

Holme Valley Parish Council

Saddleworth NDP consultation – response from HVPC

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to the consultation on the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan, 2024-2044.

Your Neighbourhood plan is of particular interest to Holme Valley Parish Council, as we share many characteristics and face similar problems. The demographics of our two areas are very similar and part of our parish area – approx. 33% - also lies within the Peak District National Park.

As a result of our proximity to large conurbations we also face considerable pressures of development and a lack of smaller and affordable housing.

We would like to congratulate you on your Consultation Plan. We were impressed by its accessibility and readability. It is a handsome and inviting document, which we feel will be widely consulted and become a valuable working document. Its accessibility is enhanced by the provision of the Glossary and the Addendum with details of the villages of Saddleworth.

The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan was fully made in December 2021. It is probably time for us to take a fresh look at its provisions. There are several comments and recommendations in your Consultation Plan, which we welcome and endorse and which give us pause for thought:

- The excellent extended definition of 'sustainable development' (p.11)
- The clear statement of development which will not be supported (p.15)
- The approach to the stretch of land adjacent to the National Park (p.17)
- The recognition that the preservation of peatland is of greater environmental benefit than new tree planting. (p.22)
- We have had some discussion in our Planning Standing Committee about the need to engage directly with developers. We are, therefore, particularly interested in your recommendation, in Policy 13: Consultation, that ***Major developments should have as a condition of their approval, the formation of a consultation group with local residents and groups, to discuss the development between planning approval and completion.*** Similarly, we support the need for a Statement of Community Engagement for all planning applications which are going to have an impact beyond the immediate site. (p.34)
- The recognition of the role of farmers and agriculture in the local economy and in maintaining and safeguarding the landscape. (p.41.42)

We would like to wish you success with the last stages of developing your Neighbourhood

Plan

Given the similarities between our parishes, it might be useful to meet at some point in the future, to develop a working relationship.

Yours etc

[Pat Colling – Chair of the Council
Mary Blacka – Chair of Planning Standing Committee]