

Matter 20 – Design and climate change policies

Issue -Does the Plan set out positively prepared policies for securing high quality design and dealing with climate change, which are justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

a) -f) HVV Response

We defer to the comments of the Holmfirth Conservation Group regarding design and shop fronts. We would also like to inform the Planning Inspector that the Holme Valley Parish Draft Neighbourhood Plan includes matters on design which includes consideration of carbon emission reduction and wind turbines. The Planning Inspector is urged to request a copy of the draft plan.

We are not confident that Kirklees fully considers the impact developments will have on the long views across the Valley. For example the newly built houses called Holly Mount on New Mill Road are highly visible from Netherthong – was this considered in the planning application? The proposed housing allocation to the south of Long Lane Honley (H3448 in SD30 –not yet consulted on) is highly visible from a number of viewpoints, would have a significant impact of the visual amenity of the area, and encroaches on the green belt.

We are concerned about the plan's short-sightedness regarding flood mitigation measures, given the Holme Valley's history of flooding. Holmfirth experienced the highest death rate from inland flooding until the recent changes in the weather patterns.

Action can be taken to mitigate natural disasters, such as tree planting and better maintenance of ditches and cloughs many of which are now overgrown, but we are far more concerned by the manmade disasters which are totally avoidable. Surface run off caused by building on the hill tops can be totally avoided by not building on the hill tops!

The drainage system was constructed long before the housing numbers increased to their present levels. There is evidence, that despite the assurances in the Local Plan, that they are already inadequate for current demand. Increasing the drainage network will be high cost, because of the terrain and we have doubts that developer contributions will be sufficient to do the work needed to avoid pollution and flooding.

As an example, the sewers in the Ribbleden Valley (Dunford Road) are only 6 inches and 8 inches in diameter. They are combined sewers and carry sewage and rain water. In heavy rain, manhole covers and road gullies frequently surcharge and the contents flow into the river. The sewers themselves are still fitted with CSOs (Combined Sewer Outlets) which discharge directly into the river at times of flooding. We are also concerned by the loss of woodland and greenfields. No one is making any more land and once it has been lost to housing or employment use, it scarcely ever reverts.

We recognise the need for more housing and employment and strongly urge that the brown field first policy becomes real.