elaborate windows letting in lots of light and fanlights over the doors.</p>	<p>A design by Joseph Smith of Sheffield and Holmfirth was selected and the foundation stone was laid on 16 July 1892. This building housed evening classes for apprentices, after completing their days work in the mills, from 1894. First known as the technical Institute, it was built by public subscription and opened in 1894 providing technical and manual education outside the then existing elementary school system. Plans for the Institute date back to 1891 and the fundraising was initiated by James Marsden JP of Wigan and a native of Holmfirth. The college had rooms specifically for weaving, dyeing and clay modeling, science lectures, designing, art, reading, conservation, a secretary, chemistry laboratory, an examination and lecture hall and the ladies room (on the upper floor). Following the education act of 1902, the newly established West Riding County Council assumed responsibility for</p>
---	---------------------	------------------------	------------------------------------	--	---	---


						<p>the Institute which, until then, had been managed by volunteers and local businessman. From 1907 until 1932 the building provided accommodation for Holmfirth's first secondary school with 48 pupils, although the technical classes still continued in the evenings. Pupils had to achieve a certain level of education and pay for the privilege of attending. Initially fees were 6 pounds per year, although some scholarships were awarded. In 1959 it became a further education centre on technical courses. After a recent period of the building being mothballed, it has reopened as Holmfirth Tech, run by a charitable Community Benefit Society. It has a blue plaque.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	---


	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC4	8 - 10 Towngate	Holmfirth	Well-proportioned building with retail on the ground floor (currently Age UK)	Built in early 19th century, adjacent to the Parish Church, this is a handsome building with traditional shopfront reflecting the residential and commercial style of the town and conservation area.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC5	15 Daisy Lane	Daisy Lane, Holmfirth	Attractive tall building with original features now with ground floor housing Daisy Lane Bookshop	Known to exist before 1793 and then a dwellinghouse and cow house. Occupant was a blacksmith and a smithy was next door (now demolished, but evidence on outer wall)
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC6	Towngate	Harvey's Bar & Kitchen, Holmfirth	Harvey's Bar & Kitchen. Situated on the ancient approach into Holmfirth from the north, this is one of three hostelries that were important "fuelling stations for travellers. They still remain as pubs to this day.	1800 - 1850 Previously the White Hart, Harvey's is one of the many Holmfirth pubs which would have been used not just by drinkers in its time but also for coroners inquests, property auctions, manorial court leets, and the inevitable location of annual


						dinners for local associations. The White Hart was established around 1795 and the landlord at the time was John Boothroyd who moved to the Nook in 1826. In 1830 record show that there was a brew house on site. Later records mentioned a slaughterhouse and stable.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC7	54-56 Huddersfield Road (& Norridge Bottom)	En Route Café, Holmfirth	Chapel style building with entrances on two levels currently housing En Route Café upstairs and Bar downstairs.	1800 - 1850 This building, resembling a small church, has seen many different guises. The date 1879 can be seen at the apex of the building and it is said that it was built for the local temperance society. In The building was also owned for a period by Eli Collins, a printer who started the Holmfirth Express in 1886. The Express closed in early 2000s and is currently a cafe


						upstairs & bar downstairs.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC8	23 Victoria Street	Holmfirth	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top). No. 23 (now RSPCA charity shop) is of particular significance architecturally because of the curved glass frontage. It has a resemblance to the shop across the road which today is Multicraft cabin.</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In the first instance was probably trading as James Haigh, outfitters. This firm traded from 1834 (they claim) until around 2000. Very traditional interior with curving glass windows. Currently a charity shop.</p>



	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC9</p>	<p>15 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. The shop has been a bakery ever since it was built.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC10</p>	<p>13 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In 1909 was James Brooke, toys and ornaments. 1927 William Simmonds,</p>



						<p>glass and china, 1980 G B Hirst travel agent. Currently a travel agent.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC11</p>	<p>11 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. First time this is recorded in Trade directories or newspapers by name and number is 1980. Gledhill and Brook have been here since at least 1901.</p>


						<p>Originally (early 20th century) they were water and steam millers. It was attached to buildings destroyed in 1944 flood. It was prone to lorry crashes (from Dunford Road direction). Currently Forget-me-not Charity Shop.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC12</p>	<p>17 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In 1930 was a joint shop with no 19. Coldwell and Battye, outfitters. In 1980 was linked with no. 19 as Hobson choice, grocer In 1990/2000</p>


						<p>no. 17 only was Otters Pet and Grooming Centre In 2000 -2016. Now Holmfirth Food & Wine shop.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC13</p>	<p>19-21 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In 1913 no. 21 was the Labour Exchange In 1930 nos. 17 -19 were joined and trading as Coldwell and Battye In 1980 nos. 17- 19 were</p>


						joined and trading as Hobson choice and now Occasions card shop.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC14	27 Victoria Street	Holmfirth	Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top). No.27 is on the right hand side of the top section in the photograph.	The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. Arthur Charlesworth been there since 1880 something. Never traded anywhere else and still operates as newsagents.


	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC15</p>	<p>27a Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street, this property is off the main street but retains its traditional window openings and commercial use.</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC16</p>	<p>25 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top). No.25 is on the left hand side of the top section in the photograph.</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. Currently a home furnishings shop (Pattern Principle).</p>


	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC17</p>	<p>2 Dunford Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Shoulder of Mutton pub. Situated on the ancient approach into Holmfirth from the north, this is one of the 3 hostelries that were important "fuelling stations" for travellers. They still remain as pubs to this day.</p>	<p>This pub was established in 1788 and had stabling. It retains its original name to the present day (Shoulder of Mutton). In the 19th century there was a butchers and slaughterhouse here. Has a blue plaque.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC18</p>	<p>3a Victoria Square</p>	<p>The Nook, Holmfirth</p>	<p>The Nook pub. Situated on the ancient approach into Holmfirth from the north, this is one of the 3 hostelries that were important "fuelling stations" for travellers. They still remain as pubs to this day.</p>	<p>The Nook is one of Holmfirth's oldest pubs, dating from 1754 and rebuilt in 1819. Previously the Rose and Crown, it was recently renamed the Nook to reflect the name used by local people for the many decades past. It takes its name from the site, and is on one of the Holmfirth's ancient routes. Has a blue plaque.</p>


	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC19</p>	<p>Modd Laithe Farm, New Fold</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>2 storeys, coursed stone, farmhouse with added laithe barn to northwest, stone slate roof, 1800-1850. House with central doorway to northeast, window on either side with window over each on first floor. Quoins to ground floor (perhaps suggesting that the first floor was added to an older building). Southwest elevation two windows each floor, plus southeast first floor window. Laithe barn with quoins, domestic door adjacent to house on northeast side, another door beyond a projecting single storey extension, and window overlooking extension roof. Large barn door next to house and high-level loading door beyond in southwest elevation, window in northwest wall.</p>	<p>Modd Laithe Farm is right at the top of Goose Green, near the old swimming pool (a lido of great popularity in the 1930s & 40s, which still remains albeit derelict). The farmhouse lies within the boundary and is the only working farm in the conservation area (although its 10 acres of land lie outside the boundary) and as such reflected the agricultural heritage of the area. Historic England commented in the Holmfirth Conservation Group's appraisal that the description suggests the farm may be substantially intact and unaltered making it a potentially good candidate for a listing application.</p>
---	---------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------------------	------------------	---	---


	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC20	4/5 Bridge Lane	Holmfirth	<p>Building appears on 1854 OS Map. 3-storey plus basement, ashlar stone, moulded cornice, stone slate roof. North side rendered with possible second basement.</p> <p>Ground floor: No. 5 to left, central door with fanlight and shop widow either side, No. 4 to right door with fanlight on left and shop window on right.</p> <p>First floor: No. 5 two windows, No. 4 one window, 6 over 6 sashes, projecting sills form string course. Second floor: No. 5 two windows, No. 4 one window, 8 over 8 small ashes, projecting sills form string course.</p> <p>Ornamental cast iron railings on street frontage.</p>	<p>Attractive pair of houses which are Georgian Ashlar stone in style and retain their original features. Very tall structures especially when viewed from the river bank below.</p>
---	--------------	------------------	-----------------	-----------	--	--

	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC21	39 & 39a Station Road	Holmfirth	<p>Currently retail premises (Red Hairdressers & Cocoon) with history of commercial and residential purpose. Two storeys plus basement. Ashlar stone, stone slate roof with stone tabling, cornice, central ashlar stack. Each half: shop front (apparently original) with central doorway and shop window on either side, windows with aprons, lintels supported on pilasters either side of doorways, at ends and in centre, moulded string course above. At each end door to rear with fanlight. First floor: each half 2 windows with fluted stone jambs and lintels, and projecting sills. Ornamental railings to street frontage.</p>	<p>Building appears on 1854 OS map. Prominent pair of properties which have both commercial and residential function. Matching style and appearance with good proportions. In the late nineteenth century these were an antiques and furniture shop and they retain their original shopfronts.</p>
---	--------------	------------------	-----------------------	-----------	---	--



	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC22</p>	<p>Fire Station, Huddersfield Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Single storey, coursed stone with quoins. Gable to road with elaborate tabling and kneelers. Large window set in moulded architrave, with replacement lintel. Carved label mould over with finials and text 'FIRE STATION'. Blue slate roof. Rear part altered.</p>	<p>Holmfirth fire station was built in the late 1800s. Initially it was the single story building which housed one appliance (Fire engine) whose gable end is adjacent to Huddersfield road. An additional two large wooden sheds attached to the main building housed the second appliance and an ambulance. The Holmfirth urban district Council ran the station until 1939, when the National Fire service was formed and around all the county and district fire services. In 1954 the two detached wooden sheds which housed the second pump and appliance were demolished and replaced with the three bays adjoining the original station building. The ambulance was withdrawn but the two appliances remained.</p>
---	---------------------	-------------------------	--	------------------	--	--



						<p>Both full-time and part-time personnel manned station. The watch room was manned 24 hours a day with a duty fireman. At the present time there are 13 retained firefighters.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC23</p>	<p>Old Police Station, 16 Bridge Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Coursed stone with raised ashlar quoins. Office to right single-storey front, two storeys to rear, with 5-light canted bay, moulded string course and parapet, door to right, small window in right gable wall. Inspector's house to left two stories with door to right, projecting gabled front having window on each floor with moulded architrave. Roof blue slate with stone tabling to all</p>	<p>This building which is an annex attached to the rear of the Technical College was originally Holmfirth police station. Built in 1857 at a cost of £1000, it had three cells and the house for the inspector. The force consisted of one inspector and eight constables. The building is now an architect's office.</p>


					<p>gables, prominent ashlar chimney stack to office, small ashlar chimney on house ridge.</p>	
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC24</p>	<p>Wagstaffe's, 29 Station Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Symmetrical, detached building housing a shoe shop.</p>	<p>Wagstaff's is one of the select few businesses in Holmfirth to survive for well over a century. This boot and shoe business was situated at No.1 Towngate from late Victorian times. They transferred to their present shop at No. 29 Station Road in May 1921 as a result of the demolition of the Riverside buildings to widen Towngate.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC25</p>	<p>Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Dominant civic building now part of the Holmfirth Civic Hall.</p>	<p>The building of the Drill Hall, opened in 1892, was the result of the decision taken in May 1884 that there was a priority requirement for a new purpose-built drill hall in the town. Prior to this the National school and then the Druids Hall had been used for drill exercises. The E company 2nd Volunteer Battalion West Riding Regiment, established in 1860 was growing in size and needed larger premises. The site acquired for this Tudoresque-style building was land adjacent to the town hall (Opened in 1842). The premises including a spacious hall, two large ante-rooms, armoury, band room, orderly room and sergeants mess. It was financed by public subscription</p>
---	---------------------	-------------------------	--	------------------	--	---


						<p>and the building was used as a place for educational meetings, entertainments and social gatherings. What is seen today is the combined Town Hall and the Drill Hall which became the Holme Valley Civic Hall in 1947. In the entrance is the memorial to some of those who died in the South African (2nd Boer) War, 1899-1902. Has a blue plaque.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--


	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC26</p>	<p>25 High Town Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>2-storey, coursed ashlar, moulded cornice and parapet with dormer over, mid-19th century. Door to right with pilasters and heavy drip moulding, passage door to left with moulded lintel, wide central window with moulded architrave, moulded sill and apron and triangular head. Upper floor 3 windows with moulded architraves and moulded sills on brackets.</p>	<p>Mid 19th century property which is a good example of a town villa and indicating the increasing affluence of Holmfirth residents. Part of a pleasing row of terrace houses with individual architectural styles.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC27</p>	<p>31 High Town Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Ginnel to High Town Lane. Drip course over doors, with aediculated opening to ginnel in centre.</p>	<p>This ginnel is a discreet means of accessing the rear of terrace properties and forms a neat transition between 2 front doors. Has arch pediment above. It is in the mid section of a row of terrace houses and was in place before 1888.</p>



	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC28</p>	<p>57 Huddersfield Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Important building at top of Victoria Street.</p>	<p>1800 - 1850 period. Now two shops (footwear & kitchens) but originally one shop. Grocer's Wallace's and then (from 1920s) Hinchliffe Mill Industrial Co-operative Society. Upper floor was a community space used for dancing, meetings. Important architecturally as it is an important vista when viewed up Victoria Street from Victoria Square direction.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC29</p>	<p>Toll House, 32 - 34 Huddersfield Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Attractive corner position by historic bridge, this is a multi-level building with attractive frontages used for retail.</p>	<p>The present building dates from around 1870, replacing a previous toll house on or near the same site. The Tollhouse lay on the Shepley Lane Head to Greenfield Turnpike, evidence of it still existing in the form of the mileage plate on the parapet of the nearby bridge. In 1875 the trustees discontinued the</p>


						<p>Turnpike and in 1876 sold the building. The building has been a wine and spirits outlet, butchers shop, off-licence, café, bookshop and, currently a fair trade shop. Has a blue plaque.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC30</p>	<p>Druid's Hall, Station Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Large handsome symmetrical building with imposing frontage and original features.</p>	<p>The Druids Hall dates back to 1846. It cost over £2000 to build. It was the premises of the Holmfirth Branch of the Ancient Order of Druids Friendly Society, an organization offering financial help and security to the poor. They paid funeral expenses for example. The Druids was one of a number of friendly societies that were quite common in the 19th century. In 1851 590 Druids were recorded in the Holmfirth/Wooldale area. Apart from the Druids the hall was</p>


						<p>used for other functions including a staff dinner of the workers at Albert Mills in 1884. By the beginning of the 20th century the Friendly Society movement was in decline and membership had fallen drastically. In 1906 the remaining membership decided to offer the building for sale at public auction and it took on a new existence as a hotel and a fully licensed public house with brew house attached. It continued in this form until 1917 when the local Masonic Lodge, in need of larger premises, purchased the Druids Hall for some £700. The Druids Hall, now known as the Masonic Hall, has been home of the Holme Valley branch (number 652) since</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	---


						<p>1921. It has a blue plaque.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC31</p>	<p>50 - 54 Back Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>3 identical houses in terrace, 2 storeys, 1800-1850. Principal elevation to west, coursed stone, each house with Gothic door on left and a 2-light Gothic window on each floor on right. Remaining elevations rendered with small windows on east and modern windows in</p>	<p>Built in the early 19th century, these building's architectural significance is that they contribute to the sweeping vista that contributes to the oldest part of Holmfirth and that</p>


					<p>north gable. Stone slate roof, with stone tabling to gables and ashlar chimney for each house.</p>	<p>leads the eye up to the hillside above.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC32</p>	<p>Henry Mitchell, 1 South Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Adjoining buildings with private residence on left and business premises on right including warehouse with taking-in doors. Deep set central doorway with moulded semi-circular arch and fanlight on left hand side and plain shop window and door to right.</p>	<p>Pre 1800 period. Grand and imposing frontage on left hand side which is known as Grove House, named after the residence in Honley which Henry Mitchell rented. Half of the house is a warehouse for the Mitchell business and it is noteworthy that it has remained the same business since mid nineteenth century and has 'taking in' doors on first and second floors.</p>


	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC33	54 -58 Upperthong Lane	Holmfirth	Weavers cottages	<p>Mid 19th century weavers cottages. Noticed the "taking in door", with its exterior stair in the end wall of the terrace. This is where the raw materials were brought in and the finished cloth taken out of what would have been a communal weaving space across the whole top floor. Excellent example of upper i.e. third floor weavers windows which remain intact in all three dwellings. They appear as an almost continuous run.</p>
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC34	The Old Sunday School, 52 Upperthong Lane	Holmfirth	<p>It is a traditional building with a large door opening with pilasters and extremely elaborate head adjacent to the Chapel, and three windows beyond, the nearest two in a slight projection. These windows have segmental arched heads. On the first floor there are five very plain windows,</p>	<p>Adjoining the Lane Congregational Chapel, the late Sunday School, possibly built in 1847 with frontage rebuilt in 1912.</p>


					<p>two over the door and one over each ground floor window. Early 20th century extension to rear now demolished.</p>	
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC35</p>	<p>Lane Congregational Chapel</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Former chapel converted into residential flats in early 2000s. The Chapel has 4 bays of windows on each of its two floors, the central two being in a slight forward projection. It stands on a raised platform with ornamental cast iron railings. The frontage is very elaborate, rebuilt in 1889, with aprons below the windows, three moulded string courses, pilasters to the two central windows, segmental lintels to the ground floor and arched lintels to the first floor. Similar windows in return of northeast wall. Some plain windows to rear. The roof is a slated hipped roof.</p>	<p>One of several nonconformist groups in the Holmfirth area, the Independents shared a church with the Methodists before building their own small place of worship, described as a 'place of worship for Protestant dissenters', in 1777, further down Upperthong Lane from the present site. The Chapel moved to its present site in 1829, with the rear showing a dated inscription. The early burial ground was across the road from the chapel, but is now a private garden. It</p>



						<p>was later joined by a much larger burial ground further up Upperthong Lane.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC36</p>	<p>The Old Manse, 46 Upperthong Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Coursed stone, door to right with stone jambs and fanlight. Canted bay window to left, probably later alteration. First and second floors each two windows with stone jambs and raised sills. Stone slate roof, with tabling and kneelers to gable.</p>	<p>Formerly the Manse for the adjoining chapel, this was built during the ministry of the Rev John Cockin (1806-1849). He was the son of the Rev Joseph Cockin of Honley, sometime pastor of the Square Chapel in Halifax. He took up his post (at the then Binsfield Chapel) on 8 Mar 1806, and served until 1849. Newspaper reports have him born on 26 Feb 1883 at Kipping, Halifax, although the</p>


						<p>Censuses of 1851 and 1861 refer to Thornton, Bradford. He died on 17 Oct 1861 at New Bond Street, Halifax, and was buried at the Lane Chapel on 23 Oct 1861.</p>
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC37	39 - 40 Huddersfield Rd	Holmfirth	<p>Ashlar stone frontage & recently refurbished from residential use to commercial. Attractive properties set back from the road and now housing a bookshop and tattoo parlour downstairs with more commercial at the back.</p>	<p>Burtons Academy (after John Burton) is next door to the present Holmfirth Library and until recently has been a B&B establishment but has recently been sold. The first mention of a school being here is in Pigot's 1834 Directory where it is described as a boarding and day school.</p>


	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC38</p>	<p>Former Council Offices, 49 - 51 Huddersfield Rd</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>L-shaped building, 3 storeys, coursed stone, ashlar stone plinth. Porch in re-entrant angle with window, 3-light canted bay window to right, 3-light window with wide central opening to left. Upper floors 2-light windows over ground floor windows, single windows over porch. Windows also in first floor left gable and second floor right gable. Dentilled eaves cornice. Pitched roofs. Gables with stone tabling and plain kneelers. Windows mainly traditional sashes, except some on second floor.</p>	<p>1851 - 1900 period. Originally Shaley cottages this building was purchased and adapted by Holmfirth Distirict Council by 1903 and was used by the Holme Valley Parish Council as its office and council chamber until 2017 when it was asked to vacate the building by Kirklees Council.</p>
---	---------------------	-------------------------	--	------------------	---	---


	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC39</p>	<p>Pump 'ole, under South Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Water pump and trough.</p>	<p>This is a water pump and trough, in a recess under the steep incline of South Lane. It was erected by public subscription in 1850 and was in use until late 1920s. People would meet here the local lads' rugby team took their name the pump. One of the Pump Hole Rangers, Harold Wagstaff, began his career with them in 1905 at the age of 14 and went on to become one of the greatest players of all time. He captained England in 1914 and in 1920 on tours to Australia and New Zealand. In 1995 at the centenary of the rugby league, Harold Wagstaff was chosen for one of the five commemorative postage stamps. It is an example of how water was accessed before modern day piped water was</p>
---	---------------------	-------------------------	--	------------------	-------------------------------	---


						<p>introduced. It probably connected to a series of wells which started further up the hillside and which can be seen as troughs by the roadside today. The pump ole today is dry but is featured in an arch-shaped recessed gap underneath the road above. A rudimentary hand pump and trough remain.</p>
	<p>Oldfield CA</p>	<p>Oldfield - PC1</p>	<p>National School, Oldfield</p>	<p>Oldfield</p>	<p>Former school building.</p>	<p>Built in 1838 as a day and Sunday school. restored in 1874 and renamed the Mission room and where Sunday services were held. In 1908 it returned in use as a school until the 1970s. It is now a private dwelling.</p>

	<p>Netherthong CA</p>	<p>Netherthong - PC1</p>	<p>Zion Methodist Church</p>	<p>Giles Street, Netherthong</p>	<p>Former methodist church, now a private dwelling.</p>	<p>Opened in 1872 and closed in 1980s. This church was a breakaway from a nearby Methodist church and they were also called Zion methodists.</p>
	<p>Netherthong CA</p>	<p>Netherthong - PC2</p>	<p>15-21 Moor Lane</p>	<p>Netherthong</p>	<p>Striking symmetrical building restored 20 years ago.</p>	<p>This was Netherthong's first Workhouse and was known locally as the Bastille. Inmates were then transferred to the workhouse in Deanhouse in 1862. This Bastille building was marked on the Ordinance Survey Maps of 1854, 1888 and 1918 but by 1922 it was referred to as Lydgett farm. The building, pre 1950, was then used as part of a farm. There were three floors with corn on the top floors and cows on the ground floor. It was converted into terraced housing in 1990s.</p>


	<p>Upperthong CA</p>	<p>Upperthong - PC1</p>	<p>Ash Villa Farm</p>	<p>Towngate, Upperthong, Holmfirth, HD9 3UX</p>	<p>Handsome well-proportioned house at the top of Upperthong village. It is 2-storey stone with raised ashlar quoins and hipped stone slate roof. Central doorway with pilasters, segmental arch lintel and fanlight. Sash windows with projecting sills on brackets and projecting jambs. 3-light window with wide central opening to right. Single window to left with segmental arch lintel and 3 similar windows to first floor. Ornamental garden wall with cast iron railings and gate.</p>	<p>The Farm originally consisted of an original tithe barn dating back to 1600-1755 with part of the barn originally being the dwelling house which was the site of the Toll Gate at the end of Towngate, Upperthong. This attractive house was then built between 1854 and 1906 complete with outdoor privies dated from 1898, two wells and a cellar. In 1810, open cast coal was dug at the rear of the property and it is thought that the original dwelling was demolished during the Luddite riots of 1812. Its prominent position in the village makes it a key focal point for the conservation area and it is noteworthy that it was the first house in Upperthong to have a telephone.</p>
---	--------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------	---	---	--

	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC1</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill Methodist Chapel & Sunday School</p>	<p>Woodhead Road, Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>These are two large buildings adjacent to each other (shown together in upper photograph). The Chapel (on the left & in left lower photograph) is a 3-storey ashlar-fronted building with central door having pilasters and a heavy architrave. It has an ornamental front wall with cast iron railings. The first floor has 3 windows with arched voussoirs, and the second floor 3 plain windows. Windows on the south west elevation are in similar styles. The Sunday School (on the right & in right lower photograph) is inscribed 'Wesleyan - 1877'. Set on an ashlar plinth, it has a central doorway with pilasters, heavy architrave, and door within inner arch. On either side are windows with segmental arch lintels. Above the door is a 3-light window with arch tops and projecting sill on brackets. On either side</p>	<p>The chapel was built in 1839, with an adjoining Sunday School built in 1878. It had seating for 650 people. By 1971, the chapel had closed and the buildings sold. It was converted into flats. These are historic buildings used for communal purposes but now converted to residential. They reflect the heritage of the area.</p>
---	-------------------------------	----------------------------------	---	---	--	---

					<p>are two windows with arched tops.</p>	
	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC2</p>	<p>No.180 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>Well proportioned town house: 2-storey, stone, ashlar front, stone slate roof, sash windows. Central door with stone jambs and fanlight. 1 window either side with stone jambs and projecting sills. 3 similar windows to first floor with sill forming string course. Cornice above. Ornamental front wall with</p>	<p>This house was built in 1840 and is a typical design for a foremans' house. It was the house of the foreman for the mill in the bottom of the valley (Cross Mill) and the house next door (Broadfield) was the mill owner's house. It is an attractive</p>

					<p>cast iron railings and gate.</p>	<p>property maintaining its key features.</p>
	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC3</p>	<p>No.130 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>Elegant 2-storey stone house with ashlar front, quoins, stone slate roof, 6 over 6 sash windows. Central door with pillars, moulded architrave and fanlight. 1 window either side with apron below, fluted stone jambs and lintels. 3 windows to first floor with fluted stone jambs and lintels, and projecting sills on brackets. Cornice with blocking course above. Ornamental front wall with cast iron railings and gate.</p>	<p>Built in the 1840s, this was the house for the foreman of Yew Tree Mill and is a typical design reflecting the heritage of the area. It is also thought to have been the home of Samuel Roebuck who was a wealthy butcher in Hinchliffe Mill and is buried in Holmbridge churchyard. The slaughterhouse was next door to this building.</p>



	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC4</p>	<p>Nos.90-92 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>2-storey, stone, ashlar front, cornice above, stone slate roof, now with uPVC windows. No. 92 earlier, central door with stone jambs and fanlight. 1 window either side with stone jambs and projecting sills. 3 similar windows to first floor. No. 90 a little later, door to left with arched lintel and fanlight. 2-light window in rustic Italian form with arch lintels and keystones on each floor.</p>	<p>Appear on map of 1854 and a good example of housing of the time. The two houses were each part of a building then called Carr House and they were owned by William Henry Barber, who was the owner of Clarence Mill in Holmbridge.</p>
---	-------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	----------------------------	---	---



	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC5</p>	<p>Nos.84-88 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>Good example of style of houses in terrace: all 3-storey, coursed stone, cornice above, stone slate roof. Each house has central doorway with stone jambs and fanlight. On either side window with stone jambs and raised sill. 3 similar windows on each floor above (central ones narrower).</p>	<p>Building appears on map of 1854 and is a well-proportioned terrace of houses adding to the character of the conservation area. This row of three houses was originally called Carr Terrace (84 = 1 Carr Terrace 86 = 2 Carr Terrace, 88 = 3 Carr Terrace). No.86 and 88 are underwellings with overwellings accessible from Fairfield Road at the back. In 1910 the overwellings were described as a garret and a kitchen. No. 84 originally had a carriage house and stables and was owned by Jonathan Roberts, son of Jonathan Roberts, the owner of Yew Tree Mill. The Roberts family had owned Yew Tree Mill from its origin around the 1780s right through to</p>
---	-------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	----------------------------	---	---


						<p>it becoming modern times when two wool manufacturing families Butterworth and Roberts went into partnership. No. 86 was lived in by members of the Butterworth family and No. 88 was lived in by Henry Whiteley, woollen manufacturer. The Whiteleys were owners of Whiteley and Greens Ltd which ran their business from a part of Butterworth's mill at Hinchliffe Mill.</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	---


Appendix 2B: Candidate Non-Designated Heritage Assets (Recommendation 8B)

The following table includes those candidate sites, buildings or other structures deemed significantly important to warrant consideration for inclusion in the 'local list of non-designated heritage assets'. The candidate assets will be assessed as part of the combined West Yorkshire initiative (outlined in paragraph 4.3.8 of the HVNDP) and based on an agreed set of selection criteria. Further NDHAs may be included over the life of the plan.

Photograph of Candidate Non-Designated Heritage Asset	Identifier	Name	Location	Description	Significance
	Honley - Candidate NDHA 1	Honley library	West Avenue, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6HF	Stone and part-rendered building with cross-hipped roof of stone tiles. Ashlar entrance, windows set high (wall dormer style)	A distinctive building, built in 1936, partly funded by the Carnegie Trust. One of the “Carnegie” libraries, Honley library was built with funds donated by the Scottish-American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, and first opened its doors in 1936. Over the years the library has been a focal point for the village and remains a hive of activity today.
	Hade Edge - Candidate NDHA 1	Hade Edge School	Greave Road, Hade Edge, Holmfirth, HD9 2DF	Dating from 1899, a traditional school building built of stone with large vertical windows.	The main school building which is still used today is a traditional building which contributes positively to the historic character of the area. It is one of the few historic buildings in Hade Edge and has a prominent position on the edge of the village.

	<p>Hade Edge - Candidate NDHA 2</p>	<p>J Brindon Addy</p>	<p>Penistone Road, Holmfirth, HD9 2JG</p>	<p>Former weavers cottages and attached barn dating from the 18th century currently operating as a butcher's shop.</p>	<p>This property has 8 mullioned windows in a row and outline of cart doors and is one of the few historic buildings within Hade Edge which reflects the original character of the area.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth - Candidate NDHA 1</p>	<p>Bridge Mills</p>	<p>Bridge Mill, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3TW</p>	<p>Large, imposing mill building occupied by a range of local businesses</p>	<p>Built in 1865 and occupied by many different companies over the years until its closure in the 1980s. These companies carried out many of the processes in producing wool cloth under the same roof. One company invented a shuttle-less loom which resulted in machinery capable of weaving many designs with many colours. The remaining building is now a business park within the original building with a range of companies operating within it. Other parts of the original mill were on the opposite side of the Huddersfield Road but were replaced by a supermarket in 2014. Bridge Mills is a striking building reflecting Holmfirth's industrial</p>

					<p>heritage and visible on a key gateway to the town.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth - Candidate NDHA 2</p>	<p>Bottoms Mill</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill, HD9 2PU</p>	<p>Mill buildings, chimney and mill dam</p>	<p>Originally built in the 1820s, Bottoms Mill is one of Holme Valley's oldest mills. The iconic, 150ft red chimney was added in 1911 and acts as a landmark to this day. The mill relied on water from the River Holme, which was channelled via a narrow watercourse, known as a goit, into the Bottoms Mill pond.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth - Candidate NDHA 3</p>	<p>Former St. John's School</p>	<p>1 - 6 St John's Court, Greenfield Road, Holmfirth</p>	<p>Former school building now residential as St Johns Court. It is an attractive building with ashlar dressings including carved heads and bosses above the principal doors and windows and has an inscription above the door.</p>	<p>Built in 1871, this former school house has an inscribed date above the door 'St Johns Church School' and is a noteworthy building up this busy road out of Holmfirth centre. It was built in an L shape by architect Mr J. C Teale at a cost of £1150 with the mixed school in one part and the infant school in another. It accommodated 300 children between 1871 and 1971 before closing with the opening of the new 'Parkhead' school further up the road (now Upperthong J&I School).</p>
---	---	---	--	--	--

Appendix 3: Biodiversity Assets

International and National Designated Sites

Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area (SPA)
South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Honley Station Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Local Geological Sites

Brockholes and Round Wood, Brockholes
Digley Quarries, Holmbridge
Scar Hole Quarry, Jackson Bridge

Local Wildlife Sites

Cliff Wood
Hagg Wood, Honley
Hey Wood/West Wood
Honley Wood
Round Wood, Brockholes
Spring Wood, Honley
Carr Green Meadows, Holmbridge
Digley Reservoir/ Marsden Cough
Holme House Grasslands, New Mill
Holme House Wood, New Mill
Holmroyd Wood, Netherthong
Malkin House Wood, Holmfirth
Morton Wood
New Laith Fields, Holmbridge
Rakes Wood
Wild Boar Clough
Yateholme Reservoirs & Plantation

Appendix 4: Summary of Local Green Spaces

The following four locations have been identified for Local Green Space designation in the NDP:

- 1) Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden (Map 19)
- 2) Sandygate Fields (Map 20)
- 3) Wooldale 'Chapel Field' (Map 21)
- 4) Hade Edge 'Gateway Triangle' (Map 22)

NPPF Paragraph 100 sets out that the Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The following justification sets out how each of the Local Green Spaces meets the criteria in the NPPF:

1) Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden



Situated just below the School, Scholes Methodist church and on the road to Hepworth, this small location is closely located to the communities it serves and has long-standing local significance.

a) **Close proximity**

Situated just below Scholes School and Scholes Methodist Church, this site contains the original wells for the locality, the adjacent stonework including the base structure for what was the community hand pump.

b) Demonstrably special

The site is currently laid out as an attractive park area with shrubs surrounding a grassed area with two benches, litter bin and the wells themselves. The house across the road, previously named 'Denhirst', is Grade II listed. It is the only place in this part of the village with recreational value and has long served as a meeting place for local community activity.

The Annual Hepworth Feast procession stops at the well for singing on its circular route, a tradition dating back to 1884. The location was also used for open-air services connected with Scholes Sunday School, the Holmfirth Express reporting one such event in July 1918. The church and school still use it for displays and events and the School for example, used it for a well-dressing project in 2012. The location has been used in filming for the Last of the Summer Wine. Local wildlife is visible here with the well hosting frogspawn in the spring.

c) Local, not extensive

The site occupies the corner at the junction of White Wells Road and Marsh Road, comprising approximately 0.04 Ha. It is thus local and certainly not extensive.

2) Scholes Sandygate Fields

View from Scholes Moor Road looking towards Sandygate Farmhouse

This location comprises the historic setting of two Grade II listed farmhouses, those of Sandygate Farm and the Old House, Ryecroft; their ancient relationship with each other and the land of Scholes Moor as part of the medieval township of Scholes; and the connection with the Sandygate road, part of the historic Maythorne Way which connected Marsden, Holmfirth and Penistone.

a) Close Proximity

For this historic site, the concept of close proximity should be understood within the concept of the medieval township of Scholes, particularly because it is the heritage aspect of the area

which local residents wish to preserve. Faull and Moorhouse [1] state “Scholes was a hamlet lying in the townships of Wooldale, Fulstone, Cartworth and Hepworth. It was described as a township in 1285 and 1286 and its bounds were referred to in 1315.”

Further, they state “each township has a share of high moorland, freely draining brown soils and wetter gley soils, ie land suitable for both plough and pasture”. Within this context, Sandygate fields represent the heart of the totality of the medieval township considered in relation to its high moorland and ‘land suitable for plough and pasture’, and retains this proximity with respect to the modern settlement, the built element of which now extends from St George’s Road to Cross Lane.

[1] Faull and Moorhouse “West Yorkshire: An Archaeological Survey to 1500. Volume 3 - The Rural Medieval Landscape” pub West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council 1981

b) Demonstrably special

The special nature of the site derives from its historic origins and village heritage as described above, and its importance to local residents may be gauged by their continuing efforts over years to protect the site from development.

The demonstrably special nature of the site has been recognised in the final reports of two different Planning Inspectors who have both refused previous planning applications for the site.

In June 1996, the decision of the first Planning Inspector focussed on the character and setting of the location, being one of openness at the edge of the village allowing views out to the countryside beyond.

More recently, during the development of the Kirklees Local Plan, several hundred objections to the allocation of the site for housing were made, together with representations made by the Residents’ association (Scholes Future Group) who also gathered expert opinion from Historic England to support the case that the site should not be allocated for housing development.

In January 2019, the report of the Inspector of the Kirklees Local Plan supported this position by stating “The site consists of a series of open sloping fields on the edge of the village, divided by traditional stone walling. There are views across the site towards the nearby listed building of Sandy Gate Farmhouse and to the wider countryside, and the site provides an attractive setting to the village. The Council’s HIA identifies areas of moderate significance within the site which form part of the agricultural setting of Sandy Gate Farmhouse and another nearby listed building (The Olde House, Ryecroft). I concur with Historic England that the HIA underplays the significance of other parts of the site, as these form part of the historic field system, and there are clear views towards Sandy Gate Farmhouse from along much of Scholes Moor Road. The HIA indicates that views towards the asset are of ‘high significance’. I therefore conclude that development across much of the site would cause considerable, albeit less than substantial, harm to the listed farm, and detract from the character and setting of this part of the village.”

It is this special, recognised character and setting which Local Green Space designation would defend and preserve.

c) Local, not extensive

From the above, the site is clearly local and is self-contained within clearly defined boundaries. However, the word 'extensive' warrants further consideration. The extent of the site put forward is approximately 3.25 hectares which may seem excessive in respect of typical LGS areas. However, the special nature of the site within the historic bounds of the hamlet and associated moor within which it has been so closely related for so many centuries supports the case that not only is the area not too extensive, but indeed is as small as is necessary, to preserve the historic relationships within the locale with the associated landscape views and vistas.

3) Wooldale 'Chapel Field'**a) Close Proximity**

The field sits within the village of Wooldale, adjacent to Wooldale Free Methodist Church and close to the Wooldale Community Centre, and thus close to the community it serves.

b) Demonstrably special

The field fulfils an important function as a tranquil oasis of agricultural grazing space within Wooldale Conservation area. Wooldale Free Methodist Chapel was built in 1868 and in its early days, services were held on this field in the open air. In 1923, the chapel trustees bought the field for gatherings and the annual Wooldale Sing was held here for a number of years as well as annual bonfires, parades and other community events. The present trustees took over ownership of the field in 1997.

c) Local, not extensive

The field is contained within a boundary wall and has an area of approximately 0.4 Ha.

4) Hade Edge 'Triangle'



a) **Close Proximity**

The Hade Edge triangle sits on the northern edge of the village of Hade Edge, acting as a 'Gateway' to the village from the north. As the 'gateway' to the village, it is clearly close to the community it serves.

b) **Demonstrably special**

The area is maintained by the local residents' group, being used as a village green with benches and planters. It is furnished with a carved stone place name monument and is used locally as a meeting place and location for the display of local notices.

c) **Local, not extensive**

The site is not an extensive tract of land with an area of approximately 0.17 Ha.

Appendix 5: Kirklees Highway Design Guide November 2019

The Kirklees Local Plan states that car parking provision in new developments will be determined by the above criteria (Policy LP22). LP22 also states that new developments will incorporate (in their curtilage) flexibly designed and sufficient parking provision for private cars, considering a range of solutions. This is to provide the most efficient arrangement of safe, secure, convenient and visually unobtrusive car parking within a site, including a mix of on-street and off-street parking in accordance with current guidance. Policy LP22 also states that provision will be made to meet the needs of cyclists for cycling parking in new developments and that provision will be made to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities

The government abolished national maximum parking standards in 2011 as maximum parking standards can lead to poor quality development and congested streets. Local planning authorities must now seek to ensure parking provision is appropriate to the needs of a development and not reduced below a reasonable level.

20

KEY DESIGN DRIVER

Kirklees Council has not set local parking standards for residential and non-residential development. However, as an initial point of reference for residential developments (unless otherwise evidenced using the criteria in Para. 5.1), it is considered that new:

- **2 to 3 bedroom dwellings provide a minimum of two off-street car parking spaces**
- **4+ bedroom dwellings provide three off-street spaces.**
- **1-2 bedroom apartments provide one space (3+ bed two spaces)**

In most circumstances, one visitor space per 4 dwellings is considered appropriate. One cycle space per unit is recommended. The council can advise on provision for other uses. Further guidance can be found [here](#):

Further guidance on parking design is outlined in the Kirklees Highway Design Guide November 2019 which can be viewed at: [Highway Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\) \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

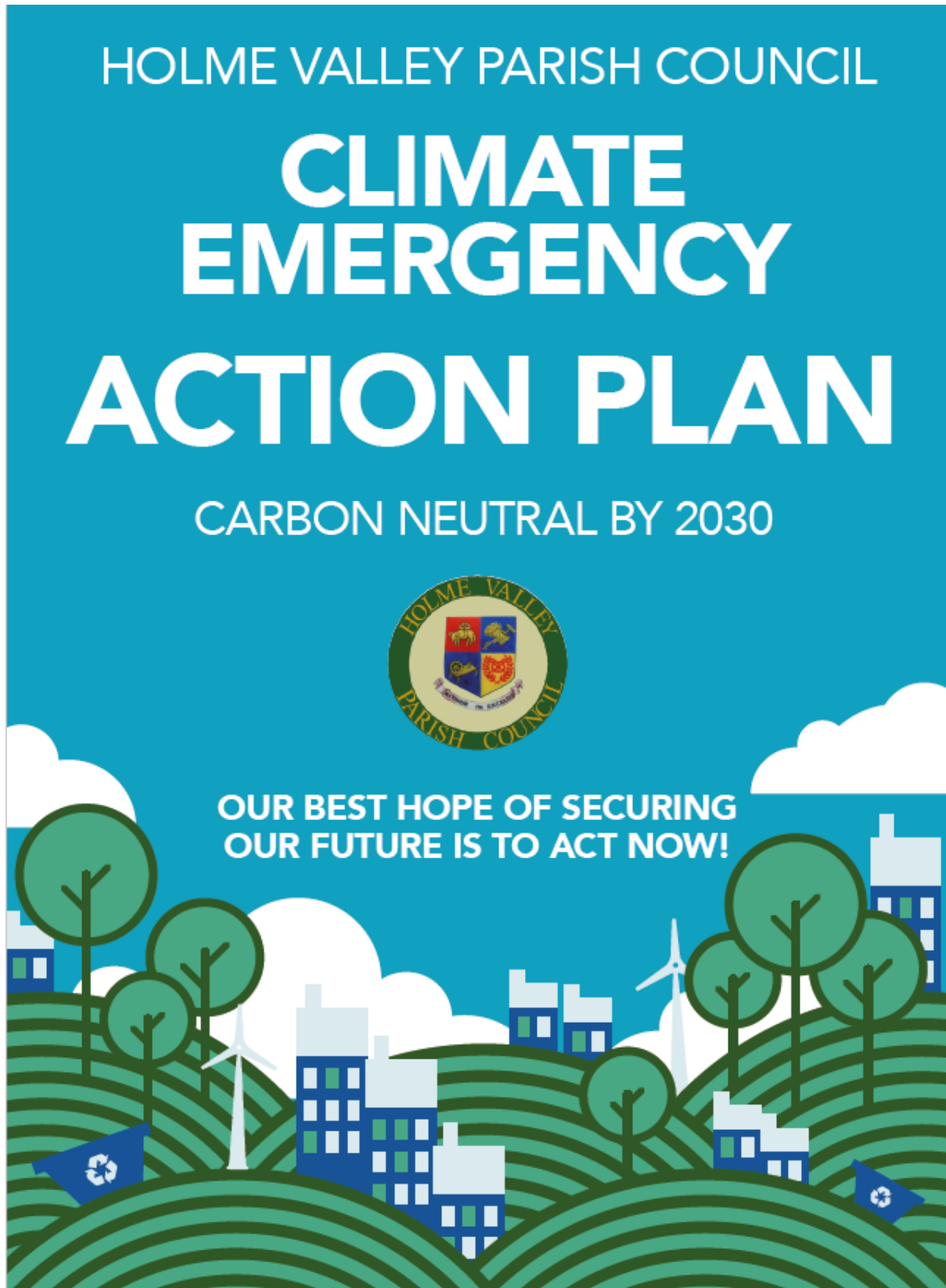
Submission Plan Appendix 6 deleted (Recommendation 20A)**Appendix 6: Kirklees Local Plan Designated Urban Green Space**

Ref No	Ward	Address	Street	Locality	Size
UGS903	Holme Valley North	Honley Park, Jagger Lane Recreation Ground & Honley Junior School	Jagger Lane	Honley	6.73
UGS904	Holme Valley North	Honley High School Playing Fields	New Mill Road	Honley	4.26
UGS906	Holme Valley North	Brockholes Junior & Infant School	Brockholes Lane	Brockholes	1.15
UGS907	Holme Valley North	Brockholes Recreation Ground	Brockholes Lane	Brockholes	0.56
UGS908	Holme Valley North	Scar Wood, Oakes Avenue Recreation Ground & Oakes Avenue Allotments	New Mill Road	Brockholes	1.51
UGS1242	Holme Valley South	All Saints Church	Town Gate	Netherthong	0.61
UGS1243	Holme Valley South	Christ Church	Sude Hill	New Mill	0.42
UGS1245	Holme Valley South	St John's Church	Upperthong Lane	Holmfirth	0.62
UGS1246	Holme Valley South	Land rear of Shawfield Avenue	Shawfield Avenue	Holmfirth	0.89
UGS1247	Holme Valley South	Land rear of Paris Road	Paris Road	Scholes	1.34
UGS1278	Holme Valley South	Dean Brook Woodland	St Marys Road	Netherthong	1.27
UGS1307	Holme Valley South	Holy Trinity Church	Butt Lane	Hepworth	0.44
UGS2150	Holme Valley South	Mill Pond	Wickleden Gate	Scholes	0.58
UGS1279	Holme Valley South	Land east of Springwood Road	Springwood Road	Thongsbridge	3.82

Ref No	Ward	Address	Street	Locality	Size
UGS861	Holme Valley South	Holmfirth Parish Church Tennis Club	New Mill Road	Wooldale	0.96
UGS884	Holme Valley South	Netherthong Primary School	School Street	Netherthong	1.13
UGS885	Holme Valley South	The Oval Playing Field	New Road	Netherthong	0.48
UGS886	Holme Valley South	Sands Recreation Ground	Huddersfield Road	Holmfirth	11.11
UGS887	Holme Valley South	Sycamore Recreation Ground & Holmfirth High School	New Mill Road	Thongsbridge	8.28
UGS888	Holme Valley South	Land between	Stoney Bank Lane & Holmfirth High School Playing Fields	Thongsbridge	3.43
UGS889	Holme Valley South	Land between	Stoney Bank Lane & Holmfirth Road	Thongsbridge	3.52
UGS890	Holme Valley South	Kirkroyds Infants & Lydgate Schools	Kirkroyds Lane	New Mill	2.34
UGS891	Holme Valley South	Land at junction of	Pell Lane and Little Lane	Wooldale	0.67
UGS892	Holme Valley South	Wooldale Recreation Ground	Little Lane	Wooldale	0.4
UGS893	Holme Valley South	Wooldale Junior School	Royds Avenue	New Mill	1.97
UGS894	Holme Valley South	New Mill Recreation Ground	Holmfirth Road	New Mill	1.03
UGS895	Holme Valley South	Victoria Park	Cooper Lane	Holmfirth	1.93
UGS896	Holme Valley South	Upperthong Junior & Infant School	Burnlee Road	Upperthong	1.19
UGS897	Holme Valley South	Cinderhills Recreation Ground	Field Road	Holmfirth	0.41
UGS898	Holme Valley South	Scholes Junior & Infant School	Wadman Road	Scholes	0.87

Ref No	Ward	Address	Street	Locality	Size
UGS899	Holme Valley South	Holmbridge Cricket Club Ground	Woodhead Road	Holmbridge	0.68
UGS900	Holme Valley South	Holmbridge Recreation Ground & St Davids Church	Woodhead Road	Holmbridge	4.53
UGS902	Holme Valley South	Hade Edge Junior & Infant School & Hade Edge Recreation Ground	Greave Road	Hade Edge	1.72

Appendix 7: Holme Valley Parish Council Climate Emergency Action Plan



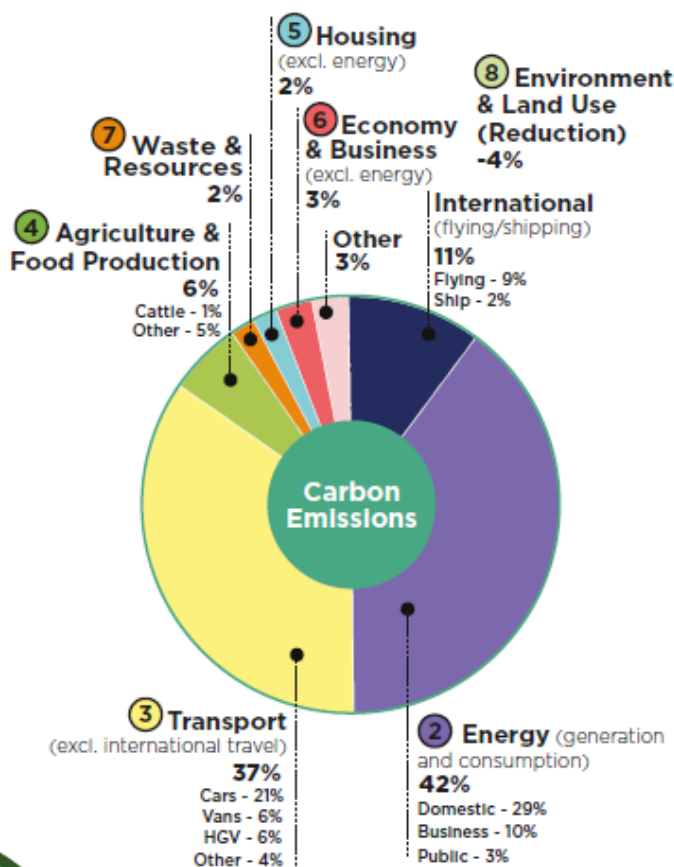
Holme Valley Parish Council recognises that we are in a state of climate emergency. Action is required by all of us to mitigate the impact of climate change on our community, our country and our planet.

Whilst we may like to think the worst impacts are far away, we are already seeing some effects close to home, with intense heat waves, heavy rainfall and flooding and more frequent moorland fires. Globally, these extremes are causing large scale flooding, crop failures and droughts, increasingly leading to massive people migrations, collapse of societies, mass starvations and millions of species threatened with extinction. These conditions are only predicted to get worse, threatening the futures of our children and grandchildren.

OUR BEST HOPE OF SECURING OUR FUTURE IS TO ACT NOW!

On 25th March 2019, the Holme Valley Parish Council pledged the Parish to becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, in order to help in making our planet safer for ourselves, our children and future generations. The Parish Council has developed this Climate Emergency Action Plan to work together with our community and other levels of government to achieve this aim.

The average carbon emissions of the people in the Holme Valley parish are about 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person per year, (based on tonnes CO₂e equivalent in 2017). As the average carbon footprint for residents, businesses and the community, this equates to carbon emissions from the Holme Valley Parish of about 180,000 tonnes per year.



REDUCING OUR CARBON EMISSIONS

To avert or reduce the effects of climate change, we need to limit the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) and remove the excess emissions already in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are mainly produced when fossil fuels (e.g. oil, gas and coal) are burned to create energy to power our homes and businesses, and to run our vehicles and machinery.

Reducing these emissions and becoming carbon neutral will require all of us to change to a more sustainable lifestyle, involving ambitious energy efficiency measures (decreasing the energy we use in the first place); getting our electricity from renewable sources (such as wind and solar); moving away from natural gas for heating and electricity generation from fossil fuels; moving to transport powered by renewable energy, eliminating waste and reusing resources, travelling less and promoting sustainable cycling, walking and the use of public transport.

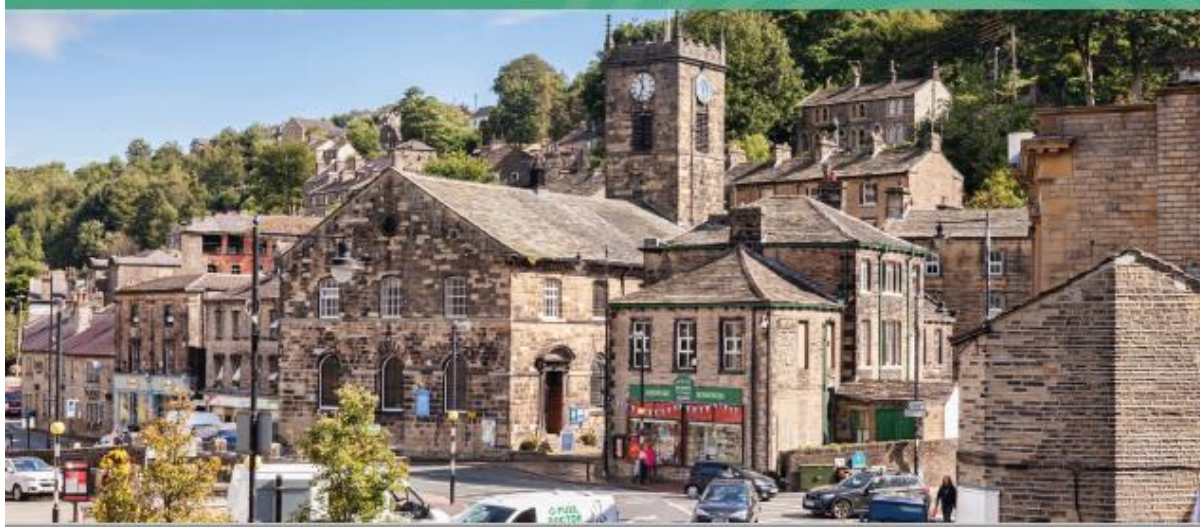
ACTION TAKEN SO FAR

The Holme Valley Parish Council with the local community and Kirklees Council, have already taken some local actions which will have reduced our carbon emissions, such as:

- Installed significant renewable energy generation capacity, particularly solar PV and wind turbines, including a community wind turbine 225kW which saves some 210 tonnes of carbon CO₂e each year.
- Insulated for free over one third of the homes in the Valley under the Kirklees Warm Zone Programme, reducing our domestic energy requirements
- Planted a number of young trees and new woodland in the Valley since 2000.
- Started upgrading Holme Valley street lighting to energy-efficient LED lights, saving electrical energy and carbon emissions
- Developed a Neighbourhood Plan with ambitions for energy-efficient homes fit for the future.

OUR GOALS:

- Inform, educate and change behaviours of residents, businesses and the wider community, in order to take the actions needed.
- Build resilience within our community to counter the adverse impact of climate change.
- Work towards a safe climate by radically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.



With a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, actions will need to be progressive; building up from *short term actions* raising awareness and showing what can be done, to *medium term actions* setting up pilot or transitional changes delivering some carbon reduction and then the *longer term actions* bringing in major change and the carbon reductions needed to get down to carbon neutral.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION WILL REQUIRE:

- Our homes and businesses to be dramatically more energy-efficient, with carbon-free heating sources.
- 100% clean electricity grid energy and more renewable energy generation within the Holme Valley.
- Ending our reliance on fossil-fuelled personal cars, vans and goods vehicles, with more shared transport and fewer journeys.
- Healthier lifestyles based on locally grown food, less red meat, more walking & cycling and a sustainable local farming economy
- Significant planting of woodland, restoration of our peatlands, preservation of green spaces and the maintenance of biodiversity in our flora and fauna.
- Working together as community residents, businesses, community organisations and all levels of government to respond to the Climate Emergency.



OUR 8 POINT ACTION PLAN FOLLOWS



Holme Valley Parish Council will work with other councils and organisations to show what is possible at the local level. Some of the largest changes, such as decarbonising our domestic energy and transport sectors by moving to 100% clean energy generation and leaving fossil fuels in the ground, will require concerted action at all levels of government, both local and national.

We will build support for this action in our local area and work with community groups and Kirklees Council to advocate for change at higher levels of government.

1 CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOBILISATION

Action is needed to avert the impact of climate change, and its impact on the lives of our community, as well as other parts of the UK and the world. The Holme Valley community needs to mobilise in response to the Climate Emergency. As the Parish Council we will facilitate this process of change within our community, and will:

SHOW LEADERSHIP

The scale and speed of transformation needed to change our energy markets, our economy, our legislation, and our behaviour in order to reduce carbon emissions, requires leadership at local, national and global levels. For our part, the Holme Valley Parish Council will:

- Engage and partner with other organisations to urge local and central government to declare and act on the Climate Emergency to meet the goals of this Climate Emergency Action plan
- Support our local community organisations to engage and take action on the Climate Emergency
- Report back on our actions and key achievements.

BUILD ENGAGEMENT

Build engagement and communications between the key stakeholders in our community, e.g. residents, community organisations, businesses, Kirklees Council, and central government. The Holme Valley Parish Council will:

- Provide information and advocacy through public meetings, events, newsletters, social media and Council website.
- Build relationships and partner with local community organisations, businesses and Kirklees Council to further our Action Plan.

STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

Strengthen resilience of our community for dealing with economic, social and extreme environmental change. The Parish Council will:

- Seek a shared community vision of the challenges facing us with the Climate Emergency and the actions proposed, through meetings, events, website, social media etc.
- Strengthen our community identity and social cohesion, by building our Holme Valley brand, promoting our strengths and values etc.
- Build community capacity (knowledge-sharing, skills and networks) to carry out the actions proposed.



2 ENERGY ACTIONS

42% of Holme Valley Parish carbon emissions

Our major challenge is to reduce and decarbonise our domestic energy consumption, by switching to clean fuels for heating and lighting, and by transforming our local buildings and infrastructure to be more energy efficient and fit for the future. The Parish Council will:

- Encourage residents and business to **change behaviours and use less energy**
- Promote the **retrofitting of existing housing stock** (80% of 2050 homes) **to make homes more energy-efficient**, including insulation, draught-proofing, efficient heating/cooling systems and 'smart' controls.
- Ensure **new buildings** (20% of 2050 homes) **are built to high environmental and energy-efficiency standards**, through the planning process and the Local and Neighbourhood Plans.
- Support **local businesses and industry to be more energy-efficient and sustainable**.
- Support the **changeover of our street lighting and other public facilities to energy efficient LED lighting**.



- Explore how residents can **purchase renewable electricity on a communal basis** and can access communal district heating networks.
- Urge the government to **power up renewables** so that 100% of grid electricity is clean energy as soon as possible.
- Urge the government to **phase out natural gas use** for all domestic heating boilers and plan for switching to clean fuel sources for heating our buildings, such as renewable electricity, hydrogen, biofuels or heat pumps.
- Support more **renewable energy generation** in the Valley, particularly wind energy, solar and ground/air source heating, and encourage community-led schemes.

3 TRANSPORT ACTIONS

37% of Holme Valley Parish carbon emissions

The second major challenge is to make the switch to non-fossil fuelled vehicles, such as electric vehicles (EV), to reduce car dependency through better alternative transport services and infrastructure and to reduce our travel journeys. The Parish Council will:

- Promote a **walking and cycling culture**, reducing the need for vehicle transport whilst also improving our health and well-being etc, providing pathways, cycle routes and safe parking facilities for bikes, trikes, cargo-bikes and e-bikes.
- Support and facilitate **the switch to electric (EV) and other clean energy vehicles**, with dedicated parking and charging point facilities.
- Promote **clean energy public transport**, providing local, flexible and public transport services interconnecting our rural areas with transport hubs, using community buses, electric 'uber' style taxis, rickshaw e-bikes etc.



- Encourage more **car-sharing and vehicle-free environments**, reclaiming our road space, limiting personal car access, giving **preference to walkers, cyclists** and providing **better access to public shared transport**.
- Encourage residents to **reduce air travel**, pending clean-energy fuelled aeroplanes coming into service.



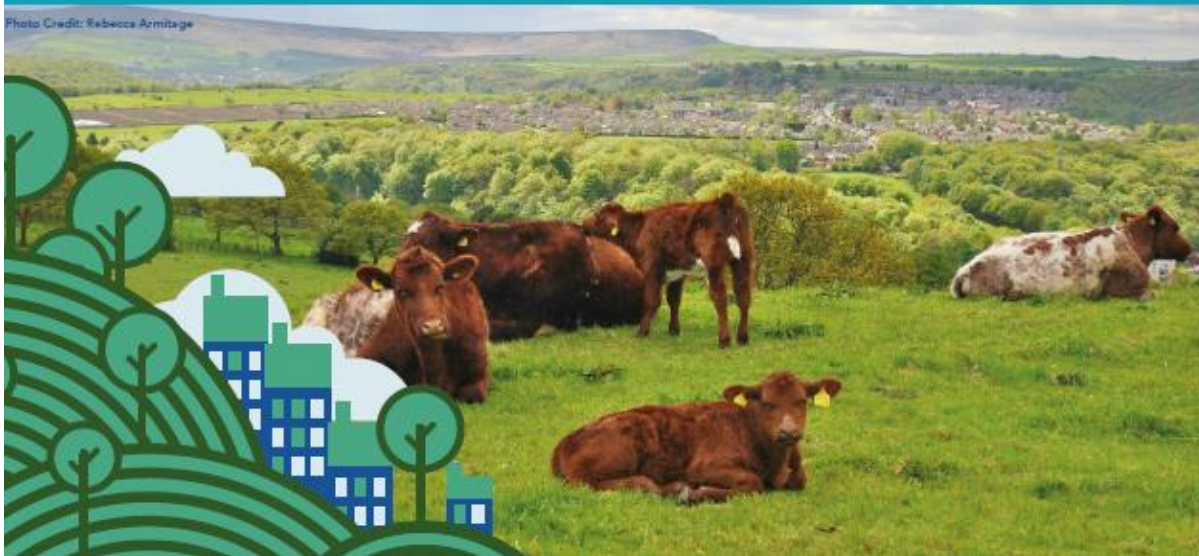
4 AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION

Current agriculture and food production practices in the modern world have degraded the land, increasing carbon emissions and reduced the land's capacity to store carbon. A transformation in the way the world produces food and manages the land is required if we are to reduce the sector's carbon emissions. The Parish Council will:



- Promote **local food growing, local producers, farmers markets and local restaurants**, for our local producers to have outlets for their produce, restaurants to use local foods and to encourage residents to 'eat local', whether at home or dining out.
- Seeks **sites for more community allotments and community greenhouses** to promote all year round growing of local foods, to meet local demand.
- Encourage **healthy personal lifestyles** based on maximising use of local produce, with lower red meat and dairy consumption, more fruit and vegetables, to reduce imports of food and to support our local farming economy.
- Promote **sustainable farming practices** in the Valley that maximise local food production and restore the carbon storage capacity of our land, such as natural animal raising, natural pest control, permaculture, polyculture and pasture management.

Photo Credit: Rebecca Armitage



5 HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite our ageing housing stock and rural setting, housing demand in the Valley has risen significantly whilst house building has not kept up. A 'perfect storm' is coming, with shortages of both affordable housing for young people and compact quality housing for older people, coinciding with our existing housing stock needing to be retrofitted with energy-efficiency measures to be fit for the future. These challenging issues will have to be addressed so that the Valley community gets the housing it needs for a sustainable low carbon future. The Parish Council will:

- Support the supply of **affordable housing** in the Valley, including starter homes for the next generation of Valley residents.
- Support the supply of **compact quality housing for older residents** which meets their access and mobility needs, thereby releasing larger family homes onto the market.
- Use its **powers under Local and Neighbourhood Development Plans in the planning process**, to support development of appropriate housing to suit our community needs.
- Facilitate access to land and property for **community-led housing projects**
- Promote the development of **sustainable infrastructure** including green space landscaping, sustainable drainage (SUDS), water conservation measures, permeable surfaces and flood protection measures associated with housing and other building developments.

6 ECONOMY & BUSINESS

As a rural community within commuting distance of the large conurbations of Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester, the Holme Valley has to work hard to keep its own town centre shops and businesses going – in many similar rural areas around the country their town centres are failing. For a sustainable local economy, the challenge is to ensure sufficient local jobs and businesses to give the opportunity for residents to work locally in the Valley, instead of commuting for work within West Yorkshire and elsewhere, with all the carbon implications this brings. We will:

- Support **local small business opportunities in the growing green business sector**
- Seek to expand **local employment and training opportunities** as a means of reducing levels of commuting and to encourage young people to stay in the local area.
- Support **local service businesses in the vibrant tourism/entertainment/dining sector**
- Promote better **IT and Broadband services** in the Valley for home workers
- Encourage setting up **business hubs for local working**, with start-up offices, workshops and studios with hot-desking and commercial services facilities
- Support the establishment of **community-led businesses, such as co-operatives**, community benefit societies etc, which are supported by their local community and providing local services.
- Support **local festivals and other lifestyle events** which stimulate tourism and the local economy, as well as contributing to the character and well-being of the Valley.



7 WASTE & RESOURCES

With a natural limit to global resources, our community has to consume less products, produce less waste and recycle more of these waste resources for re-use. As we move to a 'circular economy' where waste become resources, as a community we need to change our 'throwaway' behaviours in order to reduce our carbon footprint. The Parish Council will:

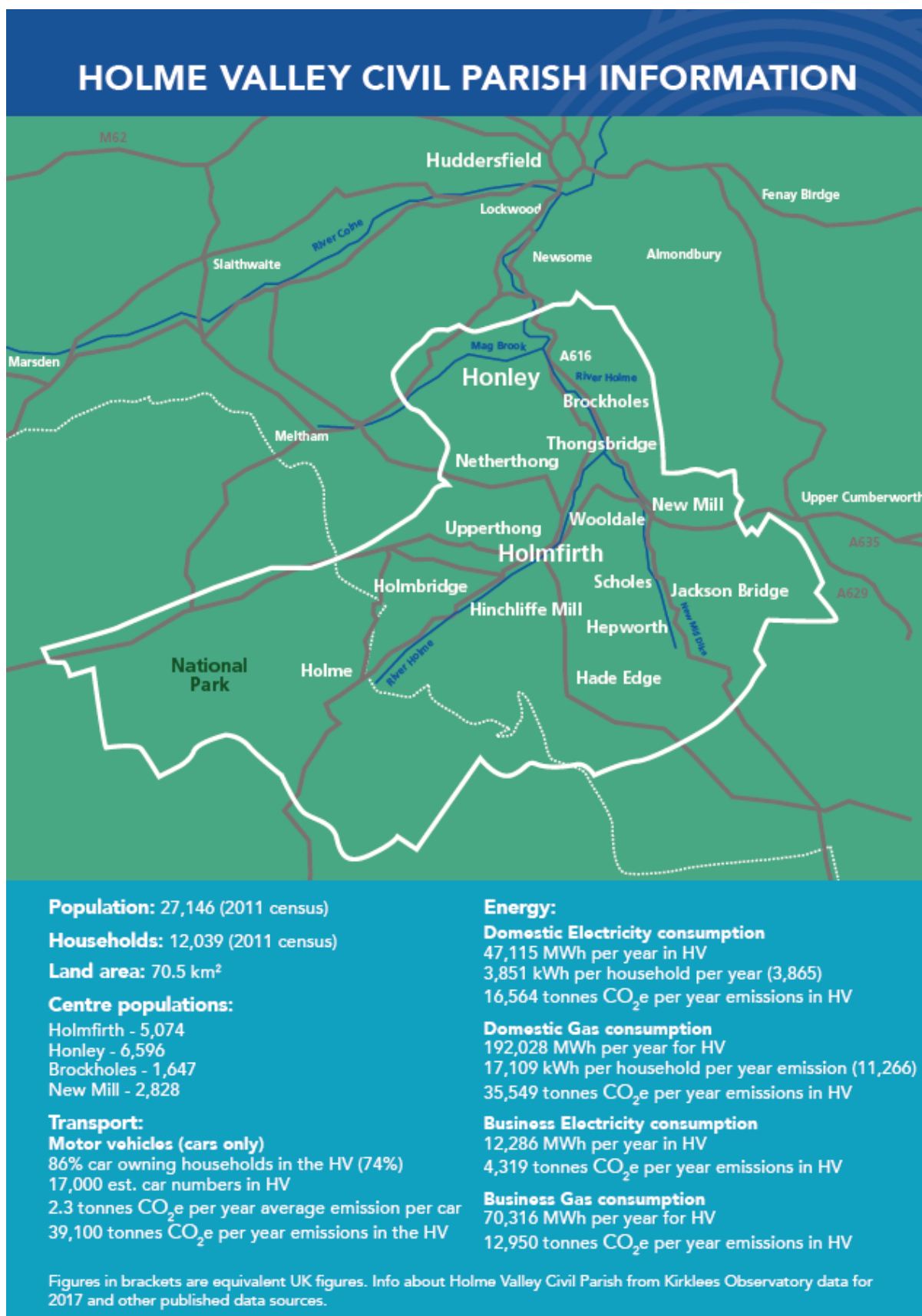
- Support resource initiatives involving **public awareness campaigns**, educational action etc. which reduce consumption and wastage and increase recycling and recovery rates,
- Encourage local businesses to **minimise their trade wastes** and maximise their resource recycling and recovery rates.
- Facilitate the **reduction in single-use packaging** and containers e.g. by providing drinking water fountains in public spaces to reduce the need for single-use plastic water bottles.
- Encourage local businesses to **make recycled end-market products from local wastes**, and sell these locally, though initiatives to drive forward a local circular economy within the Valley.
- Support community re-use and recycling e.g. recycling hubs, repair cafés, cooperative businesses etc.
- Urge government to **enforce the highest levels of resource recovery** and to implement their new UK Waste and Resource strategy in the move towards a circular economy for the UK.

8 ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE

With the realisation of the role that sustainable land use and afforestation plays in reducing carbon, the Valley can offset its carbon emissions by planting more woodland, conserving peatlands and wetlands, restoring grasslands and other changes to farmland and moorland, in order to retain them as carbon sinks and promote biodiversity. The Parish Council will:



- Encourage the **planting and management of more trees and woodlands** in our Valley for carbon sequestration (as carbon sinks)
- Support the **restoration and conservation of peatlands and wetlands (bogs)** on our moors
- Support the **restoration of agricultural pastures and grasslands** in the Valley
- Promote **community gardens, permaculture, wildlife gardens and green spaces**
- Encourage **biodiversity of our flora and fauna** to protect our pollinators and sustain a natural environment for crop production.
- Support **sustainable land use measures** in the Valley that can ensure water conservation, flood protection, and soil erosion protection.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



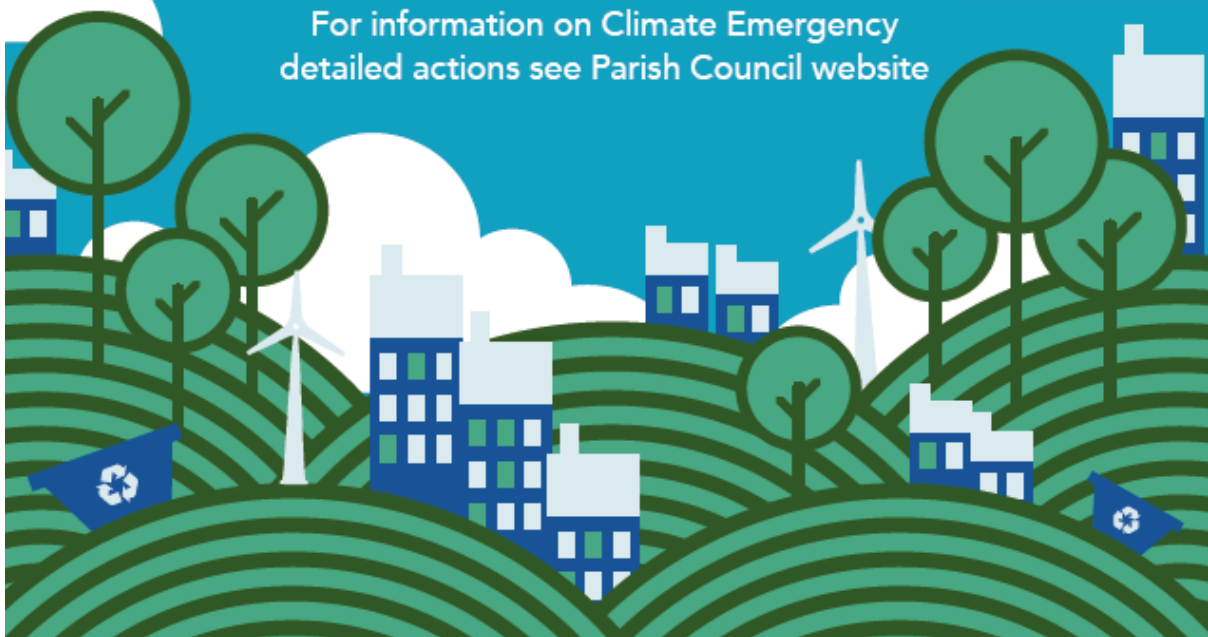
Holme Valley Parish Council,
Holmfirth Civic Hall,
Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth,
West Yorkshire, HD9 3AS

+44 (0)1484 687460

clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

For information on Climate Emergency
detailed actions see Parish Council website



Holme Valley Parish Council

July 2021

Appendix 5: Holme Valley NDP Neighbourhood Area

