

Matter 24 -Green Belt and open space policies

Issue -Does the Plan set out positively prepared policies for protecting the Green Belt and open spaces which are justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

a) – j) HVV Response

We support the position of CPRE and KCAN. We share the latter's concern about the removal of Policy DLP 55 which appeared in the consultation version but does not appear in the draft. Would the Planning Inspector please explore why was this policy taken out?

We believe that Kirklees could be more proactive in promoting the use of the countryside positively to encourage greater economic activity in the Holme Valley, especially from visitors wishing to take part in outdoor sports and recreation and tourism. There is a known shortage of overnight accommodation yet we see little in the plan that would help remedy this. Likewise, we see little in Policy 54 that would genuinely facilitate farm diversification.

The draft Holme Valley Parish Neighbourhood Plan document comments on design and extension. We need to be mindful of the distinct architectural features of the Valley and the proportions of the old buildings. These can be easily distorted so care, particularly in the conservation areas and with listed buildings is needed. However, it is, in our view, better to extend existing buildings than take more green fields.

Likewise, infilling, so long as it does not lead to the merger of settlements, is preferable as is the re-use of existing buildings. However, we do not totally support the loss of buildings currently used for employment and economic purposes to housing.