

Matter 21 – Natural and historic environment policies (Policies PLP 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 & 35)

Comments by Holmfirth Conservation Group (HCG)

1. Policies PLP 30, 31 & 34 are largely beyond the ambit of HCG.
2. PLP 32 the landscape within which Holmfirth sits is an integral part of the town and its setting. To that end the protection of the setting is as important as the protection of the Conservation Area. This, of course, applies equally to the other conservation areas in the valley, whether or not they have had an approved appraisal and management plan.
3. PLP 33 there is an on-going problem of tree loss on development sites within all conservation areas, not just Holmfirth town centre, is alarming and the existing and proposed policies would not seem to address the problem. Which is the policing of conservation areas in an era of decreasing manpower.
4. PLP 35 relates mostly directly to the interests of HCG. We are concerned that far too many conservation areas are lacking appraisal and management plans. HCG is preparing an appraisal with the assistance and guidance of Historic England. Though we are concerned by the lack of action by Kirklees. On occasions like this actions speak louder than words.
5. The proposed loss of Bridge Mills (we have high-lighted these premises earlier), on the edge of Holmfirth centre is an example of the dual stance adopted by the authority. On one hand they want to retain and enhance the industrial heritage, yet they are happy to demolish the past for more low density housing which is not a priority. The execution of policy does appear to be somewhat myopic.

Submission date: 16th November 2017