

Matter 21 – Natural and historic environment policies

Issue -Does the Plan set out positively prepared policies for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, which are justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

a) – f) HVV Response

We defer to the views of the Holmfirth Conservation Group, which we support totally.

Our heritage is invaluable as it provides the explanation of why the settlements, villages and towns grew up. Therefore, as an educational resource, it is irreplaceable. However, there is a very real danger of sites of importance being forgotten and lost unless more effort is taken to record, log and use them positively and in ways that are sustainable.

The countryside is stunningly beautiful and is the reason why the Last of the Summer Wine came here, and why it continues to be used in many current TV dramas and films. It is a wonderful resource that is massively under-rated by Kirklees and consequently underused.

The use of the outdoors can make a significant contribution to improving health and wellbeing. However, there is no reason for us to believe that Kirklees fully appreciates in practice the diversity and natural beauty of our Valley. The words on paper may seem fine; we see very little action to show that they are meant.

As well as streams and rivers, the water environment in the Valley includes reservoirs, of which there are many, ditches, drains and cloughs. In our view, these are a neglected resource and require far greater attention than that provided in the local plan.