

Holme Valley NDP Examination

Parish Council Responses to Examiner's Questions

Examiner's Question 1

1. Policies 1 and 2 depend heavily on content of the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment (HVHCA) to operate with the policies referring to both the text at paragraph 4.1.17 and the text at Appendix 7 of the NDP. At present I am not satisfied that the operational relationship between policy and various sections of text is sufficiently clear or would be easily navigated and understood by either a developer or a decision maker to meet the requirements of the NPPF or Planning Policy Guidance and therefore Basic Condition A. I am therefore inviting The Parish Council and their Planning Consultant in consultation with Kirklees Council, who have significant concerns about this matter, to review the principles in section 4.1.17 to ensure the key principles for each of the LCAs and for both 'landscape and views' and 'settlement and built form' are clearly set out and so that these clearly relate to the two policies.

I have considered possibly leaving this rewording open to be done through a general modification but essentially to ensure the two policies would meet the requirements in terms of the Basic Conditions I consider that I need to see this reworked section to satisfy myself that the two policies can work.

In principle the bullet point approach can be retained but what will be required is that 4.1.17 contains all the key principles for 'landscape and views' and 'settlement and built form' without the plan user having to refer to Appendix 7 of the plan or the full HVHCA. Thus the layout for LCA4 as an example would be as follows:

LCA4 – River Holme Settled Valley Floor.

Key principles – Landscape and views

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Key principles – Settlement and built form

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In preparing this you should not add any principles that are not already in the public domain in the NDP within 4.1.17 itself or Appendix 7 extracts. What I am looking for is a more exact setting out of the principles against which Policy 1 (Landscape Character) and Policy 2 (Built Character) will be operated so that a developer or decision maker knows immediately which principles will be applied in the assessment of their proposals.

Parish Council Response Question 1

Following a meeting with Kirklees on 26/3/21, it was agreed that the response below would be provided as the way in which HVPC had interpreted the changes requested by the Examiner. It should be noted that it includes all Local Character Areas including those in the PDNP. Kirklees proposed more detailed clarifications and rearrangement of information which will also be shared with the Examiner by Kirklees. Prior to undertaking additional work on this, we agreed that both the HVPC and Kirklees suggestions be presented to the Examiner so he can provide a steer on which level of change is required. This is to avoid abortive work and the Examiner's prompt response to which approach to adopt is appreciated.

Proposed Revised Section 4.1.17

(Note - Key Characteristics are from App 7 and Key Principles are from 4.1.17)

LCA 1: Wessenden Moors

Key Characteristics - Landscape and Views

Land use is characterised by open moorland with some exposed farmland predominantly grazed by sheep. The setting forms an extension of the wider moorland expanses of the Peak District National Park to the west. The portions of upland moorland habitat are underlain by blanket peat. Field boundaries are generally rare but where these do exist these are often post and wire fencing or millstone grit walling. The Holme Moss Transmitting Station is also located within the boundary of the LCA, accessed via the A6024 Woodhead Road.

Woodland cover is sparse due to the high degree of openness and exposure. With the exception of land associated with Holme Moss Transmitting Station, the full extent of the LCA is defined as open access land. The National Park designation and section of the Pennine Way long distance footpath also underlines the area's value as a recreational resource.

The views to the west are characterised by long distance open panoramas which contrast with views of the densely settled valley of the River Holme itself. These open views combined with the localised topography and absence of trees and settlement provide a perception of remoteness.

A key landmark of this LCA is Holme Moss Transmitting Station which sits within a landscape of expansive skylines, affording inter-visibility with the wider Peak District National Park. A public car park and viewpoint exists on the opposing side of the A6024 Woodhead Road to Holme Moss Transmitting Station, allowing panoramic views across the Holme Valley. The Emley Moor Transmitting Station is also perceptible from this location.

Key principles – Landscape and Views

- Maintain open, undeveloped areas of moorland to retain a sense of wildness;
- Manage the open access land and route of the Pennine Way to maximise recreational opportunities
- Restore and enhance moorland landscapes;
- Conserve the open character and long distance views across the settled valley floor towards the conurbations in the east;

- Develop a strategy to conserve the moorland areas as a distinct landscape in contrast from the settled rural fringes.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

A lack of settlement results in a remote landscape situated within the boundary of the Peak District National Park. The landscape is therefore characterised by a sense of desolation. The landscape itself forms a dramatic upland setting to settlements located within the wider valley landscape of the study area.

Key Principles – Settlement and Built Form

- Limit future development to maintain the sense of remoteness;

LCA 2: Holme Moorland Fringe

Key Characteristics - Landscape and Views

Situated at the head of the Holme Valley, Holme village lies at the edge of an area of wilderness. Land use is dominated by rough grazing and semi-improved pastures, enclosed by millstone grit walls or post and wire fencing. The landscape forms a rising rural backdrop to the settlements occupying the valley floor of the wider Holme Valley.

The LCA incorporates a number of upland reservoirs. Digley and Brownhill Reservoir provide recreational opportunities and are located close to the settlements of Holme and Holmbridge, straddling the boundary of the Peak District National Park. Ramsden, Riding Wood, and Yateholme Reservoirs also lie to the south of the LCA. The remains of ganister, fireclay and gritstone quarries are also evident within the landscape.

Largely as a consequence of a high degree of openness and exposure, tree cover is confined to water courses and land associated with the Digley and Brownhill Reservoirs. Large geometric coniferous plantations also encompass Yateholme, Riding Wood and Ramsden Reservoirs. The LCA contains areas of open access land to the south of Holme. With the exception of a large area of setts at the junction of Meal Hill Road and the A6024 Woodhead Road which acts as a public open space, Holme village itself contains very few areas of public realm.

Views are a key component of the LCA. The availability of panoramic and long distance views are valued locally and are a major attractor to the area for tourists. Views to the west from within the LCA are dominated by the 228 m Holme Moss Transmitting Mast, set within the wider context of the moorlands and Peak District National Park. The LCA also affords elevated vantage points with long distance views available across the densely settled valley floor of the River Holme.

The Holme Conservation Area Appraisal identifies a number of key views from within the conservation area. The building clusters and the high boundary walls dictate that only a few key vistas are available towards the moorland. The enclosure created by the stone walls along the roads around Holme contrasts markedly with the vast open panoramas of the surrounding landscape.

Key Principles – Landscape and Views

- Maintain open, undeveloped areas of moorland to address the issues highlighted above, managing change in this area should focus on sustaining, reinforcing or enhancing those aspects which contributes to local distinctiveness.
- Manage and enhance the mosaic of moorland fringe and pastoral land;
- Retain views of the moorland backdrop from locations within and on the approach to Holme village;
- Preserve key views into the open moorland by limiting the height and scale of future developments;
- Conserve the network of stone walls and promote the restoration of stone walls;
- Maintain the extensive network of Public Rights of Way to promote access;
- Conserve the old pack-horse routes as important historical assets;
- Provide historical interpretation of disused quarries as important industrial heritage;
- Maximise potential to develop small scale renewable energy such as water power and local wood fuel supplies for local needs;
- Explore opportunities to soften the structure of coniferous plantations to respond to topography.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

Nestled under Holme Moss, Holme forms a hilltop village historically associated with agriculture and the textile industry. The village has a traditional settlement pattern centred on the A6024 Woodhead Road with development along Meal Hill Road, Turf Gate and Fieldhead Lane.

There are also small groups of buildings (including farmsteads) to the north of the LCA around Digley Reservoir and along Flush House Lane, Roods Lane, Coldwell Lane, Carr Lane, Mellor Lane and Greenfield Lane.

A dispersed settlement pattern characterises the wider landscape, with scattered farmsteads and groups of buildings at Flush House and Hogley Green, located on the valley slopes. In general, this LCA demonstrates where development moves from the valley floor to the hilltops.

Millstone grit is the common building material and former laithe and weaver's cottages form a distinctive vernacular architecture. Building details are designed in response to the harsh climatic conditions with small windows located predominantly on less exposed elevations.

Key Principles – Settlement and Built Form

- Consider the use of stone setts and cobbles as a replacement for asphalt and concrete within the public realm;
- Reinforce local distinctiveness by ensuring future developments are sympathetic to the character and setting of Holme Conservation Area;
- Use a low density development pattern for hamlets and small villages.

In addition, the landscape guidelines outlined within the Peak District National Park Landscape Character Assessment identifies the following as priorities for the landscape of this LCA:

- Protection of historic dry stone walls;
- Management and enhancement of woodlands;
- Diversification of agricultural grasslands.

LCA 3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures

Key Characteristics – Landscape and Views

Farmland is grazed and divided into a regular patchwork of small fields enclosed by millstone grit walling. Settlement is sparse with scattered farmsteads and hillside villages. The rising landform accommodates small tributaries which drain from the Holme Styes and Boshaw Whams reservoirs into the River Holme below. There is some evidence of rural diversification from agriculture with an ice cream shop and wind turbine at Longley Farm for example.

Clough Wood and Copthurst Wood, large coniferous plantations, occupy the upland slopes above Holme Styes Reservoir. However, the landscape is generally sparsely wooded and limited to shelterbelts and vegetation associated with small watercourses.

An open landscape with long distance views over Kirklees District towards the Emley Moor transmitting station to the south-east of Huddersfield. The wind turbine at Longley Farm and individual domestic turbines are features of this LCA with views of other wind farm developments, such as Spicer Hill, on the edges of Barnsley district reducing the perception of tranquillity.

Key principles – Landscape and Views

- Maintain pastoral land use and encourage appropriate grazing management;
- Integrate new agricultural buildings into the landscape;
- Maintain and enhance the extensive network of PRow to promote access.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

Settlement is sparse, with development largely limited to the hillside village of Hade Edge and the group of farm buildings at Cartworth Fold.

Washpit Mill is also located within this LCA and is comprised of mill buildings and cottages. Hade Edge forms the largest settlement and is located on a plateau at Dunford Road and Penistone Road. Farmsteads are scattered on the valley slopes. The character of the LCA is a mix of agricultural land with small hillside settlements which developed through farming and domestic textile manufacturing. Dry stone walls are common features creating a strong sense of visual unity.

Key principles – Settlement and Built Form

- Ensure the setting of the existing historic settlements is retained and enhanced;
- Retain the character of the small rural settlements within the wider moorland and agricultural landscape;
- Preserve the settlement layout and appearance of traditional buildings in new developments;
- Respect the existing building stock and local vernacular in building design.

CA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor**Key Characteristics – Landscape and Views**

The commercial centre of Holmfirth is in the valley floor where the high level of activity results in a busy and vibrant character and reduced levels of tranquillity. However, the character of the wider

area, including the linear villages of Upperthong and Hinchliffe Mill, is mainly residential where the building scale is generally small.

The mill chimney at Bottoms Mill forms a prominent feature along the River Holme at Hinchliffe Mill, providing an historic link to the legacy of the textile industry. Ribbleden Mills on the B6106 Dunford Road is the last remaining mill still in use today. The site of the Co-op supermarket and extensive car park on Market Street occupies the site of the former Albert Mills.

The densely settled nature of the valley floor results in limited open space, though there are some pockets of undeveloped steep landform between the A6024 Woodhead Road and the River Holme around Hinchliffe Mill. Victoria Park on the valley sides above Holmfirth forms a prominent public open space and provides a visual break between the commercial centre and residential development on the higher ground.

New Holmfirth park on the A6024 Woodhead Road (Kings Head Gardens) and a small well maintained riverside park (Holmside Gardens) provide pockets of green space within the town.

In addition to Victoria Park described above, the Kirklees Draft Local Plan (2015) also identifies linear strips of open space parallel with the River Holme as Urban Green Space. These are located within both Holmbridge and Holmfirth and incorporate the Sands Recreation Area and Holmfirth Cricket Ground, located off the A6024 Huddersfield Road.

Land associated with St John's Church on Upperthong Lane, Crow Wood and Upperthong Junior and Infant School are also covered by this policy.

Land use at Thongsbridge encompasses a recreation ground and playing fields as well as Spring Wood which lies to the north of Holmfirth High School.

Mixed semi-natural woodlands such as Berry Bank Wood are located along the River Holme. Further woodland is on the valley sides, as seen at Bray Wood and Binns Wood. Mill ponds are found associated with the mills at Hinchliffe Mill and provide valuable recreational opportunities.

The availability of framed views and vistas to the upper reaches of the valley sides is a characteristic feature of this LCA. Views across to the opposing rural valley slopes provide a contrast to the dense development in the valley bottom. There are also clear views towards the Peak District National Park. Views from the mill pond which feeds Hinchliffe Mill provides a vista towards the sloping hillsides and renovated mill itself. Locations such as Victoria Park also afford views across to the opposing valley sides.

Key principles – Landscape and Views

- Improve both the physical and visual links to the River Holme;
- Improve interpretation of the river in order to demonstrate its role in the development of the area;
- Land use between the villages of Holmbridge, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmfirth and Underbank should be protected to ensure that the settlements remain separate.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

Ribbon development follows the primary transport corridors on the valley floor. The densely settled corridor incorporates the busy commercial centre of Holmfirth as well as the villages of Thongsbridge, Upperthong, Hinchliffe Mill and Holmbridge.

Holmfirth stands at the confluence of the River Holme and River Ribble in the valley bottom. There are steeply sloping hills to the north-west and south-east which lead up towards Upperthong and Underbank. The area to the west of Holmfirth town centre is also built on a hillside but has a much more vegetated character in comparison to the central and eastern area. Larger properties with sizeable gardens can be found on Cooper Lane, Upperthong Lane and Hightown Lane.

Holmfirth and the villages in this LCA are broadly linear in form, although the prominent Georgian church and mid-Victorian buildings in Victoria Square largely defines the town centre. Industry and commerce is centred in the valley bottom of Holmfirth, characterised by historic mill buildings. Constructed largely of millstone grit with slate roofs, mid-19th century terraces form the predominant building style. The close knit development of houses follows the gradient of the landscape, enclosing the settlement and providing a strong sense of place. In general, built form in Holmfirth is generally aligned to the back of the pavement resulting in a strongly defined building line.

Narrow winding residential streets characterise the sloping hillsides whereby stepped passageways with sudden changes in direction create intimate spaces. Localised level changes and rooflines climb steeply from the valley floor and also form characteristic features. The design of the streetscape around Hinchliffe Mill tends to make maximum use of the topography with the building mass climbing the valley slopes.

Setted streets and stone troughs also form common features of the LCA.

Boundary treatments are comprised largely of millstone grit walling and decorative iron railings. The stone walling which runs parallel Upperthong Lane is representative of local vernacular detailing.

Key Principles – Settlement and Built Form

- Manage the impact of tourism within the area, balancing its importance to the local economy with the need for positive conservation;
- Strengthen local sense of place through improving the connection to past industrial heritage;
- Restore mill chimneys where they function as key focal points to retain historical features;
- Ensure new development relates to local distinctiveness, including vernacular building styles and settlement patterns;
- Consider opportunities to enhance the gateways into the valley floor and provide a sense of arrival;
- Ensure future residential development incorporates off-street parking to alleviate congestion;
- Retain the complex settlement pattern by ensuring a contrast is retained between the densely populated valley and the rural backdrop;
- Ensure that new development respects the distinct character and built form of the LCA.

CA 5: Netherthong Rural Fringe

Key Characteristics – Landscape and Views

The landscape is rural fringe agricultural land enclosed by high drystone boundary walls. Field sizes largely relate to the historic farming scale as evident by the field patterns to the south of Oldfield Road. Netherthong and Oldfield are residential settlements with an industrial area near Deanhouse.

The elevated rural character of this LCA forms a setting to the settlements of Holmfirth, Thongsbridge and Upperthong along the valley floor.

Rural fringe farmland separates the villages, creating distinct settlements located on the valley sides. This rural land use is often dissected by PRow. With the exception of the children's play area along Oldfield Road, Oldfield village contains little public open space.

The location of the LCA on the valley sides results in extensive views of the surrounding rural landscape. Long distance views are available towards the local landmark of Victoria Tower on Castle Hill, 500 m north of the boundary of the study area and towards Huddersfield in the north. The valley sides also afford framed views towards the valley settlements below. However, within Netherthong and Oldfield views are often glimpsed between buildings. The elevated vantage point in Upper Oldfield affords views towards Oldfield itself and is described within the Oldfield Conservation Area Appraisal.

Key Principles – Landscape and Views

- Preserve or enhance vernacular boundary millstone grit walls;
- Integrate new agricultural buildings into the landscape;
- Conserve the open character and long distance views across the settled valley below;
- Introduce flexibility into land management including less intensive grazing regimes to allow a more diverse range of habitats.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

A distinctive settlement pattern of hamlets and small villages predominates in this LCA with properties located on Bradshaw Road, Meltham Road or within the village of Netherthong itself. The LCA encompasses the small rural settlements of Netherthong and Oldfield, located on the northern valley sides of the River Holme. These villages are characterised by tight nucleated settlement patterns which contrast with the open landscape setting. Netherthong and Oldfield are locally distinctive with 18th and 19th century housing laid out in intricate squares and courtyards. Netherthong also has a linear off -shoot into Deanhouse in the north.

The main building style is cottage or farmhouse constructed of millstone grit. The design and layout of buildings has developed as a functional response to resist the microclimate. Modern materials such as asphalt concrete is, however, prevalent within the streetscape.

Key Principles – Settlement and Built form

- Reinforce and protect the characteristic features of Oldfield in the scale, design and material choice of new developments as stated in the Oldfield Character Area Appraisal;
- Use traditional materials for repairs and localised alteration;
- New development should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern, local materials and building traditions;
- Replace asphalt and concrete with traditional surfacing.

CA 6: Honley Village Centre

Key Characteristics – Landscape and Views

Land use within the LCA is characterised by the settlement of Honley, set within a wider rural landscape. The LCA contains considerable tree and woodland cover. Honley Wood and Honley Old Wood are ancient semi-natural woodland, covering much of the southern valley slopes of Mag Brook. Honley Wood itself is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. A number of former mill buildings associated with Mag Brook have now been redeveloped for commercial or residential use. Disused quarries such as Honley Old Wood Quarry and the disused quarry on Hassock's Lane provide evidence of industrial heritage as well as today form recreational opportunities.

Large tracts of the woodland forming the valley slopes of Mag Brook are designated as ancient woodland. These include Honley Old Wood, Clitheroe Wood as well as Spring Wood lying at the northern boundary of the study area. Honley Wood contains archaeological features, disused quarries / coal pits and forms one of the largest remaining semi-natural woods in West Yorkshire.

Located to the north of the village centre and adjacent to the River Holme, Magdale Fields and Magdale Dam form valuable areas of public open space and are owned and managed by the Honley Village Community Trust. Old People's Park, located at the junction of Westgate and Jaggar Lane forms a popular urban green space with sports fields associated with Honley Junior School situated immediately south. A linear recreation ground also lies on Jaggar Lane and is bordered to the east by Honley Cricket Club.

Glimpsed views of a wider rural backdrop form a significant feature of this LCA and are often framed by built form. The sloping topography of the LCA creates a strong connection between the centre of Honley and the wider agricultural setting, including strong visual links to Oldfield within the adjoining LCA. However, views within the Mag Brook valley are framed by vegetation. Views towards the local landmark of Victoria Tower on Castle Hill are afforded from locations within the south of the village, such as Long Lane and Bradshaw Road.

Key Principles – Landscape and Views

- Consider opportunities to interpret Honley's history through the development of heritage trails which identify significant local landmarks;
- Protect and conserve the wildlife corridor of Mag Brook and improve ecological networks.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

Located on the western valley slopes of the River Holme, Honley has a compact village layout which is predominantly residential with a small commercial centre. The building style is dominated by 18th and 19th century stone dwellings where the presence of yards or folds form a locally distinctive feature. The oldest buildings are largely found in the historic core surrounding St. Mary's Parish Church. The village centre provides key services for the local community including churches, schools, local shops and a library. Narrow streets characterise the area, closely associated with the steep sided valley topography.

The architectural style and scale of buildings to the south-west of the village is more eclectic with some streets laid out in a cul-de-sac arrangement. These residential properties are largely 20th century in origin but are generally in-keeping with the historic townscape due to the scale and use of traditional materials. Magdale also forms a small outlying settlement to the north of Mag Brook.

Key Principles – Settlement and Built Form

- Protect and retain historic buildings;
- Reinstate traditional shop fronts where these have been replaced;

- Ensure that the repair, restoration or conversion of traditional buildings is carried out with due regard to the character of the LCA;
- Investigate methods of traffic management due to congestion within the village centre;
- Ensure new development is consistent with the scale and style of the surrounding village;
- Honley village centre is afforded protection in virtue of its conservation area status;
- Ensure new development respects the local vernacular in terms of the use of materials;
- Avoid infill development which will result in the coalescence of Honley and Brockholes;
- Incorporate off-street parking within future developments to alleviate congestion.

LCA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley

Key Characteristics – Landscape and Views

The Kirklees Draft Local Plan (2015) identifies of Urban Green Space along the road corridor of the A616 New Mill Road. These include the playing fields at Neiley as well as Victoria Recreation Ground and land associated with St George's Church and Brockholes C of E VC Junior and Infant School. Within the confines of the individual villages open space is often limited to private gardens. The areas peripheral to the villages form the main areas of open space although this is often in agricultural use rather than open to the public. However, a network of PRoW crosses the landscape. Although gaps are evident along the valley floor at Brockholes and New Mill, agricultural land use characterises the land use of the wider valley sides of the LCA.

Deciduous woodland is frequent along the corridor of Jackson Bridge Dike / New Mill Dike which forms a meandering tributary of the River Holme, running broadly parallel with the A616 Sheffield Road. Tree coverage linked to this watercourse includes Hall Acre Wood, Wildspur Wood and Spring Wood. Woodland coverage is also closely associated with the route of the River Holme where Hagg Wood and Cliff Wood form features of the lower valley sides.

The valley is generally low lying and visually enclosed by the steep valley sides. The valley sides rise up very steeply in the area around Jackson Bridge, largely precluding views to the east due to the steep topography. In general, the layout of settlements within this LCA allows a series of glimpsed views towards the wider landscape through the gaps between built form. This is emphasized at Hepworth where the small folds of tightly knit stone built properties afford glimpses of extensive rural land use beyond. The LCA also offers distant views from this location towards the Peak District National Park, visible as an upland horizon.

Key Principles – Landscape and Views

- Ensure views are maintained across the wooded valley landscape from elevated vantage points;
- Preserve and enhance vernacular boundary dry stone walls.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

Settlement is concentrated on the valley floor and lower valley sides in the form of villages such as New Mill, Jackson Bridge, Butterley, Brockholes and Hepworth. The layout of the villages follows the contours of the hillsides and is sympathetic to the underlying topography resulting in a close association between built form and landscape. The topography also contributes to the setting of Honley, located on the opposing valley slopes at the north of the LCA.

Lying on the east facing slope of the valley, the village of Hepworth is characterised by buildings typical of the historic weaver's cottage. Buildings are predominantly constructed from millstone grit with slate forming the common roofing material. However, the village also contains an area of large detached properties around Butt Lane and Hill Side Avenue. These are laid out in a grid iron pattern and contrast with the original structure of the village.

The combination of development and infrastructure on the valley floor results in a busy feel, although perceptions of tranquillity increase up the valley slopes. Pockets of industrial and commercial development are evident along the A616 New Mill Road, on the northern approach to Honley from Brockholes.

Key Principles – Settlement and Built Form

- Use traditional materials for repairs and localised alteration;
- Strengthen local sense of place through improving the connection to past industrial heritage;
- Restore mill chimneys where they function as key focal points to retain historical features;
- Ensure that new development respects the distinct character and built form of the LCA.

LCA 8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley

Key Characteristics – Landscape and Views

The dominant land uses are residential villages and pastoral farmland located on the rising valley slopes. Dry stone walls dividing fields into rectilinear fields are evident as field boundary treatments. The LCA also accommodates the tributary of New Mill Dike which drains from Boshaw Whams Reservoir in the adjacent LCA.

With the exception of the village footprints of Scholes and Hepworth, agricultural land use characterises the land contained within the LCA.

Farmland separates the discrete village footprints creating an open character around Totties, Scholes and Fulstone. Vegetation associated with the tributary of New Mill Dike forms a linear belt of tree cover to the south of Scholes. The Kirklees Way runs parallel with this corridor.

The recreation area in the centre of Wooldale village forms a valuable green space enclosed by woodland.

Scholes village incorporates Urban Green Space, as defined in the Kirklees Draft Local Plan (2015). This land includes land associated with the allotment gardens and mill pond to the south of Paris Road. Scholes Junior and Infant School is also covered by this policy.

The elevated topography of the wider valley sides creates a strong connection to the surrounding rural landscape as it allows for long distance and panoramic views over the wooded valley floor and opposing valley sides. A characteristic of the LCA is also the availability of glimpsed views towards a rural backdrop through gaps between built form within the rural villages. This is especially evident within both Totties and Scholes.

Key Principles – Landscape and Views

- Conserve the intact nature of the agricultural landscape and restore features in decline;
- Preserve and enhance vernacular boundary dry stone walls;

- Consider the availability of inward and outward views due to the locally elevated nature of the settlements.

Key Characteristics - Settlement and Built Form

Settlement is generally sparse. Residential properties are largely limited to the rural fringe villages of Scholes, Totties and Wooldale although isolated dwellings and farm properties are located on the wider valley sides. These villages are former agricultural and weaving villages. The LCA also includes the hilltop village of Fulstone, a farming settlement with largely traditional style dwellings in a nucleated layout. Most dwellings are constructed of local millstone grit with grey slate roofs.

Key Principles – Settlement and Built Form

- Reinforce and protect the characteristic features of the conservation areas in the scale, design and material choice of new developments;
- Use traditional materials for repairs and localised alteration;
- Respect the village form and scale in the design of residential developments.

Examiner's Question 2

2. Is it not the case that Policy 2 is intended to apply to all development and not just development in Conservation Areas even though the text in the supporting text implies that the policy may be restricted to development in Conservation Areas? Please clarify.

Parish Council Response Question 2

The intention is that Policy 2 should be applied across the whole valley.

The Parish Council recognises that the numerous conservation areas and other heritage assets are already given protection in national and Kirklees' planning policies, but Holme Valley as a whole has a distinctive and unique character comprised of many individual settlements, hamlets and buildings, which in turn all have their own character and identity. The local vernacular and materials provide a direct visual link between the buildings and landscape. The area's pre-industrial and industrial heritage is woven into the very fabric of the farms, villages and transport routes that crisscross the area.

The aim is that new development is designed positively to respond to this context, so that change can be successfully integrated into a landscape and townscape which has a very strong and unique sense of place and which is highly valued by residents and visitors.

Examiner's Question 3

3. Policy 3 implies that for undesignated heritage assets they will be assessed against Kirklees and Park Authority heritage policies. A developer therefore needs to understand the significance of the locally important undesignated heritage assets and how the proposed development will impact on that significance.

Currently I have concerns that Appendix 2 is not an agreed list (appearing to be provisional), and presents information in respect of Honley and Holmfirth in different and inconsistent ways and does not necessarily include all suggested Undesignated Assets in the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment Report (HVHCA) In particular, it does not clearly set out the significance of all assets. If Policy 3 and the idea of a local list of undesignated heritage assets is to be able to be retained, Appendix 2 needs to be an agreed list of undesignated assets on a consistent basis and indicate for each a name or identifier, location, description and significance. This could be in tabular form as currently set out for Holmfirth. For the avoidance of doubt and to avoid procedural issues, the list should only include those already set out - namely the so called 'key buildings' in Holmfirth, the 3 Honley Civic Society undesignated assets and those proposed in the HVHCA. No others should be added at this stage as they have not been in the public domain as part of the submitted plan. If any cannot be agreed as locally significant they should be deleted at this stage. It is suggested that the Parish Council, its Planning Consultant and Kirklees Conservation Team / Park Authority Conservation Team agree the content of the list and revised Appendix 2 prior to the revised Appendix wording being returned to me.

Parish Council Response Question 3

Following a meeting Kirklees on 26/3/21, it was agreed that the Steering group would submit a table collating all the assets identified in the AECOM report and appendices. However, all those assets which are within a Conservation Area would be identified separately as 'positive contributors to the Conservation Area' rather than as non-designated heritage assets. This was due to concerns of Kirklees officers that identifying non-designated heritage assets within a Conservation Area weakened their protection as conservation areas (and therefore all buildings and structures within them) are identified as designated heritage assets in the NPPF. As positive contributors, they would have a higher level of protection. The policy wording and supporting text will be amended in conjunction with Kirklees to provide this clarification and also explain how Kirklees is seeking to compile an agreed set of assessment criteria and then an adopted local list of non-designated heritage assets across the district. In the meantime, the table being collated by the NDP Steering Group will list all the sites with justification and clarification of whether they are identified as candidate non-designated heritage assets or positive contributors. This table will then be shared with Kirklees for further discussion and consideration.

Examiner's Question 4

4. In Policy 4 should it not be the intention that the second paragraph in the General Principles for advertisements should apply in both the Kirklees and Park areas of the Neighbourhood Area?

The distinction between the areas should only apply in relation to illuminated advertisements because illuminated adverts are not be permitted in the park other than in respect of Petrol Filling Station signs?

Parish Council Response Question 4

The Parish Council would like the second paragraph to apply to both local planning authority areas.

It is accepted that the distinction between the areas should only apply in relation to illuminated advertisements because illuminated adverts are not be permitted in the park other than in respect of Petrol Filling Station signs.

The part of the sentence 'In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority' could be deleted from the second paragraph.

Examiner's Question 5 (A&B)

5. A - In Policy 5 re Public Realm - Is the principal intention that this policy will be used to guide public realm improvements by the public sector eg Kirklees Council even though the middle section of the policy refers to developments involving public realm works?

B – Is the section on 'Gateways' intended to apply to 'gateways' into settlements as well as the 17 key gateways?

Parish Council Response Question 5A

The intention is that the Policy should refer to all public spaces.

Improvements to the public realm in Holme Valley are carried out by the public and voluntary sectors such as local charities and community groups. In addition there are private companies with land which is or could be open to public access, including around the many reservoirs in the area which are managed by Yorkshire Water and stretches of land along the River Holme for example between Holmfirth and Thongsbridge. There are also opportunities for new developments to enhance the public realm as well as provide new open spaces as part of new housing developments.

Parish Council Response Question 5B

Yes - this should be applied to all gateways into settlements not just the ones shown on Map 17. The wording in the Policy is 'including as identified on Map 17'.

Examiner's Question 6

6. Are the criteria and requirements of Policy 6 intended to apply to both allocated housing sites in the Local Plan and windfall development?

Parish Council Response Question 6

Yes - this Policy should be applied to allocated and windfall sites.

Examiner's Question 7

7. Policies 2, 6 and 7 state at the start that they do not relate to the National Park area and yet in the list of local plan policies following these NDP policies, Peak District Policy References are included – which is correct?

Parish Council Response Question 7

The PDNP policies should be deleted from the supporting text in these sections.

The part of the NDP area which lies within the Peak District National Park area is in the Natural Zone and PDNP LDF Core Strategy Policy L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics B sets out that 'other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted.'

Examiner's Question 8

8. In Policy 7 is the intention really to restrict the policy to development of existing buildings and previously developed land as section 3 suggests?

Parish Council Response Question 8

Yes - the Parish Council's preference is for brownfield development (using previously developed land and buildings) wherever possible.

Examiner's Question 9

9. Is policy 11 (3) intended to mean Highway schemes and works by the Highway Authority when it refers to 'new schemes'?

Parish Council Response Question 9

Yes - this should refer to works by the Highways Authority.