

Matter 16 – Delivering growth policies

Issue – Does the Plan set out positively prepared policies for delivering growth and sustainable development, which are justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

a) HVV Response

We doubt the Council's understanding of the practical meaning of "sustainable". Its Plan appears to us to compromise long term interests to meet short term pressures.

We have significant doubts, as highlighted in Stage 1, about the Council's willingness to involve the local community as a relevant stakeholder. They appear to be unwilling to consult in a meaningful and constructive fashion.

Without genuine involvement, we have no faith in the delivery of the elements given in the list, particularly that the proposals will "*create a strong sense of place.*" We believe that the land allocation and the resultant growth in settlement size will undermine the sense of place and community we have in the Holme Valley. The proposed growth will take the number of residents from 26,000 to over 30,000 – a significant increase. This out of proportion increase will be even more damaging to small villages such as Hade Edge, Scholes and Netherthong whose identities and amenities will be seriously and damagingly impacted.

We doubt the commitment to the provision of employment and community facilities.

We have concerns regarding fibre optic, sewage, drainage and flood mitigation.

Kirklees' attitude to conservation areas and the value of its heritage, including the natural environment and bridleways, is remiss.

b) – c) HVV Response

We believe that in practice Kirklees is operating a 'green field / green belt first' policy as it does not wish to challenge developers who are acting in their own interests rather than those of local people.

We have seen no evidence of the Council trying to promote the re-use of brownfield sites.

d) HVV Response

The average density for housing in the Holme Valley stands at 27.33. We believe that a higher density would reduce the amount of land needed and would encourage the type of housing actually needed and wanted by local people (see HVV's young adult and business survey results). The type of housing being built and likely to be built in future is encouraging more people to move into the Valley. Without local jobs for them, this inevitably puts more cars on the inappropriate roads and puts strain on local services.