

**Holme Valley
Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)
2021 – 2031**



Referendum Plan

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Foreword

Welcome to the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (HVNDP).

This Plan is an important part of giving our community a stronger voice in its future. Its policies will affect future planning decisions across the Holme Valley and structure how local people want to see the Holme Valley develop over the next 10 years

We are extremely lucky to live in such a beautiful and vibrant part of the country and we must strike a balance between preserving what we value and embracing the opportunities we could enjoy in the future. Any development needs to be done sensitively recognising our landscape, heritage and local identity and creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is a vital part of enabling this to happen.

This Referendum version of the plan has been created for the community by the community. In 2016, Holme Valley Parish Council set up a Steering Group comprising individuals, representatives of community groups and businesses, and Parish Councillors. Supported by Government funding and specialist technical and planning advice, we have developed our understanding of the process and possibilities provided by a NDP. We have sought to build on our collective knowledge through research and the public consultation we held in summer 2017 to build up a rich picture of how people view the Valley and how they want it to develop. Using this information, we developed a vision and objectives which guided our preparation of planning policies to deliver these. These were then shared with local people for their views through further consultation in summer 2018 and the plan updated accordingly.

The Draft Plan was published for formal public consultation from 15th July to 15th September 2019. Following careful consideration of all the comments and representations submitted, and further discussions with Kirklees Council, the NDP was amended and updated. We also took into account the need to act on the climate emergency and the Plan's contribution to the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

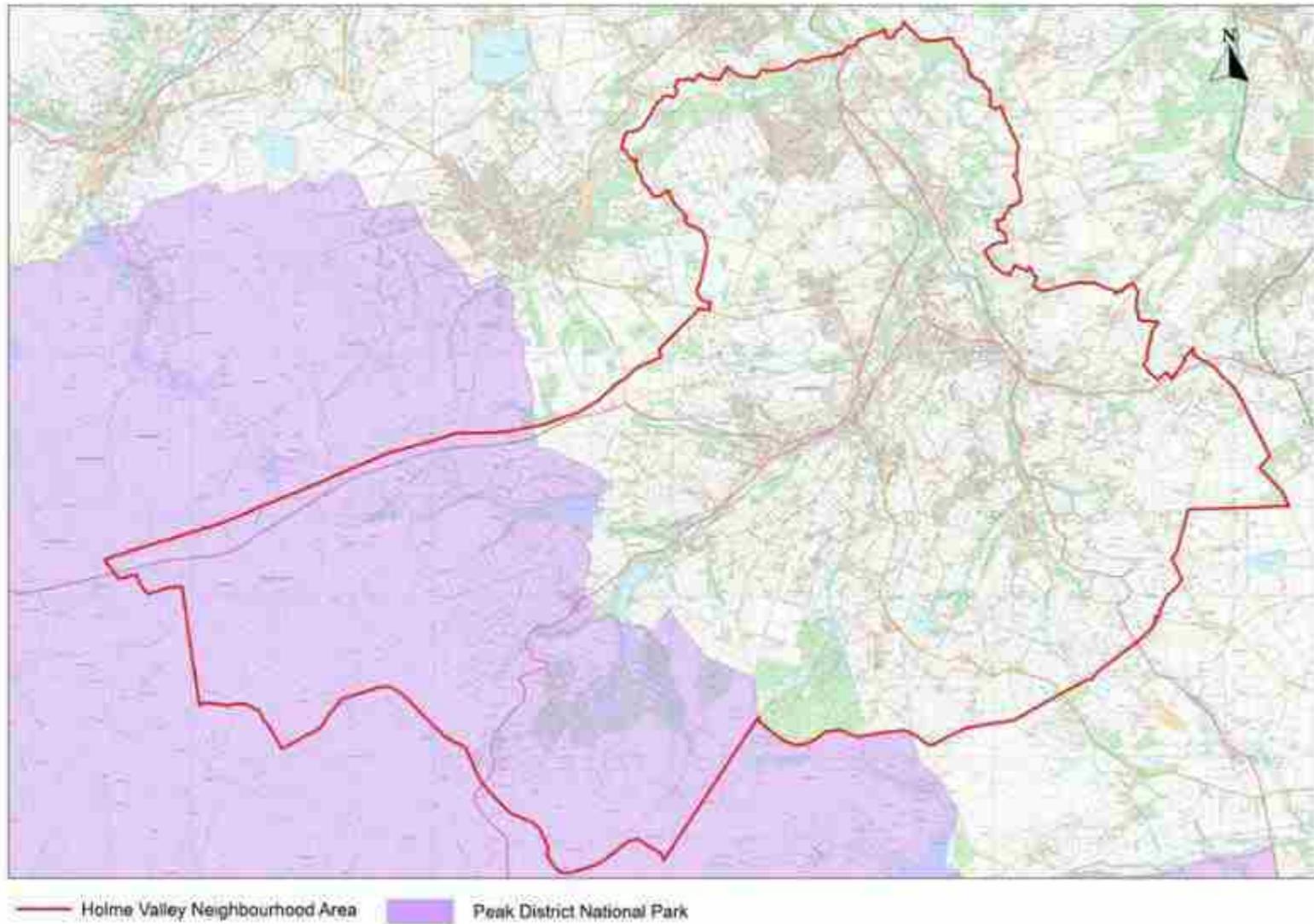
Kirklees Council published the submission version of the HVNDP for formal public consultation from 8th December 2020 to 2nd February 2021. The Plan then was examined by an independent examiner in Spring 2021 and the examiner's report was published in June 2021. The examiner recommended that the NDP should be modified as specified in his report and should proceed to a referendum based on the approved Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area. This referendum version of the HVNDP incorporates the examiner's recommended changes.

We appreciate that this is a long, detailed document but our Valley is a large and diverse area with a wide range of issues we wanted to address. I am confident that we have put forward a clear vision and direction for the Valley which celebrates our different interests and identities, whilst creating a positive shared future.

Thank you to the Steering Group members for helping us to prepare a plan which will help deliver the future that we as a community wish to see.

Cllr Rachel Hogley
Chair, Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Map 1 Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area



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Executive Summary

This is the Referendum version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the Holme Valley.

What does a Neighbourhood Development Plan do?

Its aim is to give local people more say in decisions about proposed developments in their area by encouraging their involvement in drafting local planning policies. These will give them a real influence over how, and where, development should happen over the 10 years to 2031. It provides a vision and objectives and proposes planning policies which will help deliver development which meets local needs and aspirations.

Where do NDPs come from?

NDPs were brought in by the Localism Act 2011 so are a relatively new part of the UK planning system. They allow communities to shape development in their areas and are confirmed by public vote through a referendum. Once made (adopted) it becomes part of the statutory development plan. It is then used to help determine planning applications in the Valley, alongside strategic policies in the Kirklees Local Plan for that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, and in that part of the neighbourhood area where the Peak District National Park (PDNP) is the planning authority, HVNDP will be used to help determine planning applications alongside strategic policies in the Peak District National Park Authority's Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (Part 2 Local Plan).

Who has written the NDP?

The Holme Valley NDP has been written by a steering group of local Parish Councillors and community group representatives. The group, formed in April 2016, developed its understanding of 'issues and options' which the NDP wanted to explore, secured the necessary funding and appointed planning consultants. It also sought technical expertise to identify the Valley's unique landscape and heritage and build the evidence base for the plan. Throughout the Plan's development, Government funding and technical advice has been sourced through Locality to support the process.

How have local views been captured?

Local residents were asked for their views on a range of topics, from housing and infrastructure to green spaces and work opportunities, in a public consultation exercise held in summer 2017. They were asked what they valued and what they wished to change in the Valley. Responses were analysed and used to draft the proposed objectives and planning policies which are detailed in this draft Plan. The first informal draft plan was then shared with residents and local businesses during summer 2018 with a summary booklet setting out the policies entitled 'Your Valley, Your Voice' delivered to nearly 13,000 addresses. Views on the proposed policies were collated through a consultation questionnaire and that feedback was analysed to inform the content of the Regulation 14 version. In addition, the NDP was revised following comments submitted by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority and other consultation bodies.

What did local people say in informal consultation?

A NDP has to propose policies which are shown to reflect local concerns and priorities and a number of key themes were identified through the consultation. In summary, the responses to the informal consultation in 2017 highlighted that what people like most about living in the Holme Valley is its rural environment and sense of community.

Looking to the future, respondents wanted to see:

- improvements to traffic
- limited development
- improved shopping
- affordable and small houses
- additional houses spread around Valley with priority to brownfield sites
- more sustainable energy efficient homes
- housing and economic development to be sensitive to the Valley's character enforced through planning permission and law
- more people able to work in the Valley
- better public transport
- protection of the rural nature, green belt and fields.

The detail of the NDP considered the feedback from the informal consultation alongside a range of other sources of local information on demographics, heritage, education and planning guidance. Supported by our professional planning consultants, Kirkwells, we collated the evidence to identify planning policies to help direct development in a positive way for the community.

These policies were then shared in full with local people through the Pre-Regulation 14 'Your Valley Your Voice' consultation in 2018 and following analysis of the responses, the following changes were made:

- All the important themes and key elements of the policies were retained but rationalised from 16 to 13 policies to avoid duplication and ensure that they were all mutually compatible.
- Wording of all policies was clarified to reduce ambiguity.
- Up to date references to the Kirklees Local Plan and its wider policies such as on biodiversity were added.
- A separate public realm policy was provided and brought the economic elements of the night-time economy, tourism, and businesses under one policy.
- Two policies were combined, recognising the relationships between transport, accessibility, and local infrastructure.
- Shopfront and advertisements design guidance, which was previously provided as an appendix, was revised as a specific policy to strengthen its content.
- All the suggestions for local green spaces were reviewed and four sites short-listed which did not already benefit from other forms of protection. (Some of the proposals were already protected as a result of being in the Green Belt, identified by Kirklees as an Urban Green Space or covered by a wider Trees and Woodland Strategy or having some other status like Cliff Recreation Ground which is a 'Field in Trust'.)

What responses were received through the formal Regulation 14 consultation?

The Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Holme Valley Parish was published for 9 weeks formal public consultation (Regulation 14) from 15th July to 15th September 2019. Responses were received from members of the public, community groups, developers and statutory consultees. Full details of the consultation responses and how the Plan was amended in response to the various representations are set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement and a series of tables available on the website.

How did the Submission NDP reflect stakeholders' views from the Regulation 14 consultation?

Following analysis of the Regulation 14 feedback, all NDP policies were reviewed and refined to make wording clearer and easier to interpret. The sustainability policy was

amended to form two policies with a separate policy focused on protecting wildlife and securing biodiversity net gain. To address Kirklees Council's concerns over the robustness of the evidence to support the policies, references to the technical evidence base and community consultations were revised, to include quotes from the public consultations and further detail about relevant Kirklees Local Plan and PDNPA policies. Some of the detail of the Landscape Character Assessment information in the AECOM report was moved to an Appendix and improved maps and references were provided throughout. Further clarification was provided about the Peak District National Park Authority part of the NDP area. The detailed wording of the plan was revised and explanations clarified, with more graphics or photographic images added to aid understanding. The Climate Change emergency was reflected throughout the document and up to date detail provided on the Holmfirth Town Centre Access plan and current community activities. Biodiversity was given its own policy, separate from sustainability resulting in the NDP having 14 policies. The Local Green Space maps for the Hade Edge Gateway Triangle & Scholes Sandygate Fields sites were amended to cover slightly smaller areas and the justifications for each site were reworded to align more clearly with the National Planning Policy Framework requirements.

The updated draft was shared with Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority for final comments before submission and some additional changes were made. These focused on re-ordering supporting text, making the justification for Parish Council Actions as opposed to making Policies clearer and making other minor wording alterations.

Regulation 16 formal consultation and Examination

The Submission version of the HVNDP was published by Kirklees Council and PDNPA for formal public consultation from 8th December 2020 to 2nd February 2021.

The Plan was then examined by an independent examiner in Spring 2021. The Parish Council worked closely with Kirklees Council and the examiner over a couple of months during the examination process. Much of the examination focused on Policies 1, 2 and 3 and the relevant supporting text and appendices, but the examiner also recommended changes to wording in most other policies, and the deletion of the section and policy on developer contributions, as Kirklees Council has withdrawn all Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) proposals. Also, the various Parish Council Actions were all moved to a new Appendix (1).

The examiner's report was published in June 2021 and is available on the NDP pages of the Parish Council website. The examiner recommended that the NDP should be modified as specified in his report and should proceed to a referendum based on the approved Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area. This, referendum version of the HVNDP, incorporates the examiner's recommended changes.

How is the NDP structured?

The NDP comprises a vision statement, a set of objectives and formal planning policies. These policies are accompanied by detailed commentary explaining the meaning of the policies and what they are seeking to achieve. The document addresses each policy area in turn, covering a range of areas including landscape, heritage, housing, the economy, education, transport and sustainability.

What is the proposed vision and objectives?

The vision is based on the steering group’s views, feedback from the groups to which they belong, and the many consultation exercises carried out in recent years, and describes what we want to achieve over the next 10 years.



Figure 1 - Vision & Objectives

What are the proposed policies?

The policies flow from the objectives and will be used to determine planning applications submitted to Kirklees Council in that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority and submitted to the Peak District National Park Authority for applications inside the PDNP area. The policies will help developers understand local priorities and aspirations. Each policy contains detail to guide planning decisions related to its overall theme. Where a policy does not apply to the PDNPA this is outlined in the policy.

- PLANNING POLICIES**
1. Protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the Holme Valley
 2. Protecting and enhancing the built character of the Holme Valley and promoting high quality design
 3. Conserving and enhancing Local Heritage Assets
 4. Design Codes for high quality shop fronts and advertisements
 5. Promoting high quality public realm and improvements to gateways and highways
 6. Building homes for the future
 7. Supporting economic activity
 8. Facilitating development in Holmfirth, Honley and other local centres
 9. Protecting and enhancing local community facilities

10. Protecting local green space
11. Improving transport, accessibility and local infrastructure
12. Promoting sustainability
13. Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain

What else is in the NDP?

The NDP also includes 'actions' to be taken forward by the Parish Council alongside the NDP. These non-planning issues cannot be addressed through a NDP but they are still important concerns identified by the community: by capturing them, we can help inform future work by the Parish Council to deliver the overall vision and objectives.

What are the benefits for the Holme Valley in having a NDP?

Creating a NDP in an area increases the understanding of local views and gives people a formal opportunity to influence planning decisions in the Holme Valley and help shape the nature of future developments.

What is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

Every NDP has to be 'screened' in consultation with Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England to determine if it requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Having screened our plan during the public consultation in 2018, Kirklees Council informed us that we required a SEA. Following a successful application for Government 'technical support', a specialist consultant, AECOM, was commissioned to undertake the SEA. A SEA is an assessment tool which considers and communicates the likely effects of the NDP on a number of environmental topics such as biodiversity, the historic environment, and landscape. The aim of the process is to maximise the contribution of the planning policies within the NDP to sustainable development.

The SEA concluded that the draft HVNDP performed well overall against all the SEA themes, and multiple potential benefits to the local community are identified. This report was published for consultation in parallel with the Regulation 14 consultation on the Draft Plan.

What happens next?

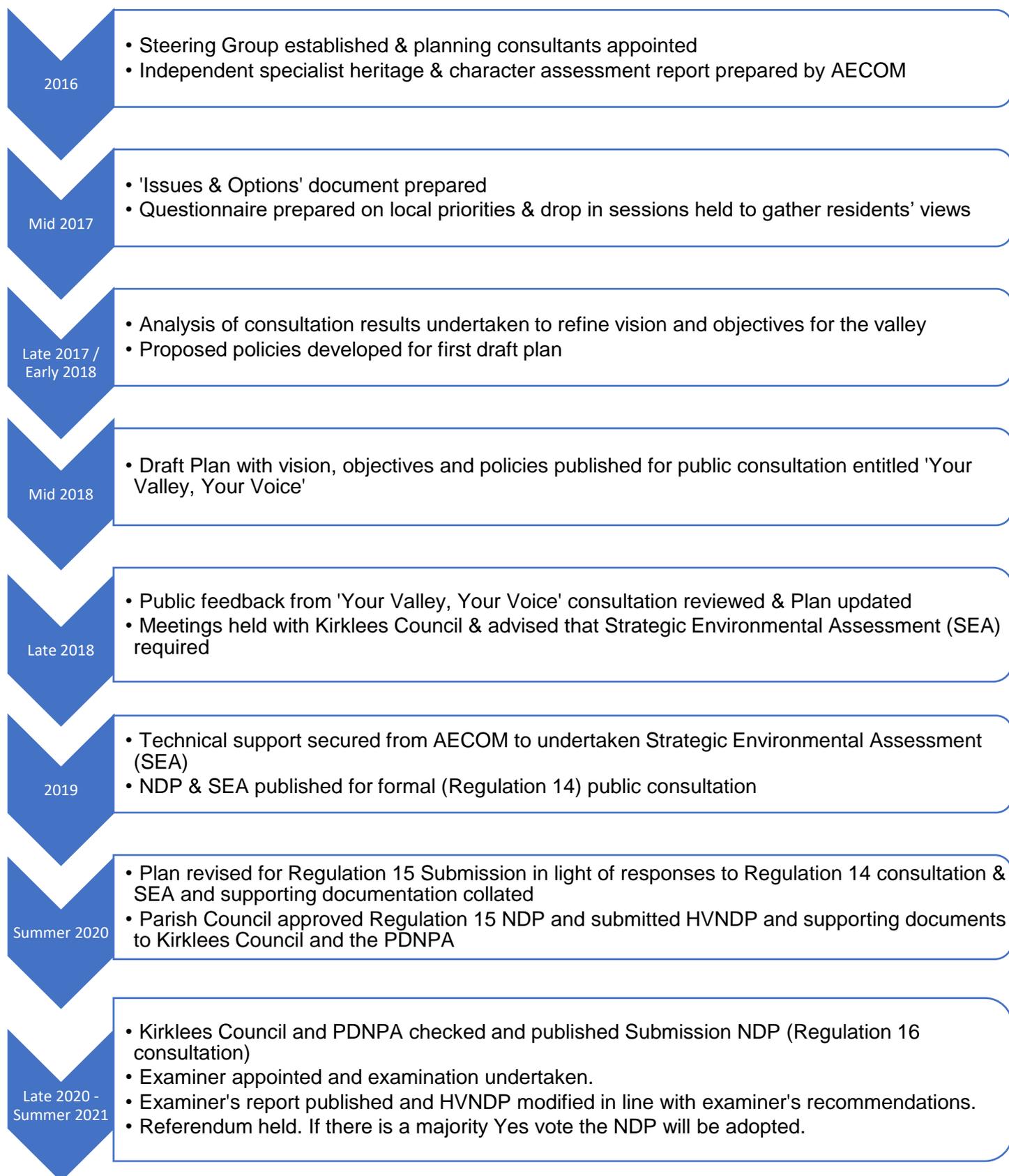
The Plan will proceed to a local referendum. Everyone on the electoral role in the Parish will be asked whether the HVNDP should be used to determine planning applications. If there is a majority 'Yes' vote (that is, 50% of turnout + 1), the HVNDP will be 'made' (adopted) by Kirklees Council and become part of the statutory development plan.

1.0 Introduction and Background

Referendum Plan

- 1.1 Welcome to the Referendum version of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The NDP has been prepared on the basis of development work which has been underway since April 2016 when a Steering Group of local councillors and representatives of community groups across the Valley was first formed.
- 1.3 The group first developed an understanding of ‘issues and options’ which the NDP wanted to address, secured the necessary funding to progress the plan and appointed planning consultants to provide expert advice. It sought technical expertise to objectively identify and describe the valley’s unique landscape and heritage and help build the evidence base for the plan. The steering group then sought views from residents across the valley through its public consultation in summer 2017 and again in summer 2018 when draft proposed planning policies had been developed. The responses from this consultation were analysed and used to update the draft planning policies to help guide development in the Holme Valley Parish up to 2031. These updated planning policies were then published for further consultation in summer 2019 as the Draft Regulation 14 NDP. Further technical advice was also sought to support the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which Kirklees Council advised was required in light of the sensitive environment of the Holme Valley.
- 1.4 The HVNDP was submitted to Kirklees Council and PDNPA in summer 2020 and published for formal consultation from late 2020 to early 2021. The examination took place in Spring 2021. The development process is summarised in the timeline diagram in Figure 2.
- 1.5 Members of the Steering Group, Michael Forster-Jones and the Holmfirth Conservation Group are thanked for the photographs they have provided.

Figure 2 - Timeline of NDP process



Purpose of the Plan

- 1.6 Neighbourhood Development Plans are a relatively new part of the UK planning system, brought in through the Localism Act 2011. In the UK all planning applications are determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Made (adopted) NDPs are part of the local statutory development plan, and therefore are used to help determine planning applications in that area. NDPs are powerful tools and present significant opportunities for local people to have a real say in how, and where, development should happen within their local area. They can provide the local detail to add value to higher level, more strategic policies. Overall, the aim of NDPs is to give local people more say in decisions about development proposals in their local area by encouraging them to get involved in drafting local planning policies.

Work on the NDP

- 1.7 Work began on the Holme Valley NDP when the Parish Council made the decision to prepare a Plan. The Parish Council applied to become a designated neighbourhood planning body in September 2014. Applications were sent to both Kirklees Council and Peak District National Park Authority. The neighbourhood area is the same as the Civil Parish boundary and was approved on 13th February 2015. The designated neighbourhood area is shown on Map 1.
- 1.8 Unlike some neighbouring areas such as Penistone, which have prepared Community Led Plans, the Holme Valley has not previously undertaken a parish wide review of its objectives and vision for the future. Holme Valley Vision network, a body represented on the NDP Steering Group did undertake considerable research in 2013 to understand what mattered most to people in the Holme Valley area. The research undertaken at that time, with involvement from local businesses, young people and residents has been updated and expanded and the data gathered about the interests and make-up of the local population have informed the Neighbourhood Plan. The strap line for the project was “making the Holme Valley a good place to live and work in and to visit”. This has now been developed into a vision for the Holme Valley Parish and underpins its Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9 The Holme Valley Parish is a large administrative area covering two key centres of Holmfirth and Honley with more than a dozen other small villages. As a result, the challenge for the Neighbourhood Plan has been to identify the common themes which apply to the whole area whilst recognising the distinct character areas within the Valley. The plan therefore seeks to identify an overarching vision and then a range of geographically specific policies which offer more detail for certain areas where appropriate.

Heritage Appraisal

- 1.10 At an early stage of the Plan's preparation, the steering group identified a need for a detailed study of the built heritage and landscape character of the area. Consultants, AECOM, were commissioned to undertake a Heritage and Landscape Character Assessment of Holme Valley Civil Parish during summer and autumn 2016. This report offers an independent review of the built and natural environment of the valley and provides an important part of the technical evidence base for the

NDP. Its key conclusions are reflected in the NDP. Copies of the full report are available on the parish website or from the Parish Council on request.

Issues and Options Consultation

- 1.11 A public consultation on Issues and Options for the NDP was undertaken in Summer 2017. An Issues and Options document and accompanying questionnaire were prepared by the steering group and published for informal consultation 10th May to 18th July 2017.

Informal Consultation on the First Draft Plan - Your Valley Your Voice Public Questionnaire

- 1.12 The First Draft Plan was published for informal public consultation from 11th June to 27th July 2018. The consultation document consisted of a summary booklet outlining the purpose of a NDP and detailing the vision, objectives and policies of the draft plan. This was entitled 'Your Valley, Your Voice'. It provided website links to the full draft plan and highlighted that this was available for review in Holmfirth library, Honley library and the Parish Council offices.
- 1.13 The Draft Plan was amended following consideration of the responses to the informal consultation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.14 Following a review of the Pre-Regulation 14 draft NDP, Kirklees Council undertook a screening review of the Plan to establish if a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required. In conjunction with advice from Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England, Kirklees formally advised in October 2018 that a SEA was required.
- 1.15 The Steering Group sought technical support from Locality and commissioned AECOM to undertake a scoping report and then a full SEA. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and associated Non-Technical Summary were published for consultation alongside the Draft NDP. The NDP was revised in line with the recommended changes in the Environmental Report, March 2020. The SEA was also in turn updated by AECOM to reflect the changes in the Submission Plan and reissued in September 2020.

Regulation 14 Public Consultation

- 1.16 The Draft HVNDP was published for formal consultation for 9 weeks (Regulation 14) from 15th July to 15th September 2019. Copies of the Draft NDP, SEA and associated documents could be downloaded from the Parish Council's website. Hard copies of the Draft NDP, a summary of the policies and the SEA documents could be viewed during normal opening hours at the following locations:
- Holmfirth Library, 47 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3JH
 - Honley Library, West Avenue, Honley, HD9 6HF

Hard copies were also available on request to borrow from the Parish Council Clerk by calling the office on 01484 687460 or by emailing:
clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 1.17 A link to the online questionnaire was provided on the Parish Council website.
- 1.18 A response form could be downloaded and completed and sent to holmevalleyndp@gmail.com. Hard copies of the response form were also available at Holmfirth and Honley Libraries and completed forms could be returned to both libraries for collection or posted to Holme Valley Parish Council, Holmfirth Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AS.
- 1.19 The Steering Group hosted four drop-in sessions to assist residents and stakeholders with the questionnaire and to provide further information. These were:
- 11am - 2pm on Friday 26th & Saturday 27th July at Honley Parish Rooms
 - 11am - 2pm on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th September at Holmfirth Library.
- 1.20 Stakeholders were also invited to get in touch using the dedicated NDP email address: holmevalleyndp@gmail.com.
- 1.21 The consultation bodies and other community groups were contacted by email / letter and invited to respond with any comments to the NDP email address or via the online questionnaire.
- 1.22 Full details of the responses and how these informed the changes to the Submission version of the NDP are set out in a separate document 'Summary of Regulation 14 Consultation' and in the Consultation Statement.

2.0 Planning Context for Holme Valley NDP

- 2.1 Neighbourhood Plans cannot be prepared in isolation. They are required to have regard to national planning policies (set out in the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) as revised in February 2019, Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and other Government statements and guidance and to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the local development plan. This section outlines the various overarching policies which apply to the Holme Valley.

Planning Policy

- 2.2 There are two relevant Local Planning Authorities for Holme Valley: Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority (see Map 1).
- 2.3 In Kirklees, the Local Plan comprises the Strategy and Policies document, Allocations and Designations document and associated Policies Map showing the allocations and designations. The Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies and Kirklees Local Plan Allocations and Designations documents were adopted on 27th February 2019.
- 2.4 For that part of the NDP area within the Peak District National Park, the Peak District National Park development plan comprises the Core Strategy (2011) and the Local Plan Part 2: Development Management Policies (May 2019).

Planning Context

- 2.5 Holme Valley is a large civil parish. The majority of the Parish is located in the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees in West Yorkshire, but part of the Parish in the southwest lies within the Peak District National Park (PDNP). Whilst Kirklees Local Authority administers council-run services throughout the Parish, the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) is the sole planning authority for land and property within the PDNP. The PDNPA's strategic planning policies must meet the purposes and duty of a national park as set out in the 1995 Environment Act. These are:
- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the national park
 - to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the parks) by the public
 - to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of their local communities.
- 2.6 The Parish has a population of 27,146 (2011 census) and covers an area of 7,046 Ha. The administrative centre is in Holmfirth. Other villages in the parish include Brockholes, Cinderhills, Hade Edge, Hepworth, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmbridge, Holme, Honley, Jackson Bridge, Netherthong, New Mill, Scholes, Thongsbridge, Upperthong and Wooldale.
- 2.7 There are areas within the parish that are urban, and others that are very rural; there is a distinctive landscape character, which is significant in terms of wildlife and biodiversity. The built character of the town, the villages and surrounding rural buildings is also noteworthy in terms of the widespread use of traditional local materials, and the scale and form of rural buildings.

Summary of Key Characteristics

Landscape Character

- 2.8 The landscape character of the Holme Valley is described in detail in the Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment, July 2015. The Landscape Character Assessment gives a summary of the landscape character for each character area and identifies valued landscape features and attributes.
- 2.9 Part of the area to the west lies within the Peak District National Park. The Peak District Landscape Character Assessment (2008) provides information about landscape change and details guidelines for the distinctive landscapes of the Peak District. Holme Valley neighbourhood area includes the following landscape character areas: Dark Peak and Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe.

Biodiversity

- 2.10 Holme Valley has a number of significant local biodiversity assets. There are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), Local Geological Sites, Local Wildlife Sites and ancient woodlands within the neighbourhood area - see Appendix 3.



Figure 3 - View of the Holme Valley from the South West

Green Infrastructure

- 2.11 Green Infrastructure (GI) is "a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities" (NPPF 2019 Annex 2: Glossary). Multi-functional Green Infrastructure (GI) is important to underpin the overall sustainability of development by performing a range of functions. There are many opportunities in

the Holme Valley to enhance and extend existing GI networks by encouraging developers to design landscaping, open space and buildings to enhance local wildlife, respond to climate change, and provide suitable opportunities for recreation, all at the same time.

Built Heritage

- 2.12 In addition to a distinctive local landscape character and many natural heritage assets, Holme Valley is defined by its very attractive and interesting built heritage. The parish has 13 conservation areas, 451 listed buildings and 3 Scheduled Monuments. There are also buildings and structures within the neighbourhood area which do not benefit from the protection of Statutory Listing but are of local heritage value.
- 2.13 Kirklees Council has only published conservation areas appraisals for Oldfield and Holme conservation areas which is a source of local concern as without any record of the characteristics of each conservation area, it can be difficult to identify how to protect them. The Valley still has a number of mill buildings reflecting its industrial history despite many being demolished over recent years. Only Bridge Mills and Ribbleden Mills now remain in Holmfirth so retaining the built heritage of a traditional mill town is important. The Parish Council commissioned a Heritage and Landscape Assessment in 2016 to provide further background evidence to support the NDP, and to inform policies on protecting local character and encouraging high quality design, including contemporary and sustainable buildings.
- 2.14 Since then, a local group, Holmfirth Conservation Group, stepped into the gap created by Kirklees's lack of appraisal of the Holmfirth Conservation Area, which is deemed to be at risk by Historic England. The appraisal has been completed and contributes to the NDP's evidence base. Its findings have informed and justified the NDP's policies.

Providing Housing

- 2.15 Supporting the provision of new housing is a major issue for the Holme Valley NDP. It should be noted that this only applies in the Kirklees area as the requirement to provide housing does not apply to the part of the neighbourhood area within the Peak District National Park. In the Local Plan Kirklees Council identified an additional 1,087 homes on 27 different sites in the Holme Valley. Based on information taken from the Local Plan concerning the size of the allocated sites and number of proposed houses, it is estimated that the housing density in the Holme Valley will be approximately 30 dwellings per hectare compared with the national average of 35 dwellings per hectare.
- 2.16 NDPs should be in general conformity with the strategic planning policies in the Local Plan and should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.
- 2.17 Local concern focuses on the impacts that such a proportionately large increase in the number of houses will have on quality of life. At the moment, approximately 27,000 people live in the Parish Council area. There are fears that the proposed housing development may lead to a substantial increase in the local population with

their associated impact on existing infrastructure. This was illustrated by some of the feedback from the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation with comments such as 'the scale of development is far too great, overwhelming villages and causing traffic problems' and 'infrastructure can't cope'. Population growth is not necessarily a consequence of additional houses since household formation rates could change. The Kirklees Local Plan predicts that the average size of households will decline from 2.43 to 2.34 by 2031. Using the 2011 census figures of 27,146 people living in 12,039 households, the average size of households in the Holme Valley is already only 2.25 but with an additional 1,087 homes, a population increase at this lower density could still equate to additional 2,446 people in the valley. With only 14.37% households not having a car or van, compared with 25.44% in Kirklees as a whole, it can be assumed that pressure on road infrastructure will increase as more housing is built. This is considered in more detail in section 4.8.

- 2.18 Most of the land allocated in the Local Plan for employment purposes is to the north of Huddersfield and the type of houses being built in the Holme Valley is likely to attract people who work in the surrounding cities, such as Leeds, Wakefield, Manchester and Sheffield. A large number of people already commute out of the area, mostly by car and there is an opportunity for the NDP to promote and support more locally based employment and alternative modes of transport to reduce reliance on the private car. The population growth will result in an increased demand for local services, particularly schools and healthcare facilities and the increased population will result in a greater loading on the drainage networks as well as the road infrastructure. The impact on infrastructure has been considered in the Local Plan and new developments will provide developer contributions in that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority to go towards infrastructure.
- 2.19 On average, houses in the Holme Valley are more expensive than anywhere else in Kirklees, according to information obtained from Kirklees Observatory. The 2011 census showed that there is a greater proportion of detached houses and a lower proportion of semi-detached houses and flats or maisonettes. This profile, given the type of property being approved since then, is unlikely to have changed. Indeed, there is growing concern about the number of larger, high cost properties being built in the Valley and the absence of lower cost, smaller dwellings. There is a general consensus amongst local people of the need for more affordable, smaller housing to help young people live independently, to support older people wishing to down-size and to accommodate people whose circumstances change.
- 2.20 During the 2017 public consultation, the overwhelming message was that residents wished to see affordable housing, with over 72% of responses supporting this. Affordable housing has a specific definition of 'housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the definitions' set out in the NPPF. However, anecdotally, it has been interpreted in a different way and since it was often mentioned alongside small housing, the importance of more, smaller housing stock to local people is clear. Quotes indicated that residents wanted to see 'Houses that first-time buyers can afford, and old people are able to remain living in' and 'sensibly sized and placed development' and 'some small and affordable housing'.

Local Plan Policy LP 11 requires a range of housing to meet local needs and states that sites should provide 20% affordable housing. There is no such requirement in the National Park.

Supporting the Local Economy

- 2.21 The future sustainability of the parish is dependent upon maintaining a buoyant local economy and services, or there is a risk that part of Holme Valley Parish could become a group of satellite, commuter settlements serving larger towns such as Huddersfield. The 2011 census data demonstrates that the Valley has a higher than average number of people in higher managerial, administration and professional occupations (15.45% of all ages 16-74 compared to 8.82% those in Kirklees) some of whom will commute to larger towns and cities. However, it also has a range of occupations represented with 11.79% of those aged 16-74 classified as small employers and own account workers. Residents have expressed the desire to retain a mix of employment opportunities particularly in the local area. The Pre-Regulation 14 consultation included comments such as ‘I welcome all opportunities to expand local employment as a means of reducing sustainable levels of commuting and as a way to encourage young people to stay in the local area.’
- 2.22 Holmfirth is an internationally known brand, renowned for its beautiful countryside and character as well as being the setting for the longest running sitcom in the world, Last of the Summer Wine. Indeed, the original reason for the series being based here was the visual attractiveness of the area. The duration of the programme and its international popularity still draws visitors. More recently, the area’s programme of festivals and other attractions, including the Holmfirth Picturedrome, a popular independent live music venue, have provided more contemporary visitor draws.
- 2.23 There are many other opportunities for developing the local economy which will help to support a vibrant and viable town centre and the local population. There is strength in the services that support the local population, such as building trades, hairdresser and beauty facilities and the motor trades. The number and quality of cafes and restaurants and other night-time attractions attract visitors as well as serve local people. Engineering businesses can still be found locally and there are a significant number of professional services and consultancy businesses operating in the Valley suggesting that there is considerable scope for expansion, particularly through greater use of the broadband and other communication channels.
- 2.24 The 2017 consultation identified that over 75% of respondents felt that the neighbourhood plan should enable more people to work in the Holme Valley with opportunities for business hubs, small businesses and commerce, service and creative industries featuring most highly.

Protecting and Improving Local Facilities

- 2.25 The Holme Valley is fortunate to have a good range of local facilities. These include village halls, recreation grounds including sports fields/sport centres/gymnasiums, sailing, tennis and cricket clubs, a swimming pool, children’s play areas, places of worship, and primary and secondary schools.

- 2.26 Informal facilities such as the network of walking and cycling routes alongside the range of services within Holmfirth, Honley and the surrounding villages, offer residents opportunities to meet and socialise. The Holme Valley has a large number of different community groups, organisations and societies which cater for the diverse interests of the local population and having places where they can meet and participate in their various activities is an essential part of the Valley's character.

3.0 Holme Valley NDP Vision and Objectives

- 3.1 The vision has been developed by the Steering Group based on their views, feedback from the groups to which they belong and the many consultation exercises that have been carried out in recent years. The vision describes what we want to achieve over the neighbourhood plan period.
- 3.2 The objectives break the vision down into sections and helped structure our thinking about how our policies could address the issues facing the Holme Valley. They were informed by the informal and formal consultation with the community in 2018 & 2019.
- 3.3 The primary purpose of a Neighbourhood Development Plan is for a Parish Council to produce a set of policies against which planning applications submitted to Kirklees Council and the PDNPA will be assessed. The Holme Valley NDP includes planning policies which will be used for this purpose.
- 3.4 The Holme Valley NDP also includes 'actions' which will be taken forward by the Parish Council in order to address the non-planning issues relevant to the communities living within the parish - see Appendix 1.

VISION FOR THE VALLEY

The Holme Valley of the future will continue to be a beautiful rural landscape offering safe environments for wildlife and a place where its culture, heritage and splendour are celebrated by local people and visitors. It will be home to a vibrant and welcoming community whose people live and/or work within its thriving settlements. It will offer the services and facilities for modern life, whilst sustaining a strong sense of identity and belonging for everyone.

OBJECTIVES

- | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. To preserve and promote the distinctive characteristics of the Holme Valley. |
| B. To protect important open spaces, public views and landscape of the Holme Valley. |
| C. To promote the type of housing that meets the needs of the local population and to ensure that all new development meets appropriate design and building standards. |
| D. To promote growth of the economy, employment and tourism in the Holme Valley. |
| E. To promote education and life-long learning for all through investment in improved local community facilities. |
| F. To promote the health and well-being of residents. |
| G. To improve accessibility, infrastructure and movement around the Valley by promoting more sustainable transport choices. |
| H. To promote sustainability, reduce impact on climate change and move towards a zero-carbon local economy. |

3.5 Table 1 shows which policies meet the relevant objectives.

Table 1 NDP Policies and Objectives

NDP Policies		Obj							
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the Holme Valley	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
2	Protecting and enhancing the built character of the Holme Valley and promoting high quality design	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
3	Conserving and enhancing local heritage assets	✓			✓				
4	Design Codes for high quality shop fronts and advertisements	✓			✓				
5	Promoting high quality public realm and improvements to gateways and highways	✓			✓		✓	✓	
6	Building homes for the future	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
7	Supporting economic activity	✓			✓				✓
8	Facilitating development in Holmfirth, Honley and other local centres	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
9	Protecting and enhancing local community facilities	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Protecting Local Green Space	✓	✓				✓		✓
11	Improving transport, accessibility & local Infrastructure	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Promoting sustainability	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
13	Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain	✓						✓	

4.0 Holme Valley NDP Planning Policies

The following sections of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan contain the policies which will be applied by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority in the consideration of any planning application submitted within that planning authority's part of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area.

These policies are necessarily wide ranging in their scope and taken together will help to deliver sustainable development within the Parish.

A NDP has the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been supported at a referendum and is made (brought into legal force) by the local planning authority.

At this point it becomes part of the statutory development plan and applications for planning permission **must be determined** in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.1 Protecting Local Character

Introduction and Background

- 4.1.1 The local character of the area encompasses both the landscapes of the area and its built environments. The distinctive landscapes and built heritage of the Holme Valley are regarded locally, nationally and internationally as positive assets.
- 4.1.2 The distinctive local landscape character of Holme Valley Parish is highly significant in terms of the area's strong local identity. The public consultation on Issues and Options in summer 2017 reiterated the appreciation of local landscape character by local people. The rural environment was by far the largest single response to Q1 "What do you like most about living in Holme Valley?" with 44% responses mentioning it. Responses included "Beautiful well-kept countryside, great towns and villages. It feels safe and friendly. Lots of well organised fun events" and "I feel that the most important thing that should be protected is the countryside. Without the countryside what is the Holme Valley?".
- 4.1.3 The landscape and particularly its wide-open views are highly valued and examples of these are shown in the photographs below:



Figure 4 - Looking up the Holme Valley towards Holmbridge



Figure 5 - Looking down the Holme Valley across to Cheeseagate Nab



Figure 6 - Looking down the Holme Valley over Holmfirth towards Castle Hill



Figure 7 - View across New Mill from Sude Hill



Figure 8 - View towards Netherthong from Wolfstones



Figure 9 - View towards Honley

- 4.1.4 Natural England has identified and described National Character Areas (NCA)¹ for all areas of England. The eastern portion of the area falls within NCA 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. The close juxtaposition of the predominantly Millstone Grit industrial towns, valley topography and pastoral agriculture of the Pennine foothills forms a distinct feature of the landscape. Although largely a transitional landscape stretching from upland areas to the lower-lying land to the east, the use of millstone grit in buildings and structures provides a sense of visual unity to the landscape.
- 4.1.5 The western extent of the study area is encompassed within NCA 51: Dark Peak, which forms a landscape of wild and remote moorland, contained almost entirely within the Peak District National Park. The plateau topography is divided and drained by a number of small streams which coalesce to form the main rivers within the NCA. Forming part of the southernmost limit of the Pennines, valley reservoirs and uninterrupted views across the elevated landscape are characteristic of the area.
- 4.1.6 The Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment (2015) identifies a total of eight Landscape Character Types and 19 Landscape Character Areas. There are a number of these that cover the Holme Valley Parish.
- 4.1.7 Part of the area to the west lies within the Peak District National Park. The Peak District Landscape Character Assessment (2008) provides information about landscape change and details guidelines for the distinctive landscapes of the Peak District. The Holme Valley neighbourhood area includes the following landscape character areas:
- **Dark Peak**
Sparsely populated upland plateau with steep gritstone slopes that drop away to wooded cloughs and deep valleys.
 - **Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe**
Displaying many of the characteristics of the Peak District, the landscape is also influenced by the proximity of urban settlements including the close association with pastoral agriculture and early industrial activity.

¹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130>

- 4.1.8 The character of the built heritage of the Holme Valley is also valued locally, nationally and internationally as positive assets. Built heritage assets in the Valley include 13 conservation areas: Butterley, Fulstone, Hepworth, Hinchliffe Mill, Holme, Holmfirth, Honley, Netherthong, Oldfield, Totties, Underbank, Upperthong, and Wooldale. There are also 451 listed buildings and 3 Scheduled Monuments. Much of the rural area is protected by national park status and within that as 'natural zone'. Large parts of the rural area of the Parish within that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority are protected by Green Belt.
- 4.1.9 Alongside its industrial heritage, the Holme Valley has a strong history of farming and agriculture. This has a significant impact on the appearance of the valley in terms of field boundaries, agricultural buildings and the appearance of the land which is driven by the farming methods and moorland management. Sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens and alpacas are all farmed alongside horse pastures, forestry plantations and the extensive grouse moors. The landscapes created by the livestock can be taken for granted and it is important that the viability of local agriculture is encouraged. Local sourcing of meat and dairy, support for farm diversification and the need for farms to have modern barns and facilities must be recognised. There are already agricultural permitted development rights for functional buildings such as barns, but where planning permission is required, proposals need to be sensitive in terms of the siting, design and external appearance to minimise adverse visual impacts. Suitable screening should be provided by using locally appropriate native species of trees and shrubs in planting. Landscaping schemes and development should make use of local topography to minimise the prominence of large new buildings. Use of natural materials such as wood, and neutral colours such as earth browns and soft greens can reduce visual impacts and are encouraged.



Figure 10 - Bluebells in West Wood, Honley

Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment, October 2016²

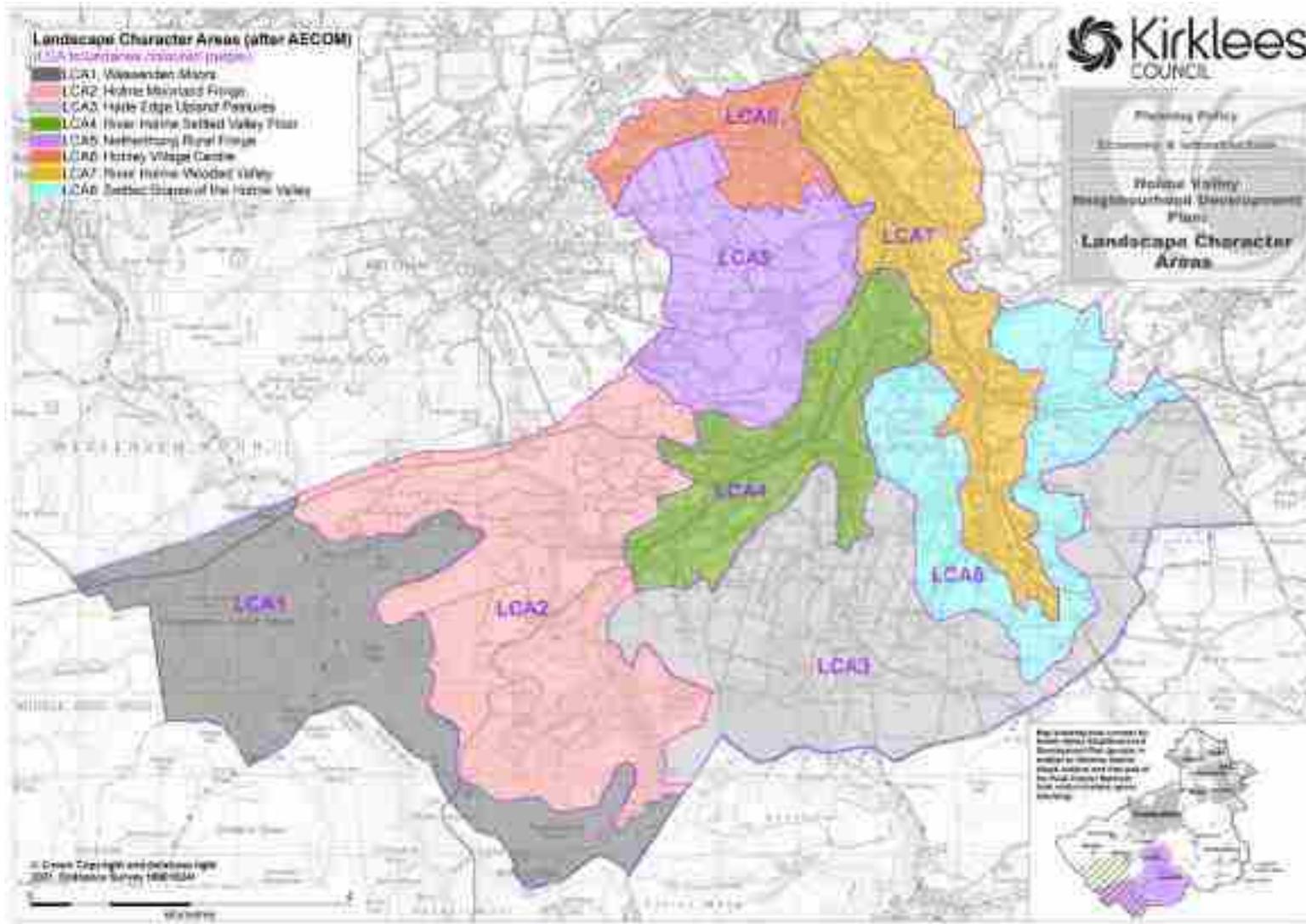
- 4.1.10 In order to provide more detailed information about the built character of the Holme Valley, the Parish Council commissioned AECOM consultants, to undertake a Heritage and Character Assessment (HCA) in 2016 to provide more local detail to the landscape character assessment work undertaken at the Kirklees level. This study included consideration of public consultations and local knowledge. It showed that the following are particularly valued by local residents:
- Existing built development and settlement pattern and how this is integrated within the Valley topography;
 - Industrial and agricultural heritage of the area;
 - Contrast of the industrial heritage features with the wider moors and wooded valleys.
- 4.1.11 Key issues which required resolving were:
- Address the continued loss of mill buildings and demise of local industry;
 - Implement stricter controls in conservation areas, relating specifically to the replacement of doors and windows;
 - Reinstate shop fronts which are sympathetic to the local setting.
- 4.1.12 Aspects of heritage or character which residents felt were particularly sensitive to change included:
- Industrial heritage and existing mill chimneys (such as Bottoms Mill) which are now showing signs of decay and neglect;
 - New development which is not in-keeping with local materials or existing building scale / massing;
 - Introduction of new development within conservation areas.
- 4.1.13 Identified pressures which could threaten the distinctive characteristics of the area included:
- Failure to preserve heritage features in new development resulting in the gradual erosion of local character; and
 - Large scale housing developments which do not reflect the local building vernacular.
- 4.1.14 In general, the Heritage and Character Assessment concluded that the design, form and pattern of new development should respond to the historic local vernacular within the parish, using local materials. Development should also respond appropriately to the immediate context, taking into account layout, scale, density and appearance (including materials) of neighbouring buildings. Specific consideration should be given to the conservation areas within the area to ensure the conservation and protection of key heritage assets. There is also a need to consider how the local topography has influenced form and layout, leading to a strong, linear form of development, with building lines following the contours along steep valley sides and narrow valley bottoms.

² see https://www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_22997.aspx
Technical Report

4.1.15 Utilising these findings, the AECOM Assessment identified eight distinct Landscape Character Areas within the Holme Valley which are listed below and shown on the following Map 2:

- LCA 1: Wessenden Moors
- LCA 2: Holme Moorland Fringe
- LCA 3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures
- LCA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor
- LCA 5: Netherthong Rural Fringe
- LCA 6: Honley Village Centre
- LCA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley
- LCA 8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley

Map 2 Landscape Character Areas in Holme Valley Parish



- 4.1.16 The Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment (HVHCA) describes the key characteristics and character management principles for the landscape and built character of each of the 8 identified Landscape Character Areas. The key characteristics and character management principles for each of the Landscape Character Areas in respect of landscape and built character are set out below and are the character management principles to be applied in Policies 1 and 2 dealing with protecting and enhancing landscape character and protecting and enhancing built character respectively. The evidence as to why these principles are important to the future of the valley is set out in the HVHCA.
- 4.1.17 However it is important to note that many of the landscape characteristics of the Holme Valley have a strong association with the built character. The area's pre-industrial and industrial heritage, with links to textile production and manufacture, mining and quarrying, is woven into the very fabric of the stone walls, farmsteads, hamlets, villages and towns and the transport routes that link them. 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.

LCA1: Wessenden Moors

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The whole of LCA1 lies within the Peak District National Park and stretches from Wessenden Head Moor in the north to the fringes of Black Hill in the west and across to Bleakmires Moss in the south. The area forms part of the wider moorland expanses of the Peak District National Park.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Open moorland and exposed farmland grazed by sheep.
- Views to the west are characterised by long distance open panoramas across the moorland contrasting with views to the east of the densely settled River Holme valley and distant conurbations beyond.
- Field boundaries are generally rare but where these do exist, they include stone walls.
- Except for Holme Moss Transmitting Station the full extent of the LCA is defined as open access land. A section of the Pennine Way long distance footpath crosses the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Maintain open, undeveloped areas of moorland.
- Respect long distance views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries.
- Preserve the open access land and route of the Pennine Way to maximise recreational opportunities.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

In this remote upland area, built form is limited to that associated with the Holme Moss transmitting station and other structures associated with sheep grazing and moorland management.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Remote landscape devoid of settlement with built form limited to functional structures.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Development should maintain the sense of remoteness.

LCA2: Holme Moorland Fringe

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The western and southern parts of the area are located within the Peak District National Park and rough grazing and semi-improved pasture on the steep slopes to the east forms an immediate fringe to the national park. The area includes Bilberry, Digley, Brownhill, Ramsden, Riding Wood and Yateholme reservoirs and watercourses flow from the upland plateaus through steep cloughs with wooded sides. The remains of former quarrying are evident in the landscape.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- There are many elevated vantage points with panoramic and long-distance views across the settled valley floor of the River Holme.
- There are key vistas towards the open moorland and into the Holme Valley from Holme Conservation Area and views into the Conservation Area from Fieldhead Lane and Woodhead Road West (A6024).
- Agricultural fields are enclosed by stone walls and deciduous tree cover.
- Open access land to the south of Holme, upland reservoirs, Kirklees Way long distance walking route and the Holme Valley Circular Walk all provide recreational opportunities.
- Historic cart tracks such as Nether Lane with distinctive grooved pavements.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Maintain the open, undeveloped areas of moorland.
- Respect long distance views across the Holme Valley and towards the open moorland, including those from and towards Holme Conservation Area.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.
- Conserve the remaining distinctive surfacing of historic cart tracks.
- Provide historical interpretation of disused quarries to reflect industrial heritage.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

The main settlement is the compact hilltop village of Holme historically associated with agriculture and the textile industry. It is also a Conservation Area. Settlement is otherwise limited to the clusters of houses and farmsteads at Lane within the Peak District National Park, at Flush House and Hogley Green and above Holmbridge on the northern valley side and other occasional scattered dwellings and farmsteads.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- A distinctive vernacular architecture formed from former laithe³ and weaver's cottages, along with farmhouses, barns and public buildings.
- Building materials include millstone grit in properties and boundary walls and details often respond to the harsh climatic conditions, with small windows located predominantly on less exposed elevations.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Reinforce local distinctiveness by ensuring future developments in Holme are sympathetic to the character and setting of Holme Conservation Area.
- Use building materials and design details which refer to the local vernacular and reflect the typically smaller window pattern.
- Consider the use of stone setts and cobbles as a replacement for asphalt and concrete within the public realm.

³ A dwelling with other farm buildings as a single structure with separate entrances for humans and livestock.

LCA3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Land use is predominantly marginal upland agriculture merging with moorland on the higher ground to the south and west. Pasture is divided into a regular patchwork of small fields enclosed by millstone grit walling with sparse woodland cover. The rising landform is bisected by tributaries of the River Ribble and Dean Dike above which sit Holme Styes and Boshaw Whams reservoirs.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- The open landscape has long distance views of the settled corridor of the River Holme and Kirklees district beyond as well as local views of open water bodies such as Boshaw Whams and Holme Styes.
- Stone boundary walls are common features creating a strong sense of visual unity.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) follows local lanes or field boundaries. Minor roads and PRoW, including sections of the Kirklees Way and the Barnsley Boundary Walk long distance footpaths, connect farmsteads located on the valley sides. National Cycle Route no. 68 also passes through this area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance and local views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

While the area is essentially rural there are individual farmsteads, former woollen mills and several settlements including Hade Edge, Choppards, Ward Place, Arrunden, Longley, Washpit and Cartworth Fold set within the wider moorland and agricultural landscape.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Dispersed settlements characterised by their former domestic textile manufacturing, mill buildings and agricultural heritage along with isolated farmsteads set within an upland agricultural landscape.
- Hade Edge is the largest of the settlements containing some services and modern and older development and lies on a plateau at Dunford Road / Penistone Road.
- Former textile/woollen mills set within the valley of the River Ribble.
- Vernacular building materials include millstone grit in properties and boundary walls.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Ensure the sensitive conversion of rural buildings which complement the rural, agricultural landscape.

LCA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The River Holme flows in its valley from Holmbridge through Hinchliffe Mill and Holmfirth to Thongsbridge. Mixed semi-natural woodlands are found in places along the river with further woodland pockets on the valley sides. Above the settled valley floor, the upper slopes are characterised by pastoral fields divided by stone walling.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Framed views from the settled valley floor to the upper valley sides and views across to opposing valley slopes and beyond towards the Peak District National Park.
- Boundary treatments comprised largely of millstone grit walling. The stone walling which runs parallel with Upperthong Lane is representative of local vernacular detailing.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) including the Holme Valley Riverside Way which follows the River Holme from Holmbridge through Holmfirth and downstream. National Cycle Route no. 68 follows minor roads through Upperthong towards the centre of Holmfirth before climbing the opposing valley slopes.
- Mill ponds reflect industrial heritage and offer recreation facilities.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure new development respects framed views from the settled floor to the upper valley sides and views across to opposing valley slopes and views towards the Peak District National Park.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes particularly physical and visual links to the River Holme.
- Consider opportunities through major developments to provide interpretation of the historic industrial role of the river and mill ponds within the local landscape.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Linear settlement pattern largely follows the river valley with Holmbridge, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmfirth and Thongsbridge along the valley bottom. Development extends up the hillside to the west of Holmfirth to the historic core of Upperthong with Underbank rising above Holmfirth to the south. Where settlement climbs the hillsides, development characteristically follows the gradient of the slope resulting in a distinct building style, with houses built into the slope. Hinchliffe Mill, Upperthong and Underbank are Conservation Areas. Holmfirth is the main town and commercial centre and is a popular focus for tourism. Holmfirth centre is a Conservation Area and there is industry, both old and new, in the valley bottom.

2.1 Key Characteristics

These key characteristics apply throughout the area.

- Mill buildings, chimneys and ponds, including Ribbleden Mill with its chimney, associated mill worker houses and ashlar fronted villas link the area to its industrial and commercial heritage and are a legacy of the area's former textile industry.
- Terraced cottages and distinctive over and under dwellings feature on the steep hillsides with steep ginnels, often with stone setts and narrow roads.
- Narrow winding streets with stepped passageways, stone troughs and setts characterise the sloping hillsides above Holmfirth town centre.
- Small tight knit settlements on the upper slopes are characterised by their former agricultural and domestic textile heritage.
- There are mixed areas of historic and more recent residential and commercial developments.

The following Key Characteristics also apply to Holmfirth.

- The town centre is defined by its prominent Georgian church and mid-Victorian buildings.
- The Picturedrome, Civic Hall, Masonic Lodge and the former Holmfirth Technical college reflect local history and provide focal points in the streetscene.
- Mid-19th century terraces constructed largely of millstone grit with slate roofs form the predominant residential building style and often feature ornamental iron railings.
- Built form is generally aligned to the back of the pavement giving a strongly defined building line and distinctive layout.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Regard should be had to the key characteristics that give these areas their distinctive character and should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements, including vernacular building styles, settlement patterns, alignment of the building line and the streetscene.
- Strengthen local sense of place through design which reflects connections to past industrial heritage related to each settlement including through retaining or restoring mill buildings and chimneys.
- Consider replacing asphalt and concrete with traditional surfacing such as stone setts and cobbles.

LCA5: Netherthong Rural Fringe

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Netherthong and Oldfield are settlements set within a rural fringe landscape with 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. The elevated agricultural character of this LCA forms a setting to the settlements of Holmfirth, Thongsbridge and Upperthong along the valley floor.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- The elevation offers extensive views of the surrounding landscape with long distance views towards Castle Hill and Huddersfield and the valley sides afford framed views towards settlements in the valley below.
- Within Netherthong and Oldfield views of the surrounding landscape are often glimpsed between buildings.
- Distinctive stone wall field boundary treatments divide the agricultural landscape.
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including the Holme Valley Circular Walk, cross the landscape providing links between settlements. National Cycle Route no. 68 also crosses the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance views towards Castle Hill, Huddersfield and the surrounding landscape, and framed and glimpsed views from the valley sides and within and from Netherthong and Oldfield towards the settlements in the valley below.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Netherthong and Oldfield are historic farming and weaving settlements and have been designated as Conservation Areas. Netherthong also has areas of 20th and 21st century residential development. Deanhouse has a predominantly linear pattern along Dean Brook developed from its former textile heritage. There are scattered farmsteads and residential buildings set along the roadsides.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- In Netherthong and Oldfield buildings are grouped around courtyards to provide protection from the elements whilst Deanhouse has a predominantly linear plan.
- Vernacular buildings largely comprise farmhouses, barns and two and three storey weaver's cottages of millstone grit with stone mullioned windows.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- New development should be sympathetic to the character and setting of the Conservation Areas.
- Layouts and designs should respond positively to the historic settlement pattern and respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Consider the use of traditional materials of millstone grit and slate for repairs and localised alteration with stone mullions retained.
- Consider replacing asphalt and concrete with traditional surfacing such as stone setts and cobbles.

LCA6: Honley Village Centre Including Honley and Honley Wood Bottom/Mag Brook

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

The area mainly comprises Honley but also includes the southern wooded slopes of Hall Dike which becomes Mag Brook where it flows through its wooded valley at Magdale. There is valuable open space at Magdale Fields and Magdale Dam.

There is considerable tree and woodland cover including ancient woodland at Honley Wood, Honley Old Wood, Clitheroe Wood and Spring Wood. Honley Wood contains archaeological features, disused stone quarries and coal pits.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Wooded valleys associated with Mag Brook and Magdale.
- Glimpsed views of a wider rural backdrop are often framed by built form. The sloping topography creates a strong connection between the centre of Honley and the wider agricultural setting with strong visual links up to Oldfield. The area affords long distance views to Castle Hill.
- Stone wall field boundary treatments
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) follows the routes of local lanes or field boundaries with some giving access to Mag Brook and Honley Wood Bottom.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Protect and conserve the wildlife corridor of Mag Brook and improve ecological networks of woodlands⁴.
- Respect long distance and framed and glimpsed views.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Honley is a large, predominantly residential settlement with a small commercial centre. Its historic core is a designated Conservation Area and is compact and characterised by narrow streets reflecting the steep sided valley topography. There is modern residential development in Honley particularly in the west and south. There is settlement at Magdale mainly on the northern valley side of Mag Brook.

⁴ This woodland is believed to constitute the last remaining self-sustaining medieval dwarf oak woodlands in Europe.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Honley's historic core is dominated by 18th and 19th century stone dwellings with distinctive yards or folds.
- The south-west of Honley has more eclectic architecture with largely 20th century residential properties in cul-de-sacs. These are generally in-keeping with the historic townscape due to scale and use of traditional materials.
- Weaver's cottages with rows of mullioned windows are found throughout area.
- Former mill buildings associated with Mag Brook have been redeveloped for commercial or residential use and form local heritage features.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain, and enhance the character of existing settlements.
- Ensure the repair, restoration or conversion of traditional buildings is carried out with due regard to the character and local vernacular.

LCA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

New Mill Dike flows northward through its steep wooded valley to its confluence with the River Holme at Mytholm Bridge. The River Holme meanders across the wider, flatter valley floor west of Brockholes enclosed by more distant wooded slopes. Agricultural land dominates between areas of woodland and there is evidence in the landscape of past industrial and mining activity.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Glimpsed views towards the wider landscape through gaps between built form.
- Views across the wooded valley floor from elevated vantage points such as from Christ Church New Mill and Holy Trinity Church Hepworth.
- Stone boundary walls are common features.
- A network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) crosses the landscape including a section of the Barnsley Boundary Walk, the Kirklees Way and the Holme Valley Circular Walk.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure new development respects glimpsed views between built form.
- Ensure views are maintained across the wooded valley landscape from elevated vantage points.
- Retain and restore existing stone boundaries and use stone walling in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of PRoW to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Brockholes, New Mill and Jackson Bridge are located on the valley floors whilst Butterley and Hepworth follow the contours on the valley sides resulting in a close association between built form and landscape. Millstone grit buildings with slate roofs predominate in the older parts of the settlements and examples of historic weaver's cottages and former textile mills can be found across the area. In many cases these sit alongside modern development particularly at Brockholes, New Mill and Hepworth. There is evidence of past textile and mining industry.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Settlements characterised by a close association between built form and landscape.
- Industrial heritage features such as weirs and mill buildings.
- Mounds and hollows, which are the remains of shallow tunnels created for coal mining, as well as piles of shale material and the remains of plateways (flat stones laid across fields to assist with vehicle movement), are also found across the moorland and fields.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Ensure that new development respects the distinct character and built form of the LCA such as weaver's cottages and folds and the sensitive conversion of former farm buildings.
- Strengthen local sense of place through improving the connection to past industrial heritage including through retaining or restoring mill buildings.
- Consider the use of traditional materials of millstone grit and slate for repairs and localised alteration with stone mullions retained.

LCA8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley Upper slopes of the River Holme and New Mill Dike

1. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character

Farmland on the slopes above the valley floor separates the discrete village footprints creating an open character around Totties, Scholes and Fulstone. Vegetation associated with Dean Dike forms a linear belt of tree cover to the south of Scholes. Evidence of former mines and quarries can be found in the form of mounds, hollows and stone plateways.

1.1 Key Characteristics

- Strong rural setting and agricultural character with pastoral farmland on the rising valley slopes.
- There is a strong connection to the surrounding rural landscape from long distance and panoramic views over the wooded valley floor to the opposing valley sides as well as glimpsed views of the rural backdrop through gaps between the built form, especially within Totties and Scholes.
- Stone walls and hedgerows form field boundaries and line single lane roads.
- Short sections of the Kirklees Way, the Barnsley Boundary Walk and the Holme Valley Circular Walk cross the area. A short section of National Cycle Route no. 627 also crosses the north-east of the area.

1.2 Character Management Principles

- Respect long distance and inward and outward views from locally elevated settlements.
- Retain and restore existing stone field boundaries and hedgerows and use stone walling or hedges in new boundary treatments.
- Maintain and enhance the network of Public Rights of Way to promote access and consider opportunities to create new links to existing routes.

2. Protecting and Enhancing Built Character and Promoting High Quality Design

Settlement is generally sparse with four notable settlements at Scholes, Totties, Wooldale and Fulstone. Totties, Wooldale and Fulstone are former agricultural and weaving villages and have Conservation Areas. Isolated dwellings and farm properties are located on the wider valley sides. The hilltop hamlet of Fulstone is also a former coal mining settlement with largely traditional style dwellings in a nucleated layout and most dwellings are constructed of local millstone grit with grey slate roofs. There is modern residential development at Scholes and Wooldale.

2.1 Key Characteristics

- Older settlements are characterised by their agricultural and industrial past and there are isolated farmsteads on the valley slopes.
- Scholes and Wooldale are the largest of the settlements and contain some services and older and more modern development.

- Vernacular building materials include millstone grit walls with grey slate roofs.

2.2 Character Management Principles

- Built design should respect, retain and enhance the character of existing settlements.

4.1.18 Some of these Character Principles go beyond planning policies and refer to landscape management or possible future actions. However, where relevant, the key planning principles have been used to inform design policies in the HVNDP, in particular Policies 1 and 2, and should be used to inform detailed designs and decisions about planning applications.

Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of the Holme Valley

- 4.1.19 This NDP aims to preserve and enhance the special nature of Holme Valley's landscape character as described above by setting out a neighbourhood level policy to complement those of the Kirklees Local Plan and the PDNPA Local Plan. Most of the neighbourhood area that lies within the PDNP is designated 'natural zone' where development is not permitted other than in exceptional circumstances. Kirklees Local Plan policies and the NPPF provide protection for large areas of countryside in the Parish as much of the rural area in that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority is Green Belt. New development is therefore steered towards existing settlements.
- 4.1.20 In addition, the Kirklees Local Plan policies related to protecting the natural environment and landscape character include Policy LP30 Biodiversity & Geodiversity and Policy LP 32 Landscape. These policies capture the protection of wildlife habitats and areas of particular ecological significance such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. PDNPA natural environment policies CS L1 and L2 are also relevant.
- 4.1.21 To avoid duplication, Kirklees Local Plan policies are not repeated. However, as these policies can be too generalised in some areas to adequately protect the special nature of the Holme Valley landscape, further detail is set out in Policy 1. This policy applies only to that part of the Neighbourhood Area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority.
- 4.1.22 Policy 1 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. Wessenden Moors (CA 1) and Holme Moorland Fringe (CA 2) are in the Natural Zone of the Peak District National Park where Peak District National Park Authority Policies apply. Peak District National Park LDF Core Strategy DPD Policy L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics sets out in Part B, that 'other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted.' The Peak District National Park Development Management Policies: Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District

National Park Policy DCM2 'Protecting and managing the Natural Zone' explains where exceptional circumstances would apply.

- 4.1.23 The HVNDP Environmental Report, 2020 advised that specific types of green infrastructure not evident in the Kirklees Local Plan could result in minor positive effects for the Holme Valley area and suggested that the Policy should encourage "living" and "blue" roofs⁵ where adverse impacts on local character and distinctiveness are minimised.

Community Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.24 Residents gave a clear message that to support the preservation of the landscape, brownfield sites should be developed rather than greenfield. The 2017 consultation identified that 89% residents thought that 'new building on brownfield sites should take priority over greenfield sites' with comments including "Of course brownfield sites should be used. Once the green areas are gone, they are gone forever".
- 4.1.25 The landscape is very important to residents of the Holme Valley as shown by the 2017 consultation which identified the rural environment as what people liked most about living in the area. The AECOM assessment also highlights views as a key characteristic of the area. Given the topography, there are beautiful views everywhere and local residents often share their favourites with photographs on community Facebook sites. Unlike some NDP areas which can define several key views, the Holme Valley has many wide-ranging and local views from hill-tops and valley floors, rivers and villages. A large proportion of the Valley can be seen from multiple locations so the principle of considering the impact of any development on the views both from and of the location is seen as extremely important. Therefore, we have not sought to identify specific views for protection.
- 4.1.26 The importance of the environment is clear as there are active local groups working hard to enhance rivers, woodlands and parks. For example, River Holme Connections formed to improve the condition and visibility of and access to the River Holme and its tributaries clocked 5,417 volunteer hours during 2019. As their Annual Report 2017 stated, 'our local river is a tremendous asset which for years has been ignored and unloved. Our charity, working with partners, businesses and volunteers aims to throw the covers back and shine a light on the tremendous value and benefits of our river.' Other initiatives organised by Honley Village Trust and Holmepride have specifically sought to improve the environment through rubbish clearance and tidying up rural footpaths. The area is criss-crossed with footpaths, bridleways and other tracks and maintaining effective access to these is important for practical and social reasons. As one resident in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation put it, 'health and wellbeing need to be holistically linked to other policies such as green space and footpath maintenance'.

⁵ A blue roof is a sustainable drainage method designed to provide initial temporary water storage and then gradual release of stored water. A living roof or green roof is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane.

- 4.1.27 Local schools recognise the value of outdoor activities and engagement with nature through formal Forest School initiatives and supporting other opportunities for people to explore the local environment. Kirklees Council recognises the role access to the outdoors has in benefitting physical and mental health and developing strong communities as shown in its Local Plan Policy LP47 Healthy, active and safe lifestyles. The NDP covers this in more detail through Policy 9 which considers the importance of community facilities and their impact on education and well-being.

Policy 1: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape Character of Holme Valley

Policy 1 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

All development proposals should demonstrate how they have been informed by the key characteristics of the LCA in which they are located. Proposals should be designed in accordance with the character management principles in respect of landscape set out in paragraph 4.1.17 for each of the LCAs in order to avoid detrimental impact on the LCA.

Overall, proposals should aim to make a positive contribution to the quality of the natural environment and should not introduce or replicate changes which are unsympathetic to the landscape character of the relevant LCA.

Throughout the neighbourhood area the design and siting of new development and associated landscaping schemes should address the following:

1. Development should respect long distance public views of the upland areas (LCA1 Wessenden Moors, LCA2 Holme Moorland Fringe and LCA3 Hade Edge Upland Pastures). In addition, views across the Valley must be considered, including from other areas looking towards the development scheme and proposals should pay particular regard to any long-distance visual impacts on approaches to settlements, and along through routes. Overall development proposals should minimise any adverse visual impacts on the wider landscape setting of the development.
2. All agricultural buildings in the Green Belt should comply with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP54 and should have appropriate screening and landscaping. Buildings should use neutral colours and tones to reduce visual impact.
3. Boundary treatments should be sensitive to the relevant Landscape Character Area. Schemes should protect existing dry-stone walls wherever practicable and incorporate new dry-stone walls using natural stone in areas where these are a characteristic feature of the Landscape Character Area. Cast iron railings should be used in areas where these are a characteristic feature. Hedges should be retained and repaired.
4. A full hard and soft landscaping scheme is to be submitted with all planning applications for new buildings. Landscaping schemes

and planted boundary treatments should enhance Green Infrastructure. They should also use a suitable mix of native plant species in tree planting and hedgerows to support and enhance biodiversity in line with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan and the relevant Biodiversity Opportunity Zones. Regard should be had to the location, setting, species, height, planting density and need for on-going maintenance and management, particularly in relation to future resilience linked to climate change. Careful consideration also should be given to the creation of a strong landscape structure throughout the site, appropriate to the setting. Planting of trees on hillsides and street planting will be encouraged to reduce flash flooding risks and increase health. Any large extensive planting schemes which are likely to impact on public views must include public consultation with the local community.

Policy 1 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP2 Place shaping

Policy LP30 Biodiversity & Geodiversity

Policy LP31 Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

Policy LP32 Landscape

Policy LP33 Trees

4.2 Protecting and Enhancing the Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting Quality Design

Introduction and Background

- 4.2.1 The built character of the Holme Valley is described for each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment. The built character and form varies within and across each of the LCAs. The section on Character Management Principles sets out that *'In general, the design, form and pattern of new development should respond to the historic local vernacular within the parish, using local materials. Development should also respond appropriately to the immediate context, taking into account layout, scale, density and appearance (including materials) of neighbouring buildings. Specific consideration should be given to the conservation areas within the study area to ensure the conservation and protection of key heritage assets.'*
- 4.2.2 Conservation areas are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 by the local planning authority. Conservation Areas are areas which have a special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. As described in section 4.1, there are 13 conservation areas in the Holme Valley: Holme, Hinchliffe Mill, Holmfirth, Upperthong, Underbank, Netherthong, Oldfield, Honley, Butterley, Hepworth, Fulstone, Totties, and Wooldale. Each conservation area has its own distinct character, and this section presents a description and map of each individual conservation area.
- 4.2.3 Presently only two of the Conservation Areas have a Conservation Area Appraisal: Oldfield and Holme. Holmfirth's Conservation Area has been appraised by the Holmfirth Conservation Group.

Conservation Areas in the Holme Valley

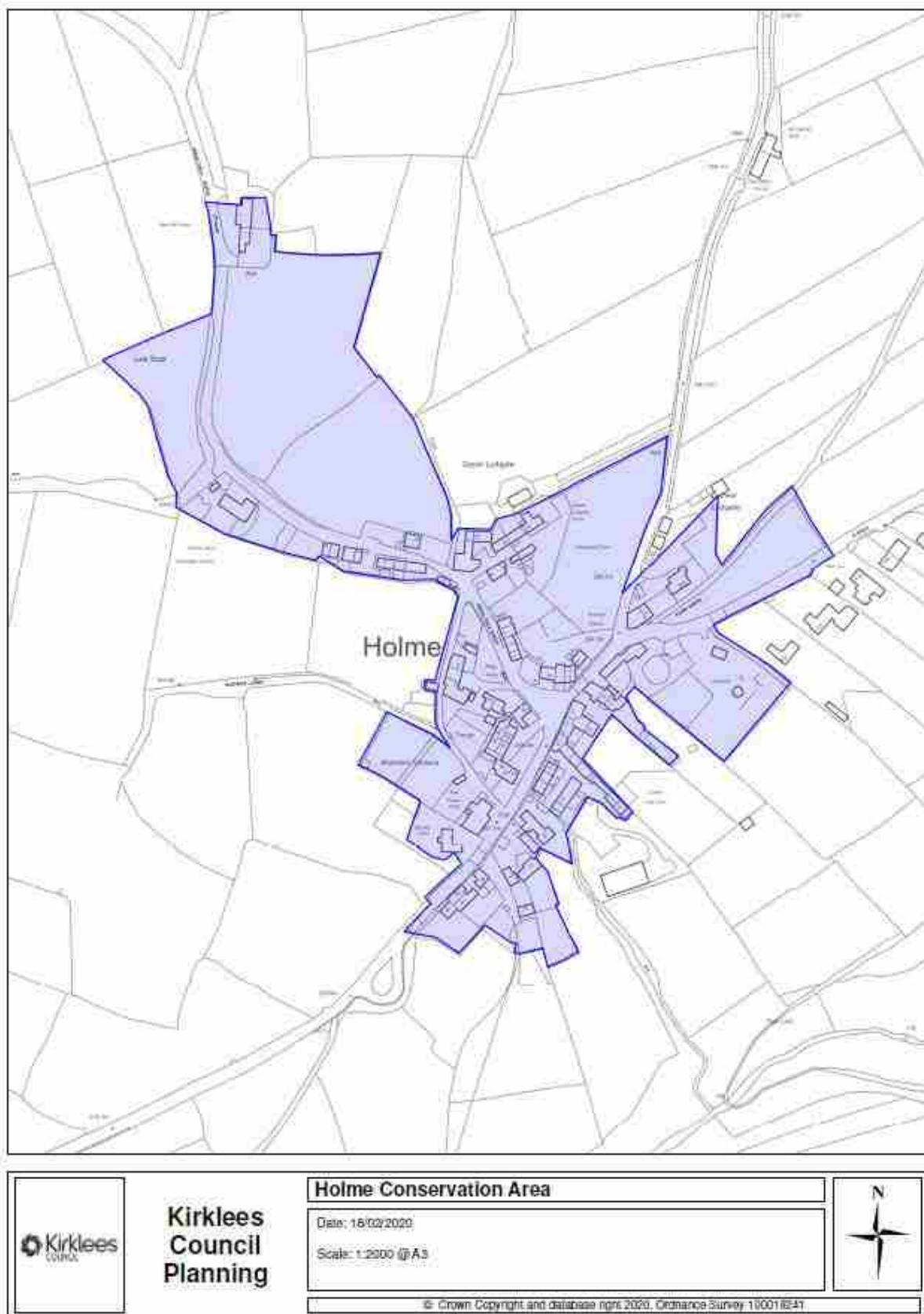
Holme Conservation Area

- 4.2.4 Holme Conservation Area is situated in LCA 2 *Holme Moorland Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.5 Holme Conservation Area was designated in 1982 and was extended in 2007 following the preparation of a Conservation Area Appraisal. Holme is a small clustered settlement located on a hilltop close to Holme Moss. The village has a compact layout with a central nucleus, it contains weavers' cottages (developed for wool manufacturing), farmhouses, barns, a school, a church and a Sunday School.
- 4.2.6 Due to the location of Holme, there are significant views of the conservation area when approaching, and views of the surrounding moorland from the conservation area. These should be preserved to maintain the setting and special character and appearance of this historic settlement. The conservation area appraisal notes the following use of materials in buildings and structures:
- **Building materials:** *Apart from Under Hill, all the buildings in Holme have been constructed using the local gritstone. The visual uniformity achieved by*

the use of this building material throughout the village has created a harmonious feel throughout the village and is complementary to the surrounding environment.

- **Roof Material:** *Stone flags is the dominant roof covering material that is used in Holme. There are a few examples of properties which have used blue slate and in the case of Underhill the materials used for covering are ecologically considerate.*
- **Windows and Doors:** *The majority of windows found in the conservation area are simple timber casements between stone mullions. In some of the later houses and farmhouses sashes still remain but many have been replaced by modern alternatives.*
- **Boundary Walls:** *The vernacular boundary walls are a very important aspect in the definition of the Holme conservation area and should be preserved or enhanced wherever and whenever possible.*
- **Floorscape:** *The main carriageways within the conservation area, i.e. Woodhead Road, Field Head Lane and Meal Hill Road are all surfaced with tarmac, with the main exception being the stone setts situated at the bottom of Meal Hill Road, which helps to distinguish the village core. There are very few areas of pedestrianised walkways within the village.*
- **Street Furniture:** *The street lighting and signage that can be observed in Holme is not sympathetic to the character of the village as they are mainly free standing as opposed to wall mounted and are of poor design. The local village well is situated within a high stone wall along the northern side of the Woodhead Road, and a stone trough can also be found within the confines of the conservation area.*

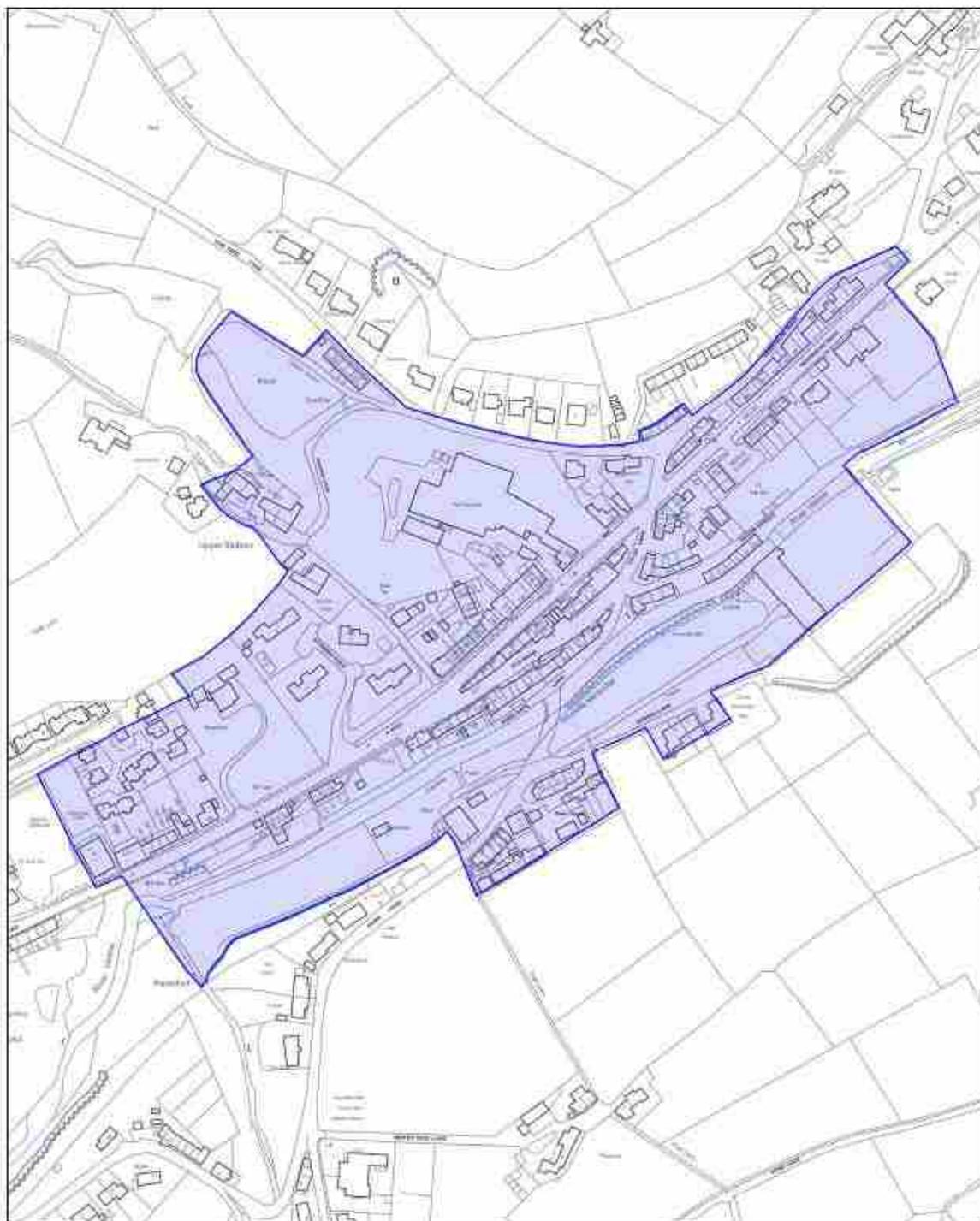
Map 3 Holme Conservation Area



Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area

- 4.2.7 Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.8 Hinchliffe Mill conservation area was designated in 1980. It is a medium sized settlement between Holmfirth and Holmbridge.
- 4.2.9 Hinchliffe Mill originated as a farming community in the early 18th Century and grew when scribbling and fulling mills were built along the River Holme in the late 18th Century. Growth continued with the development of steam power and the increased use of the A6024 Woodhead Road as a trade route towards Huddersfield and Holmfirth. There is still a significant mill, Roberts Mill, in the village.
- 4.2.10 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 4 Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area



	Kirklees Council Planning	Hinchliffe Mill Conservation Area	
		Date: 19/03/2020 Scale: 1:2000 @ A3	
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Holmfirth Conservation Area

- 4.2.11 Holmfirth Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.12 Holmfirth conservation area was designated in 1972 by the former West Riding County Council. It is the largest settlement within the Holme Valley and is located in the valley bottom along the banks of the River Holme. Historic England has placed this conservation area on its 'at risk' register.
- 4.2.13 A Conservation Area Appraisal has been prepared by a local voluntary group, Holmfirth Conservation Group. Endorsed by Historic England and shared with Kirklees, its key conclusions are outlined below.

It identified six character areas within its boundary. New Town, Old Town, Hightown, St. John's, Riverside and Cliff.

Special characteristics were identified in each area:

- *New Town: the riverside walk with bird-life and Holmside gardens*
- *Old Town: historic core, oldest buildings, weavers windows and stone-setted tracks*
- *Hightown: terraced houses with stone-arched ginnels and some of the best views of Holmfirth*
- *St John's: imposing houses, views to the moors*
- *Riverside: last remaining mill pond, historic Upperbridge, tall 4 storey under and over houses*
- *Cliff: significant buildings e.g. Druids Hall, Bamforth's, railway station*

Holmfirth has been a Conservation Area since 1972 and is described by Historic England as being 'at risk'. A Management Plan is needed to address the issues in the Conservation Area, and to create an environment which will attract new businesses, residents, shoppers and tourists.

The main issues in Holmfirth, derived from the analysis of this Appraisal, lie in the following areas:

Open Spaces, Natural Environment and Views:

- *Maintaining the walls and paths*
- *Improve access to the parks, graveyards and river*
- *Improve provision of amenities*
- *Maintenance of trees and increase variety of species*
- *Consideration of succession tree planting*

Existing Buildings:

- *Maintaining the historic features of heritage assets, Listed Buildings, Key Buildings (referred to as non-designated assets in this document) and other positive buildings*
- *Resisting the erosion of character through the cumulative effect of small-scale change*
- *Kirklees to use existing legislation more often, and more rigorously, to protect Listed Buildings and the fabric of the Conservation Area*

- *Maintaining and enhancing traditional shopfronts*
- *Strengthening controls over advertising in shop windows, fascia boards, shop lighting, security shutters and 'A'-boards*
- *Encouraging reinstatement of original architectural design features*

New Development:

- *Taking consideration of the duty to preserve and enhance character of the Conservation Area*
- *Complement the scale and form of neighbouring buildings*
- *Making use of locally sourced natural sandstone*

The Riverside:

- *Maintain the views*
- *Enhance and improve access to the river*
- *Removal or control of invasive species in the river, along its banks and adjoining structures*
- *Improving the style, materials and painting of the footbridges*

Public Realm:

- *Maintain the stone steps, setts and flags*
- *Maintenance of pavements and kerbs, to use stone and setts as appropriate*
- *Reduce and standardise street signage*
- *Coordinate street furniture, including streetlights, seating, railings and litter bins*
- *Develop streetscape manual*
- *Maintain stone retaining walls and boundary walls*
- *Minimise parking in the main streets and particularly in narrow streets*
- *Reduce impact of traffic on buildings and environment in the Holmfirth Conservation Area*
- *Find suitable locations for commercial bins*
- *Remove overhead wires*
- *Improve provision for community noticeboards*
- *Preserve the spectacular views and vistas of Holmfirth*

It is important that these issues are taken forward into a Conservation Area Management Plan for Holmfirth.

However, it should be noted that the Conservation Area Appraisal and proposed Management Plan are not, yet, adopted by Kirklees Council, and proposed actions and other content may be subject to change.

Map 5 Holmfirth Conservation Area

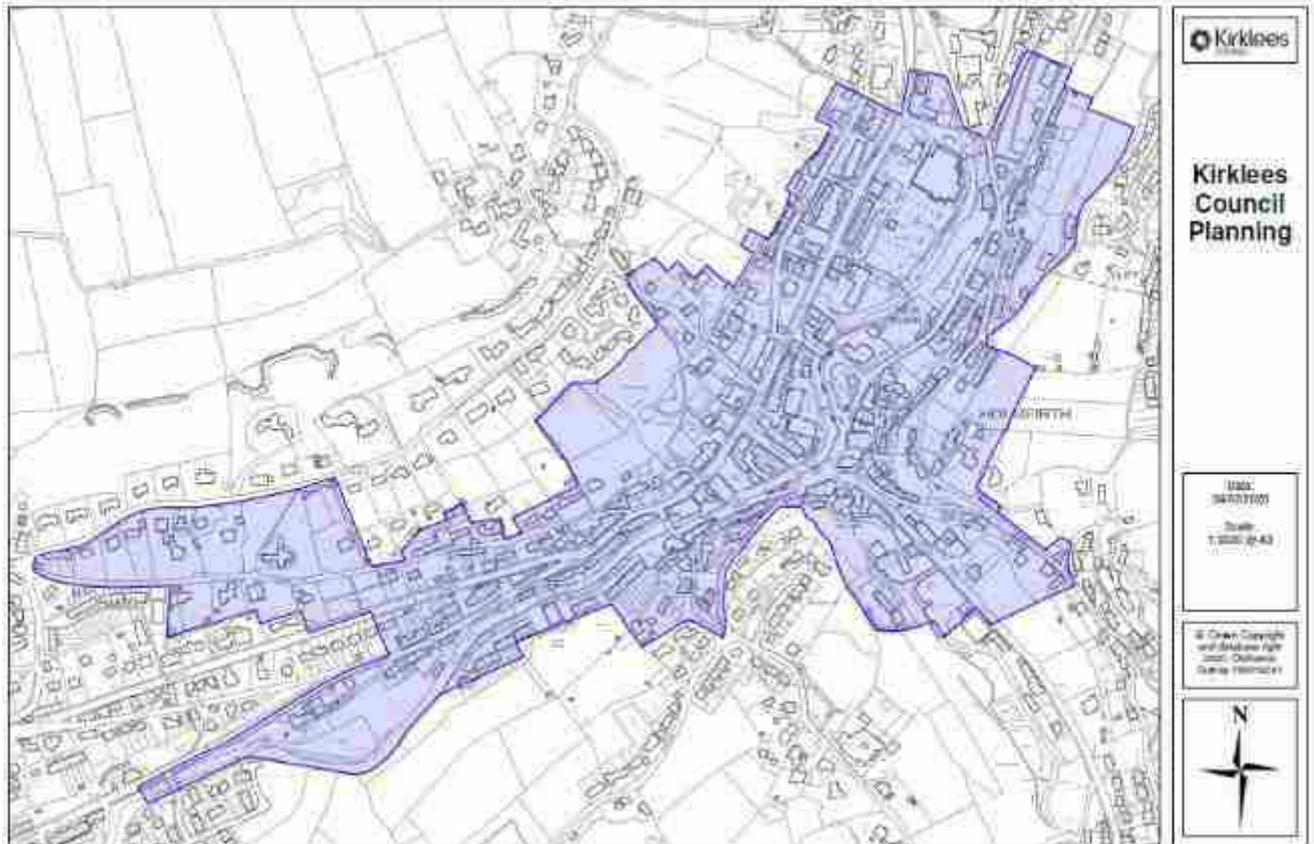
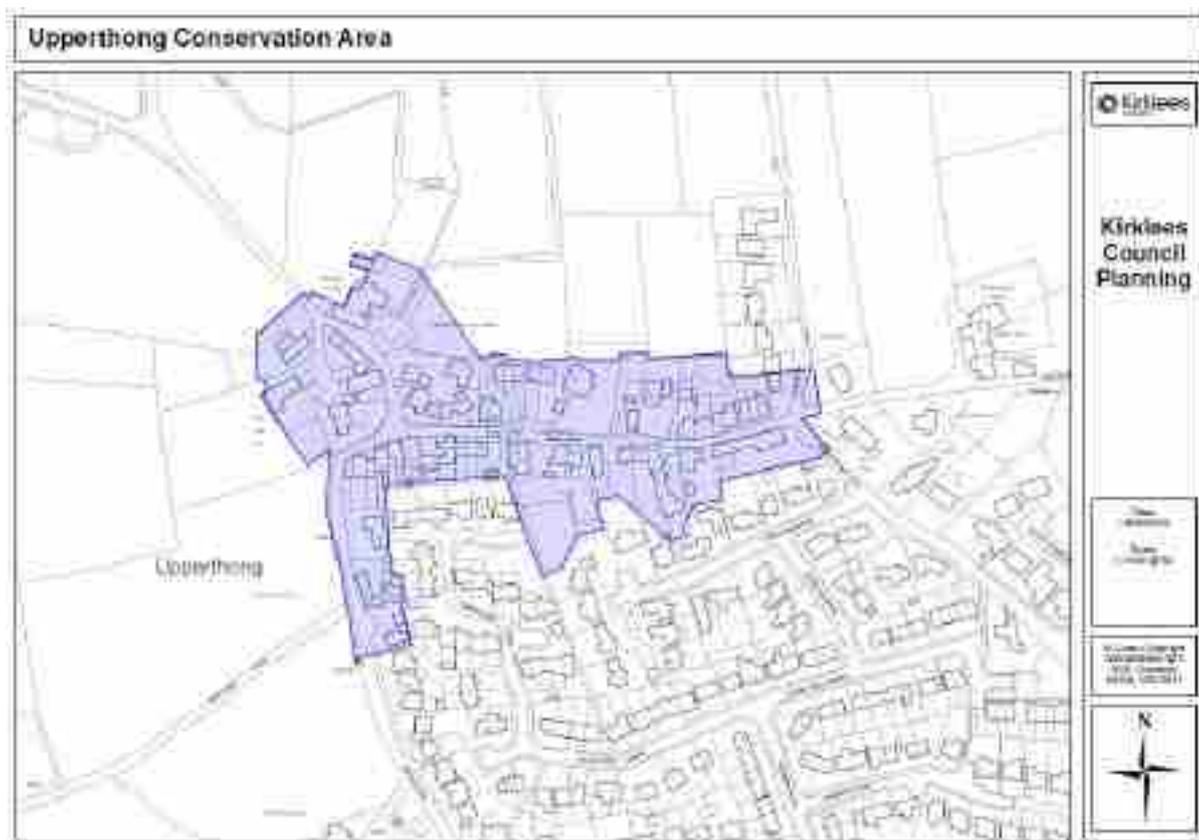


Figure 11 – Centre of Holmfirth Conservation Area

Upperthong Conservation Area

- 4.2.14 Upperthong Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* and very small parts in LCA5 *Netherthong Rural Fringe* and LCA2 *Holme Moorland Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.15 Upperthong conservation area was designated in 1975. Upperthong is a small tight-knit settlement located on a hilltop and developed in the 18th Century as a weaving and agricultural village.
- 4.2.16 There is no Conservation Area Appraisal at the current time.

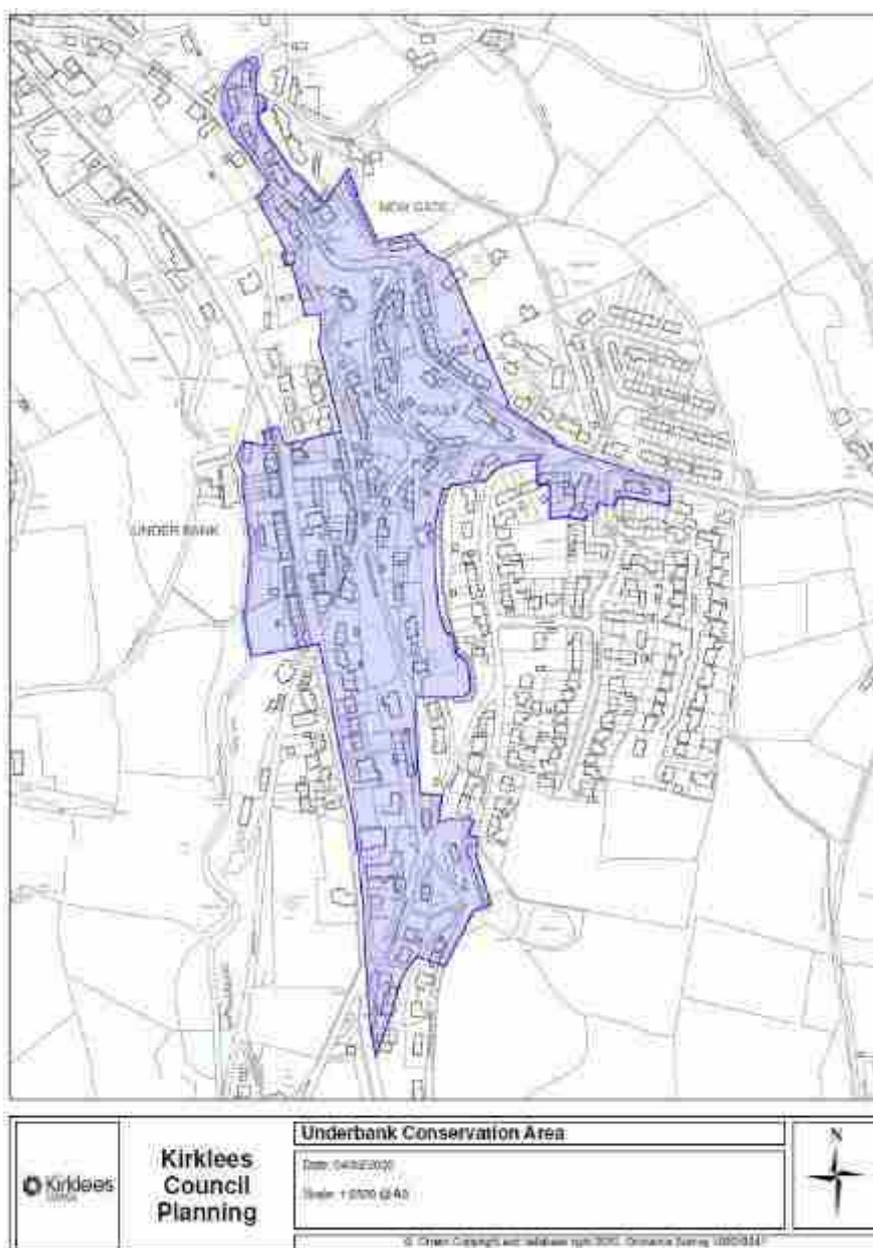
Map 6 Upperthong Conservation Area



Underbank Conservation Area

- 4.2.17 Underbank Conservation Area is situated in LCA 4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.18 Underbank conservation area was designated in 1981. It is a small settlement located on the hillside to the south-east of Holmfirth and comprises of rows of houses which line the steep valley sides. This area is predominantly residential and developed following the construction of large mills in the valley bottom to house the mill workers in Holmfirth.
- 4.2.19 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 7 Underbank Conservation Area



Netherthong Conservation Area

- 4.2.20 Netherthong Conservation Area is situated in LCA 5 *Netherthong Rural Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.21 Netherthong conservation area was designated in 1976 and comprises of the village of Netherthong and the hamlet of Deanhouse to the north. The area is historically known for weaving and farming and the majority of the buildings are two and three storey weavers’ cottages with stone mullioned windows which reflect the 18th Century development of the domestic wool textile industry.
- 4.2.22 The settlement of Netherthong has a nucleated form with small groupings of dwellings surrounding courtyards. Deanhouse has a predominantly linear plan form developed along the Dean Brook with the construction of a woollen mill and mill worker houses in the 19th Century.
- 4.2.23 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

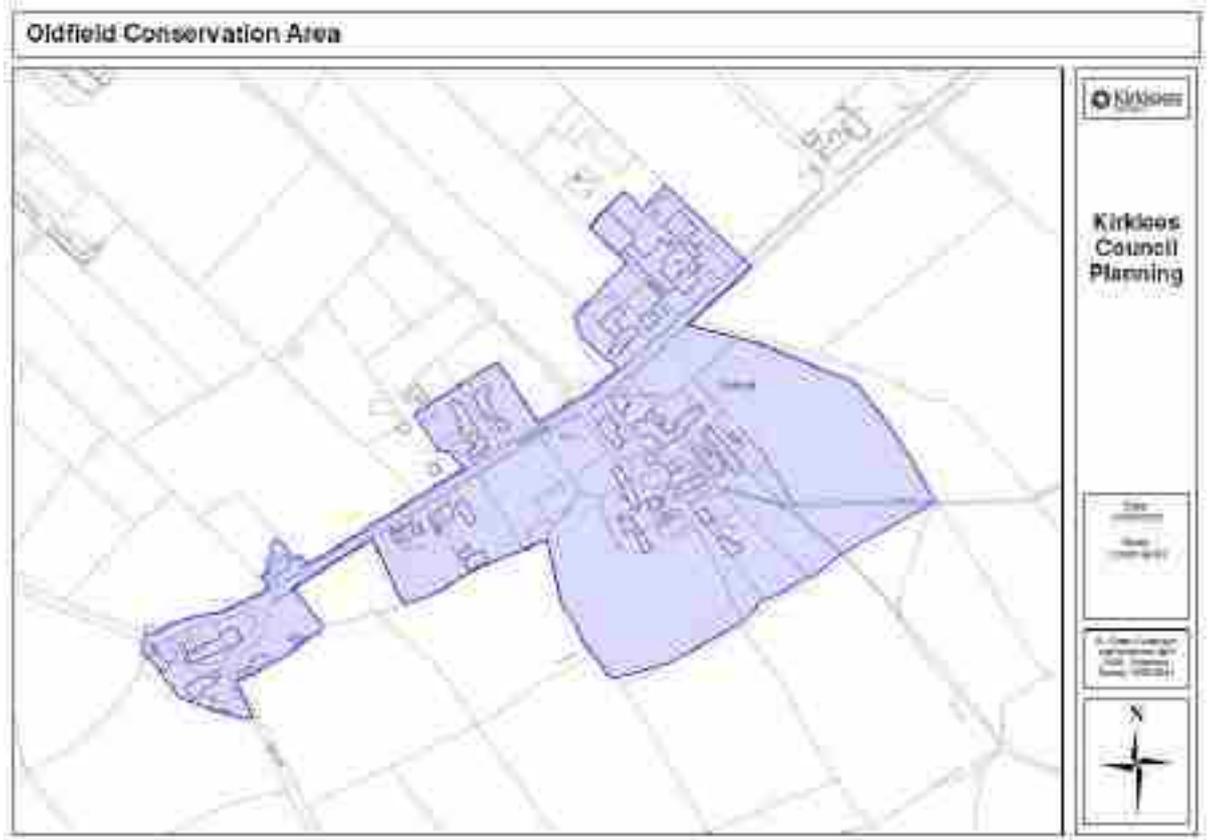
Map 8 Netherthong conservation area



Oldfield Conservation Area

- 4.2.24 Oldfield Conservation Area is situated in LCA 5 *Netherthong Rural Fringe* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.25 Oldfield was designated in 1976 and extended in 2007. It consists of two nucleated settlements, the main village of Oldfield and another village, Upper Oldfield, to the north. Oldfield developed initially as an agricultural hamlet and grew in the 18th Century with the expansion of the weaving industry. The buildings within Oldfield are grouped together around courtyards: this layout provides protection from the elements due to the elevated siting of the village.
- 4.2.26 The Oldfield Conservation Area Appraisal notes the use of the following materials in buildings and structures:
- **Building Materials:** *The use of course local natural stone is almost exclusive within this area and is purely functional for such an exposed location, where protection from the elements would have been of great necessity at the time of construction.*
 - **Roof Material:** *Stone slate was used for earlier roofing and can still be found in the conservation area.*
 - **Windows:** *Within the Oldfield conservation area are a variety of different styles of windows with examples of stone mullion casements, surrounded by stone jambs, cills and lintels within certain properties and a number of properties that display wooden sashes.*
 - **Boundary Walls:** *The vernacular boundary walls are a very important aspect in the definition of the Oldfield conservation area and are a very prominent feature of the surrounding agricultural fields, with the historic field patterns remaining, and therefore should be preserved or enhanced wherever possible.*
 - **Floorscape:** *Within the conservation area both the main carriageway of Oldfield Road and the small amount of pavement seen within the settlement have been surfaced with tarmac and in the case of the pavements, have been edged with concrete curbing. The tracks which lead down to the cluster of dwellings of Oldfield, are mostly unmade in nature.*

Map 9 Oldfield Conservation Area



Honley Conservation Area

- 4.2.27 Honley Conservation Area is situated in LCA 6 *Honley Village Centre* with a very small part in LCA 7 *River Holme Wooded Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.28 Honley Conservation Area was designated in 1973 and contains numerous buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The historic core is compact with narrow streets which lead up through the village. The oldest buildings are found in the historic core surrounding St. Mary’s Parish Church which was constructed in 1843 to replace an earlier church building. Weavers’ cottages with rows of mullioned windows are also found throughout the village.
- 4.2.29 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 10 Honley Conservation Area



Butterley Conservation Area

- 4.2.30 Butterley Conservation Area is situated in LCA 7 *River Holme Wooded Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.31 Butterley conservation area was designated in 1981. It is a small rural hamlet located on the hillside above New Mill. The hamlet comprises two L-shaped blocks of houses dating from the 18th Century with modern late 20th Century housing surrounding the historic core. The small hamlet has historical links to agriculture, coal mining and cottage industry. In the 1700s Butterley was being farmed as well as mined for coal from a shaft on Butterley Lane.
- 4.2.32 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 11 Butterley Conservation Area



Hepworth Conservation Area

- 4.2.33 Hepworth Conservation Area is situated in LCA 7 *River Holme Wooded Valley and LCA8 Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.34 Hepworth Conservation Area was designated in 1976. Hepworth village developed as a settlement which depended on agriculture, coal mining and domestic textile production. The village maintains its pattern of folds leading off the main spinal route of Towngate and Main Gate with farm complexes located off Upper Gate. The majority of buildings in the village are dwellings, former weavers’ cottages and converted farm buildings. There has been a large amount of late 20th Century development within the conservation area, some of which does not reflect the local vernacular or local building style.
- 4.2.35 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

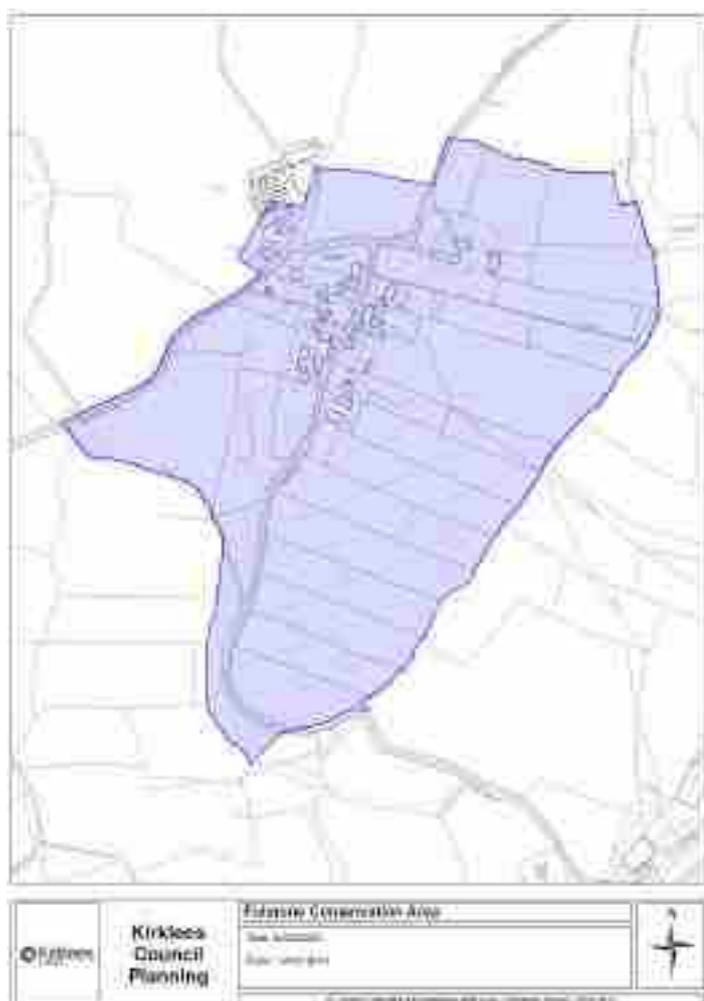
Map 12 Hepworth Conservation Area



Fulstone Conservation Area

- 4.2.36 Fulstone Conservation Area is situated in LCA 8 *Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.37 Fulstone Conservation Area was designated in 1981. It forms a small hamlet which has developed from its agricultural and coal mining origins. Coal mining was common in the Fulstone area and evidence of former mines can still be found in the surrounding moorland and fields in the form of mounds, hollows and stone plateways. In addition, the long narrow fields in the South-East of the area are excellent examples of the medieval field systems which occur all over the Holme Valley. These are a valuable landscape asset and reflect that local townships in ancient times all comprised the settlement, their associated township fields and a related area of moorland for common pasture and peat-cutting⁶.
- 4.2.38 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 13 Fulstone Conservation Area



⁶ Faull and Moorhouse, *West Yorkshire: an Archaeological Survey to A.D. 1500*, West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, 1981.

Totties Conservation Area

- 4.2.39 Totties Conservation Area is situated in LCA 8 *Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley* and partly in LCA7 *River Holme Wooded Valley* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.40 Totties conservation area was designated in 1981. It is a small farming and textile manufacturing hamlet which was established in the 17th Century. The hamlet is located within a hilltop area. The conservation area contains a number of two and three storey weavers’ cottages, farms and agricultural buildings which centre on Totties Hall. In addition, there are a number of modern properties which have been constructed in the late 20th Century. The majority of these dwellings have attempted to reflect the local vernacular, using elements from weavers’ cottages and barns, though several have used other elements and appear incongruous.
- 4.2.41 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

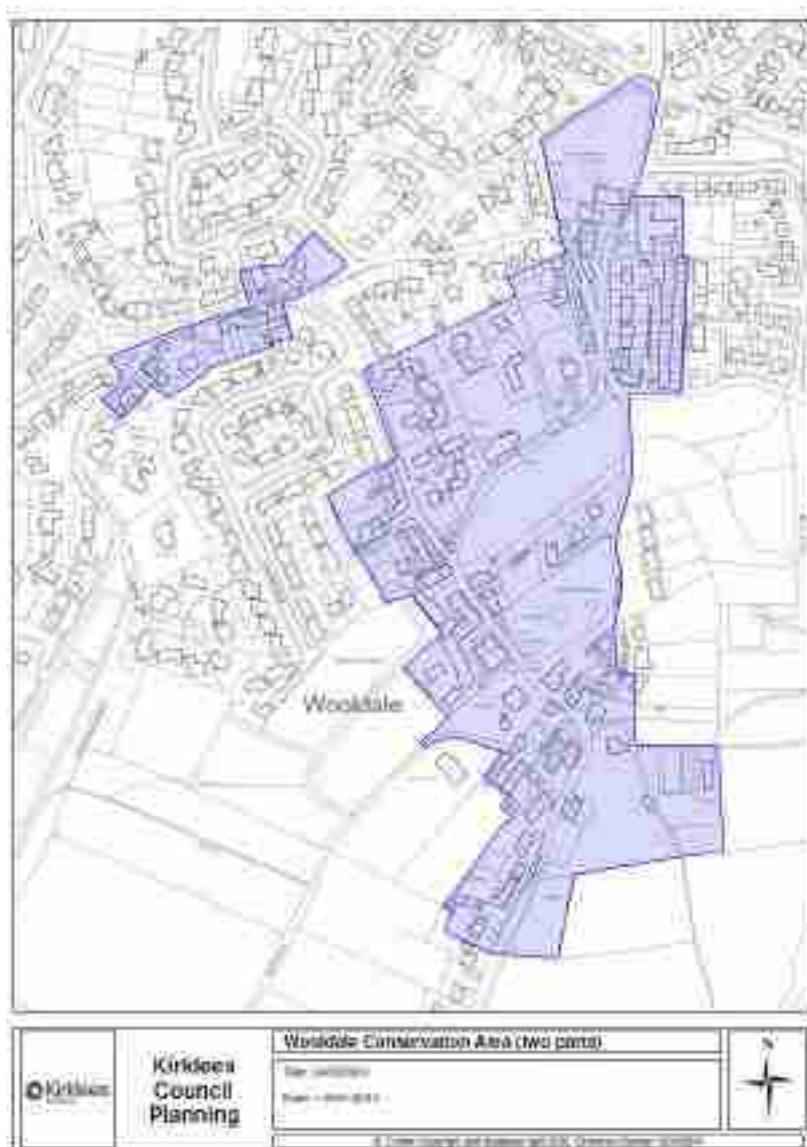
Map 14 Totties Conservation Area



Wooldale Conservation Area

- 4.2.42 Wooldale Conservation Area is situated in LCA 8 *Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley* and LCA4 *River Holme Settled Valley Floor* as identified in section 4.1.17.
- 4.2.43 Wooldale Conservation Area was designated in 1981. It is a medium sized village located on the hillside above Holmfirth. Wooldale conservation area is split into two sections, the first part of the north-west contains 18th Century weavers’ cottages and the second part contains the historic core of the village comprised of 17th Century farmhouses and barns. The land tax returns between 1781-1832 shows that the Wooldale area was still mining coal.
- 4.2.44 There is no conservation area appraisal at the current time.

Map 15 Wooldale Conservation Area



- 4.2.45 The information in the Oldfield and Holme Conservation Area Appraisals and the Holmfirth Area Conservation Appraisal (compiled by the volunteer group in 2018), together with the Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment have been used to inform Policy 2 which aims to protect the special and distinctive built character and heritage assets of the Holme Valley.

Kirklees Planning Policies

- 4.2.46 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment sets out (among other criteria) that consideration should be given to the need to: '*a. ensure that proposals maintain and reinforce local distinctiveness and conserve the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets; and b. ensure that proposals within Conservation Areas conserve those elements which contribute to their significance.*'
- 4.2.47 Local Plan Policy LP24 Design sets out that proposals should promote good design by ensuring: a. the form, scale, layout and details of all development respects and enhances the character of the townscape, heritage assets and landscape. The Neighbourhood Plan endorses the design approach given by the Kirklees LP24 as it considers good design as a vital part of sustainable development. Policy LP52 Protection and Improvement of Environmental Quality provides protection from pollution and promotes wellbeing and improvements to the environment.

Community Consultation and Engagement

- 4.2.48 A key issue identified in the Issues and Options 2017 consultation was the design of future development and ensuring all new development was in keeping with the surrounding area and would meet the needs of the local population. This is both in terms of its existing demographic and future demographic needs.
- 4.2.49 Our 2017 public consultation identified that residents expected to see planning rules being adhered to with use of traditional styles or local stone building materials mentioned by over half the respondents. Effective utilisation of existing planning controls was cited as very important along with the desire to include modern and sustainable design.
- 4.2.50 As one respondent put it, "build homes out of local stone but enable all the modern features to be installed (e.g., solar panels)". Another said, "Have a set of guidelines which all developers are required to follow in order to have a more energy efficient and sustainable home" whilst the view of many was summarised by "Don't grant planning permission for anything that doesn't meet high standards". Guided by these views, the following policy has been proposed to cover all new developments in the valley. Actions for the Parish Council identified to support the NDP Planning Policy include to provide more detailed design guidance in the future, to encourage Kirklees MBC to undertake conservation area appraisals for conservation areas which currently do not have them and to promote enforcement action where development has taken place which is contrary to policy.

A Built Heritage Policy for the Holme Valley

- 4.2.51 Building new homes in a design which is 'in keeping' with the local style is an important part of balancing the need for new homes with preserving the character of the valley. Small scale developments can be done sympathetically and blend in effectively when appropriate styles and materials are used as shown by the photograph below of a development of seven new houses in Upperthong (see Figure 12).



Figure 12 - New build homes being constructed to fit in with the local style, Upperthong

- 4.2.52 The HVNDP Environmental Report, 2020 advised that '*the sheer volume of identified assets within the Plan area depicts the strong historical values associated with the settlement areas and beyond.*' There is a need for the NDP to recognise the value of heritage to a sense of identity, place and wellbeing for both residents and visitors. The unique sense of place associated with the strongly defined local character and built heritage has significant economic and retail advantages but also has implications for local authorities, public utilities, and private owners.
- 4.2.53 Development should respect existing urban grain of the area - the pattern of the arrangement and size of buildings and their plots in a settlement, and the degree to which an area's pattern of street-blocks and street junctions is respectively small and frequent, or large and infrequent (see *By Design, Urban design in the planning system: towards better practice*, CABE for DETR, 2000). The urban grain in the Holme Valley area varies greatly: in 16th to 17th Century hilltop and farming settlements there is a more informal arrangement of buildings and plots reflecting the agricultural heritage of the area; plot layouts are denser and more formal in the linear terraced forms, squares and courtyards of weaver's cottages, mill buildings and terraced housing from the 18th to 19th Centuries. In more modern, estate type development from the 20th to 21st centuries, urban grain is often informed by the need to accommodate road layouts and parking provision, and residential buildings are often provided in cul-de-sacs with garden plots with driveways. Further detail about the Key Characteristics of and Character Management Principles for each of the LCAs is provided in 4.1.17.

- 4.2.54 High quality design should not only be visually attractive but should incorporate flexibility to allow future adaptation to meet the changing needs of occupiers over time, including meeting the needs of older residents and / or those with changing care needs. Commercial, industrial, community, sports and leisure proposals as well as residential development present an opportunity for innovative design, using modern materials and building techniques that will achieve flexibly planned, sustainable and energy efficient buildings.
- 4.2.55 Development should also maximise accessibility and encourage walking and cycling by maximising permeability and provision of through routes to local facilities, services, employment opportunities and other residential areas. Gated communities which are closed off to public access reduce opportunities for movement through a built-up area. They are not characteristic of the Holme Valley and should be avoided wherever possible.
- 4.2.56 Proposals should also protect residential amenity and avoid environmental pollution wherever possible to protect existing residential communities.
- 4.2.57 Policy 2 aims to protect the special and distinctive built character and heritage assets of the Holme Valley, whilst promoting high quality design in new development. Policy 2 has been prepared to complement Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP24 Design and Policy LP35 Historic environment.
- 4.2.58 Policy 2 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park. 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.'

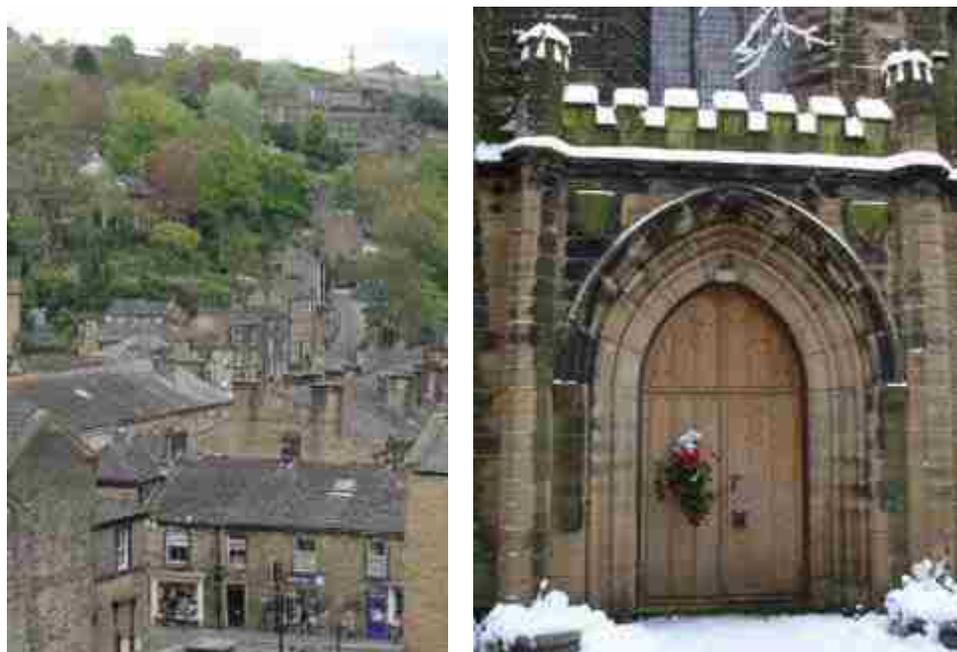


Figure 13 - Holmfirth Conservation Area & All Saints Church, Netherthong Conservation Area

Policy 2: Protecting and Enhancing the Built Character of the Holme Valley and Promoting High Quality Design

Policy 2 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

1. Local Character

Building designs in proposals for new development and alterations to existing buildings should respect the key characteristics and character management principles relating to built character, of the Landscape Character Area in which they are located as set out in paragraph 4.1.17.

They should protect and enhance local built character and distinctiveness and avoid any harm to heritage assets including conservation areas.

2. Sense of Place

New developments should strengthen the local sense of place by designing the site layout to respect the existing grain of development in the surrounding area and through use of local materials and detailing. Where historic features such as mill chimneys function as key focal points, they should be retained and restored as an integral part of new development schemes.

3. Utilising Existing Assets

Any significant trees, internal boundaries and water courses on the site should be retained and incorporated in the new design. Proposals should consider the aspect of the site and the ways in which the site contours and vegetation can be used to provide areas of extensive shade or shelter.

4. Innovation and Responding to Local Context

The use of traditional materials and design will be supported. However, contemporary design and materials will be supported where the distinctive character of the area is enhanced.

Use of "green" or "living" and "blue" roofs is encouraged where adverse impacts on local character and distinctiveness are minimised.

5. Gated Communities

Gated communities which restrict permeability are not characteristic of the Holme Valley area and will be resisted.

6. Inclusivity and Accessibility

Designs should promote inclusivity and promote accessibility for all and in particular have regard to the needs of the older population and those with mobility impairments.

7. Public Spaces

New development should make a positive contribution to the public realm. In particular, this should include:

- A clear distinction between streets and other publicly accessible spaces and areas that are intended for private use;
- A design of public spaces that connects with and relates to the pattern of spaces already present in the area;
- The “greening” of public spaces by using trees and other suitable planting.
- Open spaces should be designed to meet the needs of the development and located to satisfy their intended, specific function, such as toddler’s play, older children’s activities, sitting out, or visual amenity.

8. Built Form and Materials

Designs should respect the scale, mass, height and form of existing buildings in the locality and the site setting. Development should fit in with and neither dominate nor have a detrimental impact on its surroundings and neighbouring properties.

Materials must be chosen to complement the design of the development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment. Local millstone grit and stone flags should be used where these are the prevailing material.

9. Mixed Uses

If a shop or service is proposed as a part of a development scheme applicants will be encouraged to locate the facility where it is accessible to the wider community.

10. Protecting Amenity

Proposals should be designed to minimise harmful impacts on

general amenity for present and future occupiers of land and buildings and prevent or reduce pollution as a result of noise, odour, light and other causes. Light pollution should be minimised, and security lighting must be appropriate, unobtrusive and energy efficient.

Policy 2 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP24 Design

Policy LP35 Historic environment

Policy LP52 Protection and improvement of environmental quality.

Holme Valley Parish Council Actions 1 -3

Parish Actions relating to the built environment and design are set out in Appendix 1.

4.3 Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets

Introduction and Background

- 4.3.1 Heritage asset is a generic term, defined in the NPPF as applying to 'a building, monument, site, place, or landscape which has been formally identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'. Heritage assets have varying degrees of significance and therefore value as components of the historic environment. Consequently, heritage assets are defined on a spectrum of significance and are afforded different levels of planning consideration, in legislative and planning policy terms, in proportion to the significance of the heritage asset affected by development.
- 4.3.2 In the Holme Valley the spectrum of designated heritage assets includes Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas designated under the relevant legislation (NPPF 2019 Glossary). The Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment Report, which informs the NDP, includes in Appendix A buildings in the NDP area which are included on the list published by Historic England as the 'National Heritage List for England' (NHLE). This is the official and up to date record of all nationally protected historic buildings or sites in England. These 'listed buildings' have adequate protection with primary legislation (Acts of Parliament), the NPPF and policies within the Kirklees Local Plan.

Positive Contributors to the character of Conservation Areas

- 4.3.3 Conservation Areas are statutorily designated heritage assets of special architectural or historic interest. Their designated status imposes additional planning controls on the buildings, sites or monuments within them. However, as noted in the NPPF (paragraph 201) not all elements of a conservation area will necessarily contribute to its significance and it is therefore necessary to identify the most important components which define their character. Such 'positive contributors' benefit from the legislative presumption in favour of preservation afforded by their designated status.
- 4.3.4 As part of the HVNDP, work has been undertaken to identify those buildings which are considered to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of conservation areas. This work focuses mainly on Holmfirth Conservation Area but there are other buildings identified in other conservation areas and more will be added when the neighbourhood plan is reviewed. These buildings are listed in Appendix 2A and are referred to as 'positive contributors' to the designated conservation area. When considering the potential impact of proposed development, the properties/sites will be subject to relevant consideration under relevant parts of NPPF (Feb 2019) and Kirklees Local Policy LP 35 (1) and (3) Historic Environment.

4.3.5 The positive contributors included in Appendix 2A of the HVNDP have been identified using the criteria listed below. Additional properties may be formally identified in due course using the same selection criteria:

- **Architectural Interest.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites considered to be of local architectural interest in terms of their distinctive vernacular form, design, decoration or craftsmanship. Properties/sites may represent significant examples of building types or techniques relevant to the HVNDP area including buildings which display technological innovation or interest. The list may include locally characteristic engineering and industrial buildings as well as examples of craftsmanship or artistic distinction.
- **Historic Interest.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites which are considered to be of local historic interest and illustrate important aspects of the history of the HVNDP area and/or have substantiated close historical associations with locally important individuals, groups or events.
- **Group value.** The identified positive contributors to the designated conservation areas may include properties/sites which are considered to be components of a group with locally significant value, exhibiting examples of architectural or historic unity or an example of planning (e.g. squares and terraces) or where there is a historical functional relationship between the buildings.

Non-designated heritage assets

4.3.6 Outside of the conservation areas there may be other buildings and sites that contribute to local character and sense of place because of their intrinsic heritage value. Such heritage assets may be offered a proportionate level of consideration by the local planning authority if they have been identified and publicised as being included on a formally adopted 'local heritage list of non-designated assets'⁷. (NDHAs). To date, Kirklees Council do not have a list of such buildings or adopted selection criteria. However, Kirklees has now (April 2021) commenced work on a year-long West Yorkshire initiative to establish a formal process to identify and evaluate candidate NDHAs against relevant selection criteria. The initiative will enable the development of a Kirklees adopted 'local heritage list of non-designated heritage assets' which will extend proportionate planning control for those buildings included on it. The published local list will be developed over time (as per the National Heritage List) but must be based on sound and consistent selection criteria and recommendations from local people.

4.3.7 The fact that a building or site is identified means that the effect of a proposal on the significance of the asset should be taken into account when determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated

⁷ Historic England: 'Historic Environment Advice Note 7' published January 2021 (HEAN 7)

heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. Consequently, appropriately identified NDHAs would then become more defensible material considerations in decision-making, as well as helping to recognise and celebrate protect/preserve local heritage.

- 4.3.8 Formally identifying NDHAs based on adopted selection criteria will provide a sound, consistent and accountable means of identifying local heritage assets. This will benefit development planning across the neighbourhood area and Kirklees, as well as providing clarity and transparency of decision making to the benefit of owners and developers wishing to fully understand local development opportunities and constraints. Historic England's latest guidance (HEAN 7) will provide the best practice basis for the production of a local heritage list of NDHAs in Holme Valley and across Kirklees. It should be noted that potential NDHAs are not just buildings but could cover locations such as wells or milestone markers. Appendix 2B lists 'candidate sites' which are representatives of building types which could be formally identified as NDHAs. Through inclusion in this Appendix, these candidate sites will be reviewed and evaluated by Kirklees (and the PDNPA if relevant) for inclusion on the initial 'local heritage list' as it is developed over the next few years. The local heritage list of NDHAs will be a live document which will be expanded over the plan period as recommendations are brought forward, evaluated and adopted.
- 4.3.9 Where the particular significance of a site is currently unknown or difficult to define in spatial terms, but may have some archaeological importance, the NPPF provides a safeguard (paragraph 194b note 63). This is intended to ensure that these potential non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets, in order to reveal and fully understand their significance and sensitivity to development prior to any decision making. Such sites are often below-ground archaeology or locations of ancient activity with only scattered extant remnants.
- 4.3.10 Policy 3 relates to proposals which impact on non-designated heritage assets in the Holme Valley and the Parish Actions (Appendix 1) are designed to support the implementation of Policy 3.

Policy 3: Conserving and Enhancing Local Heritage Assets

A list of buildings and structures which are identified as positive contributors to the designated conservation areas in Holme valley is set out at Appendix 2A. All development proposals affecting these character defining components of the designated conservation areas or their settings will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Part 1.

A candidate list of buildings and structures identified as non-designated heritage assets is set out at Appendix 2B. All development proposals affecting these locally important heritage assets, (once formally identified), or their settings, will be assessed in terms of Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment Parts 2 and 3a and Policy DMC5 of the Peak District National Park Authority Part 2 Local Plan (Development Management Policies).

When designing development proposals for all local heritage assets (positive contributors and (once formally identified) non-designated heritage assets), owners and developers should have regard to conserving the significance of the asset and the components which positively contribute to its character or appreciation as a heritage asset.

Policy 3 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Local Plan Policy LP35 Historic Environment

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

Policy DMC5 Assessing the impact of development on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings.



Figure 14 - Holmfirth Masonic Lodge & Choppards Mission

Holme Valley Parish Actions 4 -10

Parish Actions relating to built heritage are set out in Appendix 1.

4.4 Design in Town and Local Centres and Public Realm



Figure 15 - Examples of shopfronts & signage in Holmfirth which are in keeping with the character of the town © Holmfirth Conservation Group 2018

Shopfronts and Advertisements

Introduction and Background

- 4.4.1 Most public ground floor frontages in town, district and local centres are occupied by shops and other commercial property and shopfronts are the most prominent element of many buildings. The appearance of shopfronts and advertisements can have a major impact on the character of conservation areas and other areas. Whether this impact is beneficial or harmful is dependent on the quality and sensitivity of the designs used.
- 4.4.2 The character of the built environment in the commercial centres and retail cores of the towns and villages of Holme Valley is extremely important as these areas provide a focal point for the style and vernacular architecture of non-residential buildings in each area. The design of shops fronts and ground floors of properties affect both the character and economic vitality of a town or local centre by contributing to the attractiveness of an area and its sense of place. As one retailer commented in the Regulation 14 consultation, 'window displays and signage make an enormous difference to the look and feel of the high street...it's very important to keep visitor numbers up which in return boosts economy in the area. If the shops don't look appealing, numbers will start dropping'.
- 4.4.3 The Holme Valley has two key shopping areas: Holmfirth and Honley along with many other shops and businesses throughout the villages. Both Holmfirth and Honley are conservation areas as are many of the villages as outlined in section 4.2. It is therefore important that traditional shopfronts, particularly in the larger settlements of Holmfirth and Honley are protected and enhanced to help preserve the sense of each place's identity. Each centre has a unique character and ensuring that changes are sensitive to this local character is essential.

Community Consultation and Engagement

- 4.4.4 Retailers and businesses have a strong preference for standard 'house' styles and colours. These interests must be balanced with the need to protect and enhance the unique qualities of the Holme Valley. Experience has shown that with a flexible approach, together with an emphasis on good design and quality, including the use of traditional detailing in conservation areas, corporate image can be adapted.

4.4.5 Our consultation highlighted the importance of both built heritage and local shops in its top ten 'specific features of the Holme Valley which are important'. Retaining the style of shopfronts is an important element of ensuring that shopfronts are designed in keeping with the character of the building and the area they sit within.



Figure 16 - Honley Westgate & Coordinated signage in Holmfirth

4.4.6 Developers are advised to discuss proposals for new shopfronts and advertisements in conservation areas or where proposals impact on listed buildings or other heritage assets with the Kirklees Council's Conservation Team at an early stage.

A Shopfronts and Advertisements Policy for Holme Valley

4.4.7 Primary and secondary shopping areas in the valley are identified in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13 Town centre uses and Policy LP14 Shopping frontages identifies shopping frontages. Local Plan Policy LP25 Advertisements and shop fronts provides general guidance for advertisements and shop fronts. Shopfronts within the Peak District National Park Authority part of Neighbourhood Area will not be permitted illuminated signs except in accordance with DMP DMS 5.

4.4.8 Many of the Holme Valley's buildings date from the 18th and 19th centuries. During this period, shopfront design sought to achieve a successful relationship between the shopfront itself and the building as a whole. Some adaptations may be necessary to take account of technological change, but such original features should be retained where possible.



Figure 17 - Recent change of Holmfirth shopfront from traditional to modern design

- 4.4.9 Very few early shopfronts survive. Special care is needed to ensure that these are preserved and restored in a sensitive manner and Figure 17 shows how shopfronts can unfortunately erode local character by adopting distinctive modern signage. Sometimes original features such as pilasters and fascias have been hidden by later work and where this is the case such features should be revealed and restored. Consideration should also be given to future maintenance and weather proofing. Shopfronts should be designed to throw water clear of the shopfront to help prevent rot and avoid long-term maintenance issues. Concerns about poor maintenance of shopfronts were raised by residents in the Regulation 14 consultation and whilst this is not a planning matter, the NDP encourages high quality, long-lasting designs in the future.
- 4.4.10 The replacement of modern shopfronts with traditional designs can have positive benefits. Traditional style shop fronts can enhance the street scene and add to the visual interest of the local shopping area, helping to make it more attractive to shoppers and visitors. Large plate glass windows, excessively deep fascias and unsuitable materials such as unpainted tropical hardwood or aluminium should be replaced with more appropriate and sensitive design and materials wherever possible.
- 4.4.11 Whilst protecting the historic and distinctive character of town and village centres in Holme Valley is a priority for the NDP, there is also a need to ensure shops and services are as accessible as possible for all groups. The NDP aims to take a balanced approach by promoting sensitive alterations which support improved accessibility for all groups whilst protecting the historic character. Historic England's document "Easy Access to Historic Buildings, 2004" and the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Planning and access for disabled people: a good practice guide, 2003" provide more detailed information. Barriers to access include:
- external physical elements of the building and its setting, including landscape features, kerbs, exterior surfaces, paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits as well as emergency escape routes
 - any feature arising from the design or construction of a building itself, including architectural details (such as plinths, column bases, staircases, ironwork and door openings), fixtures, fittings, furnishings, furniture, equipment and other materials.
- 4.4.12 The Historic England document notes that easy physical access involves people being able to circulate freely and cope with changes in level. Horizontal movement is most likely to be constrained by floor surfaces, corridors, doorways, thresholds and small changes in level. Improvements to vertical circulation may require alterations to steps, stairs and handrails or involve the introduction of ramps or lifts. All of these can affect the appearance and significance of the building and the advice of conservation officers should be sought at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.4.13 Given the distinctive character of each of the local and town centres, we have created a specific policy (Policy 4) to guide shopfronts and advertisements. Many proposals for shopfronts will be for premises which are located within a conservation area. Whilst these design principles are key to proposals located

within these areas, the advice should equally be applied to shopfront proposals across the Holme Valley designated area. The Heritage and Character Assessment report describes local character in more detail in each of the identified Landscape Character Areas.

- 4.4.14 The use of Article 4 directions is a means of controlling works which could threaten the character of an area. We would support such directions where appropriate to allow Kirklees to preserve our built heritage within town and village centres. The proliferation of bold, dominant or illuminated advertising material can have a significant detrimental effect on the visual character of a locality, particularly in sensitive places such as conservation areas and in sensitive rural locations. It is therefore important that advertisements are sensitively designed and this is also addressed in Policy 4. Consideration should therefore be given to withdrawing deemed consent through use of suitable Article 4 Directions and 'special areas of advertisement control' particularly in Conservation Areas).⁸

⁸Many fascias and projecting signs do not require consent if they are below first floor level and are not illuminated. Illuminated signs within conservation areas are likely to require a formal application (express consent). The main categories of signage that can be displayed using deemed consent (basically permitted development rights for signage) are set out in Class 3 and 5 as set out in Outdoor advertisements and signs: a guide for advertisers, June 2007 Department for Communities and Local Government There is no 'special area of advertisement control' in the Holme Valley (or Kirklees).

Policy 4: Design Codes for High Quality Shopfronts and Advertisements

Design Principles for Shopfronts

1. General Principles

Proposals for new shopfronts, or alterations to existing shopfronts should consider the following design concepts to ensure that the proposal is sympathetic to the character and amenity of the locality.

Designs should:

- a) Be designed to integrate into the existing building by respecting the period, scale and architectural style of the building and reflect the characteristics of the wider street scene;
- b) Enclose and frame shop windows and entrances with essential visual and functional elements such as pilasters, fascias and stallrisers. Accurate and authentic detailing is essential;
- c) Avoid linking two or more buildings with one fascia unless historically already established by continuous architectural pattern or shop use;
- d) Seek to incorporate moulded cornices weathered with a properly detailed lead flashing above the fascia;
- e) Make sure that shopfronts have individual distinctive identities with different stallriser heights, window designs and fascias that positively contribute to the character and integrity of the building and the complexity and diversity of the street scene;
- f) Encourage the use of stallrisers to protect shop windows and provide a visual break between the window and the street surface. Designs for shopfronts should include part-glazed door panels that reflect the height of the stallriser and the sub-division of large areas of glass wherever possible;
- g) Make use of energy-efficient measures with regard to any illumination arising from the shopfront, particularly through the use of LED lighting where appropriate;
- h) Make use of recessed doorways, single and double to give more three-dimensional quality; and
- i) Avoid use of uPVC windows in historic areas.

2. Retention of Existing Shopfronts

The retention of existing shopfronts, which contribute to the character of the building or area, will be encouraged and special care should be given to the preservation and sensitive restoration of original features where possible.

3. Accessibility

The sensitive alteration of existing traditional shops and town centre buildings to improve accessibility for all is supported. Accessibility should be improved where there is the opportunity to do so provided any special interest of the building is not compromised. Overall proposals should not prejudice the character of the building or buildings and should have due regard for any features which make a particular building or buildings special or significant.

4. Shutters and Grilles

Solid roller shutters and the introduction of shutter boxes to the exterior of buildings have an adverse visual impact and will be resisted in that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority. Any shopfronts in the Peak District National Park Authority part of Neighbourhood Area will not be permitted to have external security roller shutters.

The following suitable alternatives will be supported:

- a) Security glass with alarm or internal cameras;
- b) A reduction in the size of window glass;
- c) Internal see-through shutters.

In that part of the neighbourhood area outside the National Park the following additional alternatives will be acceptable:

- External shutters that are removed during working hours – decorative options for these themed on the shop's trade may be applicable.
- Externally mounted open mesh roller shutters provided that the box housing is concealed behind the fascia and the projection from the face of the building does not result in an increase in depth to the detriment of the appearance of the shopfront.

Design Principles for Advertisements

1. General Principles

Any shopfronts within the Peak District National Park Authority part of Neighbourhood Area will not be permitted illuminated signs except in accordance with DMP DMS 5.

Where planning consent is required, proposals for fascia, hanging and projecting advertisement signs should complement the design of the building and shopfront.

Cumulative impacts of advertisements should be considered in

relation to street scene and visual clutter. Advertisements should not overly dominate the public realm or have an adverse impact on local character.

Consideration should be given to an advertisement's impact on highway safety. Advertisements which are distracting to road users, by virtue of their scale, design or positioning should be avoided.

2. Fascia Signs

Proposals for fascia signs should seek to sympathetically integrate the design of the fascia with the shopfront, making use of traditional design fascias.

Lettering should:

- a) Convey the essential message of the retailer
- b) Either be a sign written onto the fascia or applied as individual lettering in a traditional manner directly to the structure of the building;
- c) Reflect the use and character of the shop and the building;
- d) Be of a style and size that relates to the area of the fascia or sign and building on which it is used;
- e) Use sensitive colours and appropriate shading and blocking of letters which reflect the local character and appearance of the area particularly within conservation areas; and
- f) Minimise impacts on the historic fabric of the building.
- g) New illuminated boxed fascias that project from the face of the building and the addition of new fascias on top of existing ones should be avoided.

In instances where illuminated fascia signs are proposed outside the National Park, they should be sensitively designed in order to be sympathetic to both the building they are attached to and the surrounding area, particularly if situated in a historic area. Illumination of fascias should not be excessive or intrusive and should make use of energy efficient methods of lighting such as via LED. Schemes should avoid light pollution into adjoining residential properties and not unnecessarily cause poorly directed light pollution elsewhere.

3. Projecting Signs

Projecting signs will be supported where they are sensitive to the design of the existing building and are a characteristic feature of the surrounding area.

The use of internally illuminated projecting box signs that form a

projecting part of a fascia should be avoided.

Where a projecting sign is appropriate, proposals should make use of a traditional hanging sign, which is hung from a metal bracket that can add interest to the street without unobtrusive external illumination. Consideration should be given to the use of hanging symbols denoting the trade being carried on in the premises as an interesting and eye-catching alternative to a hanging board.

Projecting signs should be of a high quality and relate to the size and scale of the existing building façade and do not appear either overly intrusive or inappropriately small. Projecting signs should be carefully positioned to take into account the design and architectural detailing of the existing building – normally below the first-floor windows.

Projecting signs will be restricted to one sign per building and should relate only to the business which occupies the premises.

Policy 4 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP13 Town centre uses

Policy LP14 Shopping frontages

Policy LP25 Advertisements and shop fronts

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

DMS4 Shopfronts

DMS 5 Outdoor advertising.

Public Realm

Introduction and Background

- 4.4.15 Local and town centres include areas of public realm which can be formal, such as seating areas and parks, or informal, where pavements and street corners naturally offer public spaces. It is important that the character of the local centres is reflected in public realm enhancements, for instance through the style of seating, lighting columns or signage, siting and design of refuse bins and the layout of the highway. More detail is given on highway infrastructure planning in section 4.8.
- 4.4.16 The presence of the river in the centre of Holmfirth is an example of a public asset which is being enhanced by a locally based charity, River Holme Connections. Their investment in the 'duck feeding area' has sought to provide a more attractive public space for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- 4.4.17 Private investment in new railings opposite the Picturedrome now allows people to look down onto the river whilst bespoke art pieces have been prepared by The Children's Art School to liven up the concrete walls along the river. These organisations all recognise the opportunity to create new public spaces even when some of those are new views or vistas rather than new physical places.
- 4.4.18 The Holme Valley has many opportunities to increase visibility of existing locations and enhance those spaces. The Holmepride movement has worked on a number of projects over the last year to clear litter and overgrown vegetation on footpaths and small public spaces. Meanwhile Holmfirth Conservation Group's 'Windows on the Past' trail and existing riverside walks create a sense of shared public space through better understanding of what is already in the area. This Neighbourhood Plan aims to encourage this approach by promoting high quality design in spaces in between buildings, the views from and of them and the wider environment, as well as in buildings themselves.



Figure 18 – 'Windows on the Past' Heritage Trail © Holmfirth Conservation Group 2018

- 4.4.19 Holmfirth Conservation Group highlighted in their appraisal the proliferation of different litter bins and the un-coordinated planters and street furniture, as shown in Map 16 below. This is something which Holmepride has helped address in terms of repainting existing litter bins and railings to improve their appearance, but the

different designs remain. The presence of large commercial waste bins on Hollowgate in Holmfirth for example is not only unsightly but also fills a parking space in the centre of the town. Whilst planters, signage and litter bins and lighting columns are all essential parts of any functioning town centre, consideration of their impact on the overall appearance of an area is an important element of building a sense of place and high quality public realm.

Map 16 HCG Map of litter bin styles in Holmfirth Conservation Area

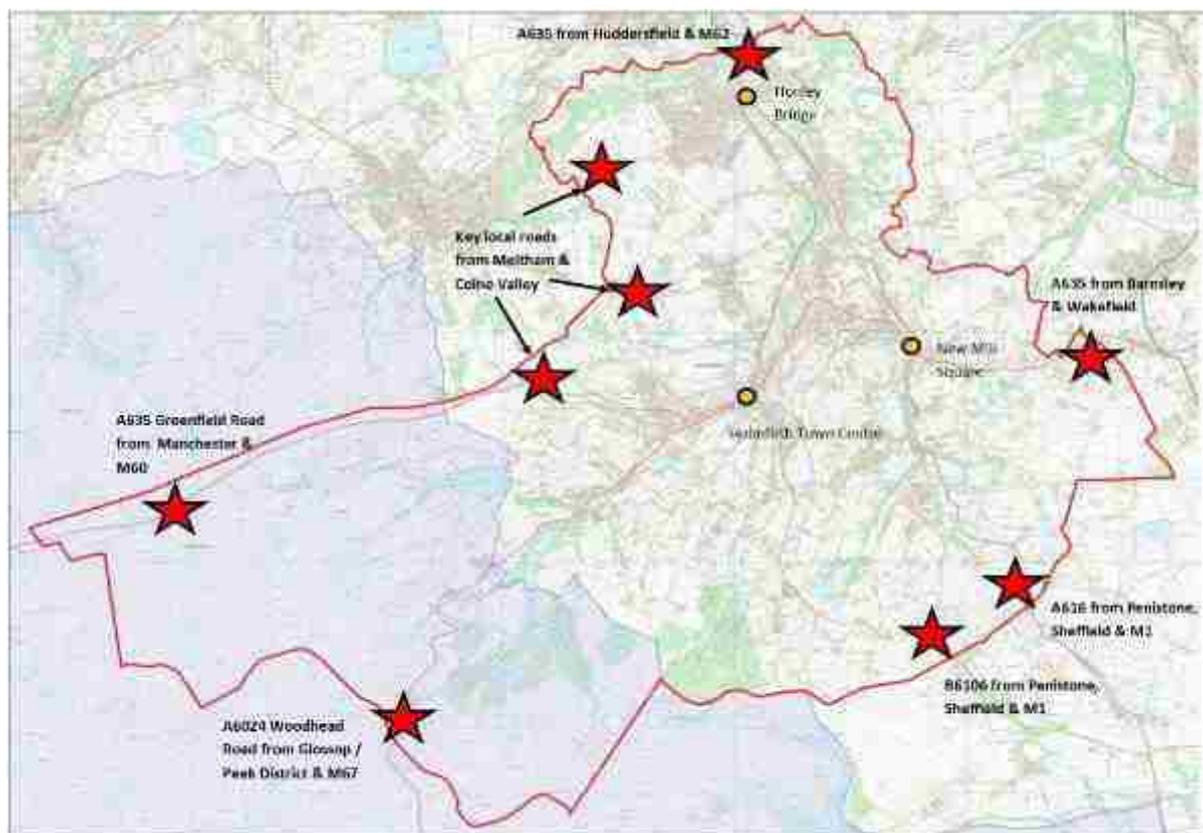
© Holmfirth Conservation Group 2018



- 4.4.20 Similar principles apply across the valley where coherence of design within each village can help promote a sense of shared identity and this has led to the creation of a policy on public realm.
- 4.4.21 The public realm is not limited to highways, but road networks in the valley form a significant part of the public realm of settlements, particularly along the valley floors. There are several specific gateways to the valley as four key roads enter the Holme Valley from different directions: A635 Greenfield Road and A6024 Woodhead Road from the West; B6106 Dunford Road and A616 Sheffield Road from the South; A635 Holmfirth Road from the East and A616 Huddersfield Road from the North.

These routes converge in specific centres: Holmfirth town centre, New Mill square and Honley bridge - see Map 17 Key Gateways.

Map 17 – Overview of key gateways to the valley and convergence points



- 4.4.22 Without careful management, these locations can become dominated by highways and as a respondent to Pre-Regulation 14 consultation commented 'traffic and infrastructure will always be problematic around Holmfirth due to the geography'. However, we believe that applying the principles outlined in the policy below will help ensure that the importance of public realm is recognised not only in these specific 'hotspots' but also in the smaller village centres which have more localised highways challenges."

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.4.23 The public realm policy also highlights the importance of highways in contributing to a positive environment within a village or town centre. As one resident in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation said, 'A dream would be to take all vehicles out of Holmfirth town centre and make it pedestrian friendly' whilst another commented that 'Tackling this very important [traffic] problem will have a huge impact on the quality of life in the valley. The needs of pedestrians must have priority'. Specific concerns regarding traffic and transport are detailed in section 4.8 but recognising the role of highways in the public realm is important.

A Public Realm, Gateways and Highways Policy for Holme Valley

- 4.4.24 Improvements to the public realm offer opportunities to provide physical measures to protect all road users, such as tree and shrub planting as physical landscape barriers. Street furniture such as interpretation panels, bollards, cycle racks, free-standing signs, lamp posts and waste bins can all have a significant impact on the public realm. Careful consideration is needed to ensure designs are sensitive and locations are suitable and support improved accessibility for all. Benches and internal seating should offer a range of heights and a choice between those with and without backs and armrests. There should also be space for a wheelchair user to pull up next to a seated companion. Tables, where they are provided, should be wheelchair accessible. In addition to planning and design policies, the HVNDP includes various actions for the Parish Council, working with other bodies to help ensure the management of the public realm provides a safer and more attractive environment. Street furniture should not form obstacles when set on pedestrian routes and grouping items together can make them more easily visible and thus less of a hazard. Improved management of waste and recycling should help to reduce adverse visual impacts of large commercial bin store areas.
- 4.4.25 Proposals also should contribute towards enhancing Green Infrastructure (GI). Green infrastructure is defined in the National Planning Policy Guidance and can embrace a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits. It can, for example, include parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and 'blue infrastructure' such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies. References to green infrastructure in this guidance also apply to different types of blue infrastructure where appropriate.
- 4.4.26 Policy 5 provides local detail to Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13 Town Centre Uses which requires proposals to be inclusive for all users, and be attractive to pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport users and to conserve and enhance the local character, heritage, green spaces and the public realm where appropriate. Policy LP24 Design advises that places should be adaptable and able to respond to change, with consideration given to accommodating services and infrastructure, access to high quality public transport facilities and offering flexibility to meet changing requirements of the resident / user. The Policy also requires proposals to incorporate adequate facilities to allow occupiers to separate and store waste for recycling and recovery that are well designed and visually unobtrusive and allows for the convenient collection of waste. It also supports accessible and inclusive places, development which contributes towards enhancement of the natural environment and retention of trees. Policy 5 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

Policy 5: Promoting High Quality Public Realm and Improvements to Gateways and Highways

Policy 5 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

Public Realm

Proposals for public realm improvements should enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike and should be an integral part of transport links through towns, settlements and villages. Such improvements will be supported where they are consistent with advice in the Kirklees Highways Design Guide SPD and where they:

- a) Are of a high-quality design and sensitive to the visual appearance of surrounding buildings and street scene, especially in the case of a Heritage Asset or within a Conservation Area;
- b) Take opportunities to enhance or open up views towards existing locations of interest, such as the river or public spaces within the town and local centres, so that new developments improve rather than hide existing points of interest.
- c) Prioritise pedestrians and then cyclists, providing seating and safe, accessible routes for all.

Where works are being carried out in the public realm to improve highway safety and efficiency the character of a place should be maintained and the following principles will be applied:

- d) Design and materials in public realm improvements and highways schemes should be sensitive to local character.
- e) Traffic dominance should be minimised through surface treatment and layout;
- f) Visual clutter should be avoided;
- g) Provision of shared public space should be maximised whilst accommodating vehicular movement where necessary;
- h) Consideration should be given to accessibility for everyone;
- i) Consideration of Green Infrastructure⁹ should be built into design in the public realm;
- j) Street furniture should not act as a hazard to pedestrians or distract motorists unnecessarily.
- k) Signage and interpretation should be clear and visually unobtrusive;
- l) Lighting should limit light pollution and the use of columns.

⁹ **Green infrastructure:** A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities (NPPF Glossary).

Settlement 'Gateways'

Where major new residential or commercial development is close to 'gateways' into Holme Valley settlements, or at route convergence points or rail and bus stations, consideration should be given to public realm improvements around the 'Gateway' including welcome signage and interpretation and landscaping and planting.

Policy 5 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP13 Town centre uses

Policy LP24 Design

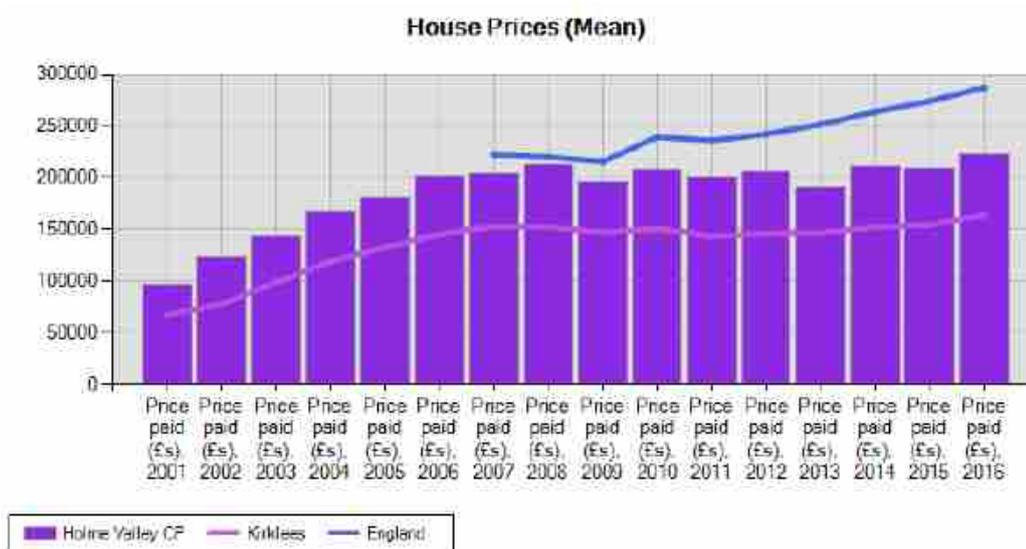
Holme Valley Parish Actions 11 -15

Parish Actions relating to the public realm are set out in Appendix 1.

4.5 Building Housing for the Future

Introduction and Background

- 4.5.1 Public consultations for the NDP (see the Consultation Statement, consultation on Issues and Options and emerging First Draft Plan) have shown that housing is a contentious topic in the Holme Valley. The Regulation 14 consultation received the highest number of public comments on this particular issue. Many people accept that more housing is needed, particularly smaller properties to allow people to purchase their first home or to down-size, but the nature of new developments and their location can be at odds with other things people think are important, such as views, and the impact on small communities and traffic. There is growing concern about the impact building on the hill tops and hill sides will have on sewer capacity and road run off as climate changes increase rainfall levels.
- 4.5.2 The 2011 census shows that there were 12,039 properties in the Holme Valley Parish Council area at that time. Of these 33% were whole houses or bungalows compared to 20% in the rest of Kirklees. 26% were semi-detached (33% in Kirklees) and 34% were terraced houses (the same for Kirklees). Only 7% were flats, maisonettes or apartments compared with 13% in Kirklees.
- 4.5.3 The following information is taken from the Kirklees Housing Profile for the Holme Valley and shows that property prices in the Valley are higher than Kirklees' averages but lower than national averages:



4.5.4 The type of property has a considerable impact on price:



4.5.5 Paragraph 8.6 in the Local Plan sets out that ‘the Local Plan housing requirement has used the most up to date national household projections (2014-based) as a starting point. Following analysis of this information and consideration of economic assumptions, the Local Plan housing requirement is a minimum of 31,140 homes across Kirklees over the plan period from 2013-31 which will meet identified needs. This equates to an annual housing requirement of 1,730 new homes. As this is based on up-to-date demographic evidence, it takes account of any need arising from shortfalls in delivery against previous targets. The NDP cannot reduce the amount of development from that contained in Kirklees’ Local Plan or try to undermine its strategic policies.

4.5.6 Kirklees Council has identified an additional 1,087 homes to be located on 27 different sites in the Holme Valley. These are set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2 Local Plan Housing and Mixed Use Site Allocations

Location	Site Number	Number of Houses Proposed	Housing or Mixed Development
Travel Station Yard, Station Road, Honley	HS159	14	Housing
East of Woodhouse Rd, Brockholes	HS161	124	Housing
South of Southwood Avenue, Honley	HS162	17	Housing
Former Thirstin Mill, Thirstin Road, Honley	HS164	24	Housing
South of Gynn Lane, Honley	HS167	50	Housing
North of Scotgate Road, Honley	HS168	93	Housing
North east of Westcroft, Honley	HS171	15	Housing
South of Vicarage Meadows, Cinderhills, Holmfirth	HS174	14	Housing
Bridge Mills, New Road, Holmfirth	HS175	45	Housing
West of St Mary's Rise & St Mary's Way, Netherthong	HS176	21	Housing
North west of New Mill Road, Thongsbridge	HS177	15	Housing
East of Holme View Avenue & Pennine Close, Upperthong	HS178	27	Housing
Dunford Road, Hade Edge	HS179	66	Housing

Location	Site Number	Number of Houses Proposed	Housing or Mixed Development
East of St Mary's Avenue, Netherthong	HS180	32	Housing
East of Ryecroft Lane, Scholes	HS181	39	Housing
South of Sandy Gate, Scholes	HS182	28	Housing
West of Bankfield Drive, Holmbridge	HS183	23	Housing
West of Wesley Avenue, Netherthong	HS184	38	Housing
West of Miry Lane, Thongsbridge	HS185	39	Housing
West of Stoney Bank Lane, Thongsbridge	HS186	53	Housing
Tenter Hill Road, New Mill	HS187	81	Housing
West of Royds Avenue, New Mill	HS188	53	Housing
South of Former Midlothian Garage, New Mill Road, Holmfirth	HS189	12	Housing
South of Water Street, Holmbridge	HS190	19	Housing
Former Midlothian Garage, New Mill Road, Holmfirth	HS191	56	Housing
Dobroyd Mills, Hepworth Road, Hepworth	MXS12	75	Mixed
Lancaster Lane, Brockholes	HS173	14*	Housing
TOTAL		1087	

*The capacity is not included in the phasing, as it is already counted as a commitment as planning permission (application 2016/90146) was given on the site.

4.5.7 There are also areas of 'safeguarded land' which is identified for future development, most likely housing, if required after the current plan period. There are some significant plots of land in the Holme Valley with this designation such as 6.26 ha on the Cliff, 4.29 ha next to the Memorial Hospital and more at Hade Edge. The allocation of sites was fixed when the Local Plan was approved by the Planning Inspector in 2019.

Public Consultation and Engagement

4.5.8 There is considerable concern locally about the number of new dwellings and the impact of the potential associated increase in population on the nature of life in the Valley. One Regulation 14 respondent said 'Before any new housing is permitted there needs to be proper consideration to the infrastructure, not just lip service! Roads, drains, sewerage, schools, shops...' whilst another commented that 'Upperthong area is now at saturation point... Poor sight lines, narrow roadways and limited pavement provision must be obvious problems'. Specific areas are often cited such as 'Scholes, Hepworth, Wooldale: no more housing in these areas, the roads, services, schools etc, can't handle an influx of new residents. New homes should be built on brown fields only. Green belt to be preserved.' It is noteworthy that both Hade Edge and Scholes communities strongly resisted the new housing developments in the Local Plan during its Examination, setting up 'Hade Edge Fight for the Fields Group' and 'Scholes Future Group' to provide coordinated responses to the consultation. The latter contributed nearly 600 objections to the proposed housing site in Scholes and indeed, its size was duly

reduced by the Planning Inspector. Representations were also made on behalf of other local groups and people by the Holme Valley Vision network.

- 4.5.9 Local recognition of the need for smaller and affordable homes which has been expressed repeatedly in local surveys. Holme Valley Vision's Young People's Survey of 1,027 young people in 2012 identified that 'affordable, suitable homes to encourage people to stay in the valley was important for nearly three quarters of the sample' while their wider Residents Survey of 2,640 people identified that over 55% thought it 'important to have more affordable as well as more starter homes in the Holme Valley area. As one respondent to the Regulation 14 consultation stated, '[we need] to address the evident undersupply of homes that are suitable for: (a) younger people, many of whom wish to live and work in the area, but are unable due to unaffordable rents and house prices; (b) older people, many of whom have particular social and health care requirements'. Another commented that 'we need to break the cycle of developers building 4+bed detached houses which suit commuters rather than providing smaller houses for young and old and those needing to downsize. 70% local people said they want more affordable and smaller houses but all the new ones being built are large so are out of kilter with public demand.'
- 4.5.10 The 2017 consultation identified a strong preference for spreading development across the valley with over 300 residents preferring that to concentrating it in large sites which was selected by only 77 respondents. The NDP needs to balance these different interests. For example, the plan needs to ensure that by encouraging building within settlements it does not contradict the desire to protect the distinct character and sense of place of existing individual settlements. One of the five purposes of Green Belt (see NPPF paragraph 134), is "*b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another*" and therefore in areas protected by Green Belt, towns should be protected from merging by national and Kirklees level planning policies. Policy 6 therefore addresses development in areas not protected by Green Belt.
- 4.5.11 There is also support for the brownfield first policy with 89% consultees in 2017 supporting the use of brownfield sites over greenfield ones and as mentioned in 4.5.9, there was considerable local resistance to housing development on green fields in Scholes and Hade Edge. The lack of activity in developing locations such as up New Mill Road where sites HS177 and HS191 have sat redundant, overgrown and fenced off for years has given the local impression that developers prefer taking on greenfield sites instead. This causes local frustration which has been reiterated through later consultation with Regulation 14 comments including 'Be the first authority to insist on re-use of brown field sites' and 'the NDP should allow for a phased release of sites, preferencing brownfield sites over greenfield sites, small and medium sites over large sites; extant permitted sites over unpermitted sites, to ensure land is released in an orderly and appropriate manner, reflecting community needs, and minimising the potential for land banking of sites by developers and speculators'.



Figure 19 - New developments in Netherthong & Honley

A Housing Policy for Holme Valley

- 4.5.12 The NDP does not allocate sites; this is a function of the Local Plan. Under the new revised NPPF, paragraph 136, "*where a need for changes to Green Belt boundaries has been established through strategic policies, detailed amendments to those boundaries may be made through non-strategic policies, including neighbourhood plans.*" However, the Kirklees Local Plan has been prepared under the previous NPPF so this opportunity is not available. As and when the Local Plan is reviewed in the future, there may be an opportunity to identify amendments to Green Belt boundaries, provided this is supported by strategic planning policies.

Brownfield Sites

- 4.5.13 The Parish Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan as provided in Appendix 7 highlights the role of housing and infrastructure in reducing carbon emissions and the need to 'support development of appropriate housing to suit our community needs'. Sustainable infrastructure and a reduction in the reliance on cars whilst meeting these needs has to be balanced with the importance of protecting the environmental characteristics and heritage of the Valley. Building on previously developed sites and reusing existing buildings should help to support more sustainable, resource efficient patterns of land use and support development in locations close to services and employment opportunities.
- 4.5.14 The NDP can also encourage certain types of development, such as the conversion of former mill buildings for residential use or building multi-storey houses, to reflect the traditional weaver's cottage design. It can also set standards regarding the amount of parking, encourage building close to existing settlements and public transport routes and aim to increase walking and cycling. Consideration of these matters is included in the policies on transport later in the NDP.

Parking

- 4.5.15 Parking guidelines are provided in Kirklees Council's Highways Development Delivery Planning Pre-application and Application Advice Note (see Appendix 5).

This document sets out general principles which need to be satisfied in relation to site accessibility, forecast car ownership, highway layout and the availability of existing on street parking.

Density

4.5.16 Density of housing is a crucial consideration for the valley as this affects the number of dwellings on a site and the amount of land needed. The capacity of sites in the Local Plan was calculated at a standard density of 35 dwellings per hectare throughout the district, unless a scheme for a different density had already received planning permission or has site promoter evidence justifying a different capacity. However, based on the Local Plan’s identified size of the allocated sites and number of proposed houses, it is estimated that the housing density in the Holme Valley will be approximately 30 dwellings per hectare. Lower density housing suggests larger, more expensive houses and it is generally recognised that these generate more profit for builders and higher council taxes for the Council.

House Types

4.5.17 As shown in Figure 20, the 2017 consultation identified that affordable and specifically small houses were seen as the priority required for residents. Whilst the Holme Valley has a mixed housing stock, it has a larger number of owner-occupied houses than Kirklees and a lower proportion of rented accommodation. Local concerns relate to the new developments being too focused on larger houses thereby proportionally reducing the smaller units available to residents seeking to buy in the valley.

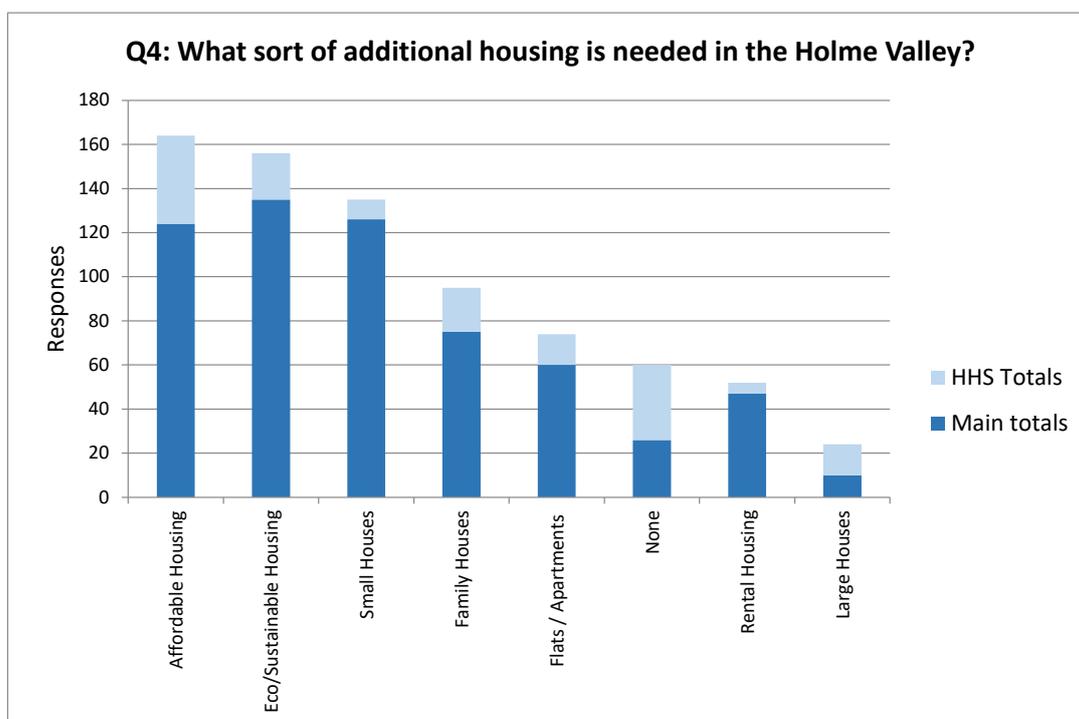


Figure 20 - Results from community consultation 2017 (HHS is Holmfirth High School students; Main is general public respondents)

4.5.18 The Kirklees Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2016 provides the latest available evidence to help to shape the future planning and housing policies of the area¹⁰. The Holme Valley NDP area falls within the Rural West sub area. Section 7 of the report sets out the Need for All Types of Housing across Kirklees. Paragraph 7.6 advises that *'the analysis indicates that there are three key dwelling types particularly required across Kirklees: 3-bedroom houses, 4+ bedroom houses and 1-2 bedroom houses in addition to ongoing development of other property types and sizes'*. In terms of older people, paragraph 7.57 sets out that *"a major strategic challenge for the Council is to ensure a range of appropriate housing provision, adaptation and support for the area's older population. The number of people across Kirklees area aged 65 or over is projected to increase by 28,600 from 71,700 in 2014 to 100,300 by 2031 (39.9% increase).'* Paragraph 7.62 goes on to say that *'by 2030, there is a need for an:*

- *additional 388 units of housing with care for rent*
- *additional 628 units for sale or shared ownership*
- *additional 291 units of provision for older people with dementia.'*

Community Right to Build

4.5.19 Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) were introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and grant planning permission for specific development in a particular area. Community organisations can bring forward a 'Community Right to Build Order' which is a type of NDO. This allows certain community organisations to bring forward smaller-scale development on a specific site, without the need for planning permission. Communities have the freedom to develop, for instance, small-scale housing and other facilities that they want. Any benefit from this development stays within the community to be used for the community's benefit, for example, to maintain affordable housing stock. Through the Regulation 14 consultation, local community group, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT) highlighted that they are currently setting up a Community Land Trust to build affordable low-energy homes in the Holme Valley. This approach is supported by the Parish Council and aligns with Kirklees' Local Plan Policy LP11 which says that 'The Council will encourage proposals for custom/ self-build homes where consistent with other policies in the Local Plan'. Kirklees has a self-build and custom housebuilding register to support those individuals and associations who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in their area in order to build homes for those individuals to occupy.¹¹

4.5.20 Policy 6 aims to help ensure appropriate types of property are developed in Holme Valley. The Policy has been prepared to provide local detail to Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP3 Location of New Development and Policy LP11 Housing Mix and Affordable Housing. Policy 6 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

¹⁰ A Supplementary Planning Document on Housing Mix and Affordable Housing is currently in production.

¹¹ <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/selfbuild-custom-housebuilding-register.aspx>

Local Consultation

- 4.5.21 Engaging with local people before undertaking significant developments is important to ensure that any new housing fits appropriately with the established community. The Parish Council therefore encourages developers of all housing schemes of 5 or more properties to undertake public consultation with local residents and stakeholders.

Policy 6: Building Homes for the Future

General Principles

Policy 6 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

In addition to the housing sites allocated in the Kirklees Local Plan new housing development will be supported subject to the following considerations being met.

1. The proposed housing is located within existing settlements not overwashed by Green Belt or is for housing acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy.
2. Adequate parking for residents and visitors should be provided in accordance with Local Plan Policy LP22 Parking and the Council's most up to date parking guidelines in the Highway Design Guide SPD. Additional parking provision to accommodate delivery vans is encouraged to minimise additional on street parking on nearby roads – see Appendix 5.
3. Developments should have good access to public transport routes and encourage walking and cycling by enhancing, expanding and linking to existing routes.
4. Proposals will be expected to demonstrate that densities make best and efficient use of land and reflect local settlement character.

Proposals for residential development involving the redevelopment of previously developed (brownfield) sites or the conversion of mill buildings and other suitable buildings to create low-cost housing and apartments is particularly encouraged.

Proposals for the conversion of former mill buildings to residential accommodation should take opportunities to include provision for suitable commercial or employment uses as part of mixed-use schemes including live/work type accommodation.

House types and sizes

All housing development schemes should demonstrate how they address the identified local housing need in terms of density, size, tenure and type of development. Schemes should provide suitable housing in response to the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

New housing developments of more than 10 houses or on sites of 0.4

hectares or greater will be supported, subject to aligning with other policies within the HVNDP and Kirklees Local Plan and national planning policies, where they:

1. Include a mixture of one, two and three-bedroom properties for sale and rent; and
2. Include housing designed to meet the needs of older people and properties for first time buyers; and
3. Provide a suitable proportion of affordable housing in line with the recommendations in the Kirklees Local Plan and the NPPF. Priority will be given to the delivery of affordable housing and maximising the potential for meeting identified local needs and local affordable needs from appropriate individual development opportunities.

New housing provided through a Community Right to Build Order (following the procedure set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations) or other community led housing project, including self-build schemes, will be particularly encouraged.

Policy 6 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP3 Location of new development

Policy LP11 Housing Mix and Affordable Housing.

4.6 Helping the Economy Prosper

Introduction and Background

- 4.6.1 Without economic activity, the Holme Valley is in danger of becoming a dormitory belt, with very little local employment. This could have an effect on the viability of local shops and services with fewer economically active residents staying in the valley during the day. This could also impact on traffic levels by increasing peak flows in the morning and evening rush hours.
- 4.6.2 An analysis by Holme Valley Vision in 2016 of Companies House records given in the Fame database of UK companies showed that there are currently over 1,000 registered companies operating from addresses in the Holme Valley. Of these, the majority were sole traders, self-employed or working from home. Businesses ranged from construction, motor repair, services such as hairdressing and care, catering and professional and consultancy services and some engineering. There are also shopping centres, in Holmfirth, Honley, New Mill and corner shops scattered around the Valley.
- 4.6.3 Kirklees Council, through the Local Plan have allocated employment sites, and designated priority employment areas, which are safeguarded for employment uses. However, there are very few such sites in the Valley as the concentration of employment land locally is in Honley and along the Woodhead and Huddersfield Roads in Holmfirth.
- 4.6.4 The NDP seeks to encourage the use of brownfield sites and the Valley bottom for mixed use. As well as providing employment opportunities near to the town centre (vital for its continued viability and vitality), such developments are close to people's homes and will encourage more walking, cycling and use of public transport, thus reduce reliance on the private car. Increasing opportunities for homeworking should also help to reduce the need to travel and where communication technologies support working from home, this can be an attractive option for many residents.
- 4.6.5 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP10 Supporting the Rural Economy sets out various measures which aim to improve economic performance in the rural economy, including the digital economy, small and medium sized enterprises, tourism related development and farm diversification schemes. Policy LP54 Buildings for agriculture and forestry addresses how the economy can be supported in keeping with Green Belt policy. The Peak District National Park Core Strategy Policy L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics, sets out in part B that other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted. Policies guiding tourism related development include RT1: Recreation, environmental education and interpretation, RT2: Hotels, bed and breakfast and self-catering accommodation and RT3: Caravans and camping and economic development include E1: Business development in towns and villages and E2: Businesses in the countryside.
- 4.6.6 Small businesses are drivers of local employment and economic growth and have been described by a Government Minister as 'the engine of our economy, fuelling growth and employing 16 million people'. Initiatives such as 'Totally Locally' are

based on the premise that local shops and services create 'strong, vibrant towns and sustainable local economies'. Businesses across the Holme Valley support initiatives which celebrate and promote local spending such as the Holmfirth 'Flip N Save Booklet' and Christmas Elf Trails.

- 4.6.7 The rapid growth in the digital economy presents considerable opportunities for areas such as the Holme Valley. Greater and faster improvements in broadband and mobile connections are essential for local businesses to realise their potential for growth and the creation of more job opportunities. This is being suggested by the newly formed Pennine Cloud company, Pennine Pound initiatives and local representation on the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.6.8 The 2017 consultation responses indicated that small business enterprises were well represented with manufacturing/skilled work and service creative industries also being favoured. Residents expressed the desire to improve the local economy by 'encouraging local makers and business people', 'digital economy jobs' and 'traditional jobs that link to our roots and high-tech jobs that protect future employment'. This confirmed the results of earlier surveys undertaken amongst residents, young people and local businesses by the Holme Valley Vision network over recent years. Retaining this mix of local opportunities for local people is important whilst recognising that the valley's location in the centre of a triangle of the key Northern cities of Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield makes it attractive to those working in those conurbations. The challenge is to have a local economy which offers choice of employment at the same time as encouraging those who earn out of the Valley to spend in the Valley. Loyalty schemes for some local shops and services and strong local business initiatives such as the Honley Business Association help sustain the networks and promote awareness of what is available in the Valley to local residents.

A Policy for Tourism and the Visitor Economy

- 4.6.9 As a visitor destination, Holmfirth is an internationally known brand, and the Valley is renowned for its stunning countryside and character as well as being the setting for the long running television series, Last of the Summer Wine. The duration of the programme and its international popularity still draws visitors from the UK and abroad. The Holme Valley is the key tourist draw in the Kirklees area and whilst historically this was tourist tours for TV shows, it now attracts a much wider range of visitors. Formal attractions such as the Picturedrome, Holmfirth Vineyard, cafes, restaurants and art courses are balanced by informal attractions such as the beautiful countryside, sports opportunities and attractive built heritage.
- 4.6.10 Alongside occasional events such as the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race which will pass through the valley for the third time since its inception in 2015, the area's programme of regular festivals and events such as the Holmfirth Festival of Folk, Honley Show, Holmfirth Art Week, Holmfirth Arts Festival and Holmfirth Food & Drink Festival draw large numbers of visitors. People also come simply for a day out and to make use of the many high-quality cafes and restaurants as well as the high number of independent retailers. The area clearly has an appeal to a range of

visitors with the latest festival addition being the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival which is being organised in the valley in June 2020.



Figure 21 - Tour de Yorkshire 2017 & The Picturedrome

- 4.6.11 Developing Holmfirth’s visitor appeal will create more local jobs, provide facilities for local people and contribute to Kirklees’ overall economy. In 2015 it was estimated that there were 9.78 million day and overnight visits to the district with an estimated value of £258.18 million. It is not known how much the Holme Valley contributes to the Kirklees total, but the area has the assets and potential to grow the visitor economy. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to support the ongoing development of suitable tourist and visitor facilities within the valley whilst not compromising on the quality of the offer. It therefore includes a range of policies which protect the unique character of the area and sense of place and a more sustainable future for local residents, groups and businesses.
- 4.6.12 One element of encouraging tourism is supporting a distinctive identity for the area either led by the internationally known Holmfirth or the wider Holme Valley. As outlined by Historic England in their Heritage Counts 2016 paper, “Creating places where people want to live, work and visit is a challenge and one that place-making aims to address. Place-making includes regeneration, development, design and community building. While the concept is one that is well used, often overlooked in place-making is the importance of managing the identity of a place and the value of communicating the strengths of a place.”
- 4.6.13 This research explains that “Place branding focuses on developing, communicating and managing the perception of a place and is often used interchangeably with the term ‘place marketing’. Place brands build on the distinctiveness, character and unique identity of a place.” Heritage is an important part of this as “Heritage highlights the unique character of a place and plays an important part in shaping peoples’ perceptions and authentic experiences of a place. It has the potential to form a key element of place brands by providing authenticity, distinctiveness and credibility to place brands.” This shows that building on the Holme Valley’s existing character and celebrating and promoting it is an essential part of helping not only build a stronger local community but also a more vibrant and successful economy. Encouraging the continued range of independent shops rather than national ‘chain stores’ also helps support the unique character of the Valley and through ‘buying local’ keeps a higher proportion of the economic benefit within the Valley. Several

actions have been identified for the Parish Council, working with other bodies, to progress ideas for 'place making' and to improve the visitor experience by addressing opening hours and problems with litter.

- 4.6.14 We have therefore developed Policy 7 to support business generation in the valley. This includes recognising the different elements associated with providing desirable tourist and visitor attractions to boost the local economy. Policy 7 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

Policy 7: Supporting Economic Activity

Policy 7 does not apply to that part of the neighbourhood area that is within the Peak District National Park.

Supporting Businesses in the Holme Valley

In addition to site allocations in the Kirklees Local Plan, proposals will be supported which result in the creation or sustainable expansion of existing and new businesses¹² (other than retail businesses covered in NDP Policy 8), particularly those defined¹³ as micro (sole traders or those with fewer than ten employees) or small (ten to fifty employees).

Such proposals will be supported where the following all apply:

1. The site is located outside the Green Belt or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy;
2. The proposal supports new business investment or the expansion of an existing business;
3. The site can be connected to the existing highway network and will not result in severe adverse traffic impacts on surrounding roads;
4. The site is large enough to accommodate car parking, service areas and landscaped areas appropriate to the scale of the business;
5. The proposals recognise the overall aim to reduce carbon emissions through sustainable design and promoting access by walking, cycling and public transport.

Business development which involves the sensitive conversion or redevelopment of existing buildings or makes use of a previously developed site will be particularly encouraged.

Supporting Homeworking

Proposals which promote the role of home-working within the economy will be supported. These include, where planning permission is required, improvements to broadband and telecommunications infrastructure and extensions to existing residential dwellings which are subsidiary to the main dwelling, subject to other policies in the NDP, Kirklees adopted Local Plan Policies LP10 and LP20 and national planning policies.

Development proposals should incorporate suitable infrastructure to support integrated communication technologies as part of the initial design process.

¹² The definition of a business is an organisation which produces and sells goods or which provides a service (Collins Dictionary 2020)

¹³ Taken from the EU's definitions of small or medium-sized enterprises in EU Recommendation 2003/361

Encouraging Tourist and Visitor Facilities

Proposals that contribute to and strengthen the visitor and tourist economy of Holme Valley will be supported. These include the creation of new accommodation and tourism facilities through the conversion of existing buildings or associated with existing attractions and new development, where proposals are acceptable having regard to other local and national policies.

All proposals must demonstrate how they meet the following specific criteria:

1. The site is located outside the Green Belt or the development is acceptable in terms of national Green Belt policy.
2. Development for new and of existing caravan, chalet, camping, cabin or lodge style developments, or other visitor accommodation, may be supported where they:
 - a) Contribute to improving the offer to tourists;
 - b) Are appropriately screened;
 - c) Provide adequate car parking spaces;
 - d) Are accessible to people with disabilities;
 - e) Do not generate traffic movements of a scale and type likely to have severe adverse impact on highway safety and efficiency; and
 - f) Mitigate any adverse impact on the capacity of road, sewerage or other infrastructure.

Policy 7 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP10 Supporting the rural economy

Policy LP54 Buildings for agriculture and forestry



Figure 22 - Honley centre & Holmfirth Food & Drink Festival

Holme Valley Parish Actions 16 -17

Parish Actions relating to the local economy are set out in Appendix 1.



Figure 23 - Board on the Holme Valley Riverside Way & Dancers in Victoria Park at Holmfirth Festival of Folk



Figure 24 - Holmfirth Arts Festival Parade & the Honley Show

Town Centres

- 4.6.15 Kirklees Local Plan Strategy Policy LP13 Town Centre Uses identifies the hierarchy of town centres. Holmfirth is defined as a Town Centre, with a town centre boundary, with primary and secondary shopping frontages. Honley is identified as a district centre also with a defined boundary. Brockholes and New Mill are defined as local centres. Other Local Plan policies which apply include Policy LP14 Shopping Frontages, Policy LP15 Residential Use in Town Centres, and Policy LP16 Food and Drink Uses and the Evening Economy. Permitted Development Rights mean that some changes of use, such as for the change of use from retail to residential do not require planning permission.
- 4.6.16 Holmfirth has had a privileged insight into trends and patterns of town centre change through its involvement in the Government funded “Big Data for Small Users” project run by Manchester Metropolitan University and the Institute of Place Management. Footfall, sales and vacancy rates in Holmfirth have been recorded throughout the year, highlighting patterns for comparison with other towns across the UK. Overall, the research has revealed that many towns are failing to adapt to the new expectations of residents and visitors and the future of retail and the High Street will be fundamentally different. This will lead to a re-thinking of the purpose of town centres as they transition from being a place where people go to acquire goods to being a place where they go to meet others, access shops, facilities and services, work, have a leisure experience and live. As town centres give an area identity and a focal point, it is essential that they adapt in line with changing demands and expectations of the people who live in and around them.
- 4.6.17 Holmfirth has monitored footfall and vacancy rates since 2017 through the Big Data Springboard project and whilst its vacancy rate has remained very low at a level of only 2.8% in October 2019 comparing favourably to 10% national average, its footfall has been in steady decline. The town has a very high level of independent retailers standing at 85.7% compared to a UK average of 37.5% and its identity comes from its mix of independent shops, cafes and services and the many events that take place during the year, as well as its historic character. It is worth noting that between 2009 and 2012, there was fierce opposition led by lobby group ‘Keep Holmfirth Special’ to the proposed building of an out-of-town supermarket in Holmfirth due to concerns about its impact on the viability of the shops within the town. It was a divisive issue with the balance between convenience and the impact on the community debated at length. The application was finally refused on highways grounds but slightly smaller supermarkets along the Woodhead Road have subsequently been constructed. Local people do value the independent retailers with the 2017 informal consultation including comments about the specific features which should be protected including ‘small town independent shops and pubs, not obviously big corporate chains’ and ‘[we need] affordable units appropriate and convenient for local specialities: leather work, forges, jewellers as well as baker, butcher and grocery stores’. Whilst others in the Regulation 14 consultation stated that ‘Holmfirth needs more ‘proper’ shops – not charity shops and cafes’, sustaining a mix of town centre uses is challenging for any town and economic viability is dependent on having a mix of retail, residential and commercial activities which draw people in.

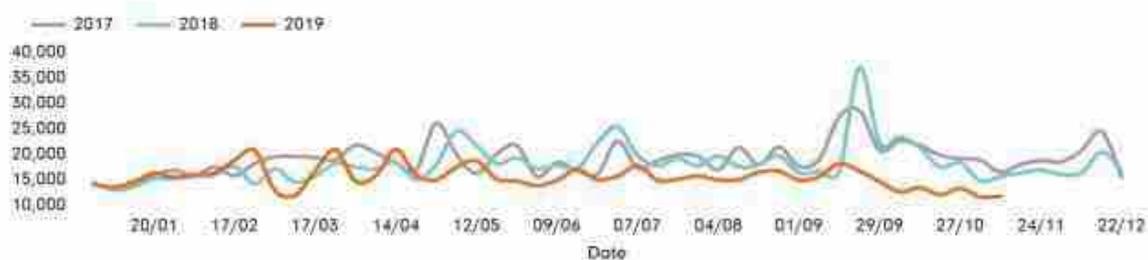


Figure 25 - Footfall trends in Holmfirth Town Centre (Springboard Research for Big Data Project, 2019)

4.6.18 Holmfirth's successful image should be protected and promoted. More needs to be done to encourage new businesses that will contribute to both the day and evening economy as well as enabling the town centre to diversify and adapt. This imperative applies equally to Honley and may mean, in future, that the balance between retail, commercial and residential will have to shift from the 70% traditional town centre uses in primary shopping areas. The role of community facilities such as libraries, education facilities and large buildings such as the Holmfirth Civic Hall and former Adult Education Institute, now called the Tech, in offering places for people to meet, learn and socialise complements economic functions within the town centres. More detail is given about these and other facilities in section 4.7.



Figure 26 - Local businesses in Holmfirth & Honley

The Night Time Economy

4.6.19 The retail and business mix in the town and local centres has changed over time as the economy has shifted away from manufacturing towards knowledge industries and the service sector. This has resulted in a growing night-time economy in Holmfirth and Honley comprising a range of restaurants and bars. Holme Valley Vision's Residents Survey of 2,640 people in 2012 identified that two-thirds of people felt that the town centres were 'good places to visit for nightlife / evening entertainment'. Since 2012, the number of bars and restaurants has increased with an old bank and derelict building being converted into eateries.

4.6.20 In Holmfirth, the Picturedrome draws in hundreds of visitors from across the region to music events. This has shifted footfall patterns with shops bringing in visitors in the daytime and the range of eateries attracting a different clientele in the evening.

In practice, this has an impact on the nature of both Holmfirth and Honley in the evening with later opening hours and a greater vibrancy through the weekend with quieter periods in the week.

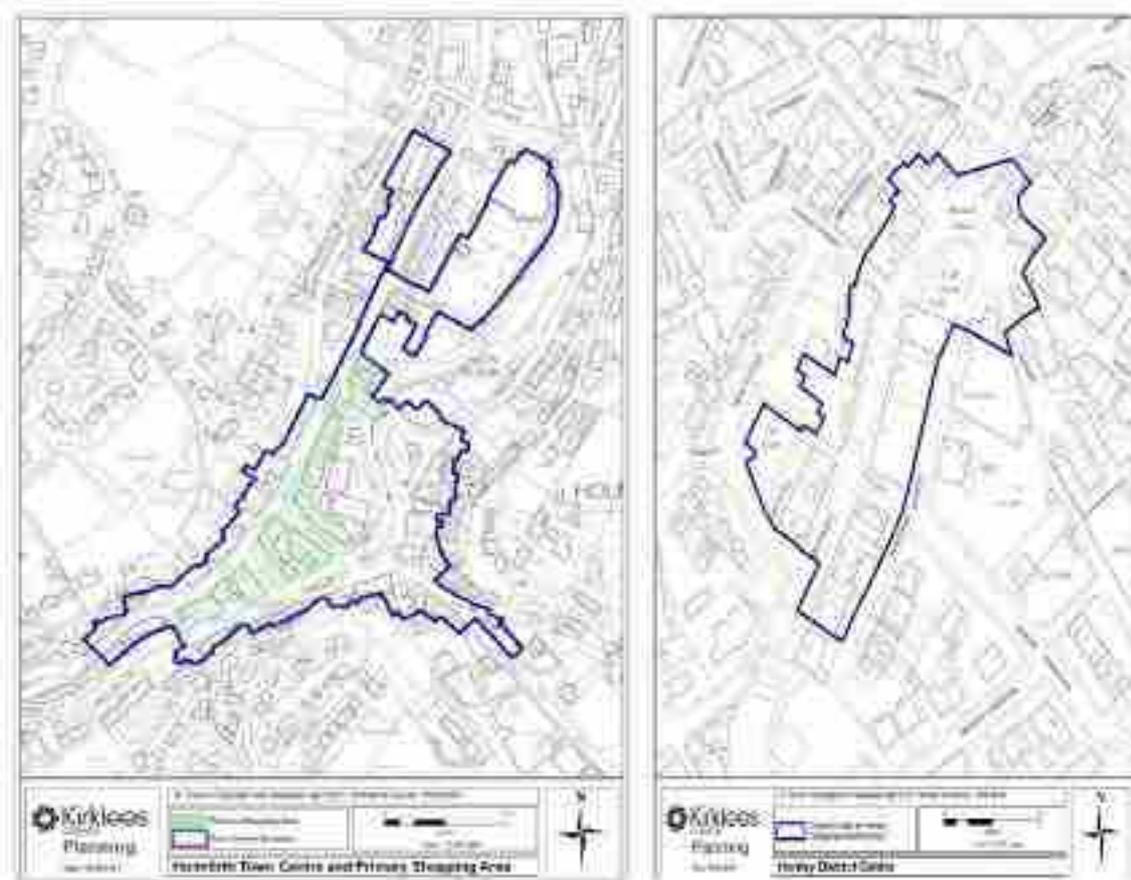
- 4.6.21 Whilst the NDP welcomes the diversity of the night-time economy and the growth of high quality evening destinations for visitors and residents, we need to be mindful of the negative consequences that this can bring. This is particularly important for residents who live within the town centres and the potential increase in littering and anti-social behaviour. We therefore encourage control over opening hours and expect new developments to manage litter reduction.
- 4.6.22 The Night-time economy is considered in the Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP16 Food and Drink Uses and the Evening Economy. Paragraph 9.32 sets out the *'The growth in food and drink premises has also led to an increase in outdoor areas for eating, drinking and socialising. Whilst adding vibrancy to a centre, this can lead to detrimental impacts for local amenity depending on their use and hours of operation. Such developments therefore require careful consideration, and the policy seeks to ensure that such uses are appropriate for their location. Mitigation measures that could be used to make development acceptable through applying the appropriate conditions dependent on circumstances of the particular scheme include the following:*
- *Changes to the design/layout to remove 'pinch points' e.g. narrow passageways and stairwells and ensuring no hiding places are created or are available*
 - *Changes to external layout such as gating off alleyways to prevent loitering and inappropriate behaviour*
 - *Security standards of doors and windows*
 - *Improvement or introduction of exterior lighting*
 - *CCTV coverage for inside and to the immediate exterior of the premises*
 - *Management of the premises such as opening hours and/or having supervisory staff.'*
- 4.6.23 The following policy, Policy 8 relates to development within the hierarchy of centres and should be read in conjunction with the NDP Policy 4 relating to shop fronts, advertisements and Policy 5 which addresses the public realm. The provision of NDP policy 2 should also be considered as both Holmfirth and Honley centres are within conservation areas.

Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres

- 4.6.24 Within Brockholes and New Mill, there are small shops and services concentrated together which perform an important function serving each of the local areas. These have both been defined as Local Centres in the Kirklees Local Plan. They include a convenience store for top-up shopping along with a mix of other services such as health and beauty salons, hot food takeaways and pubs.
- 4.6.25 The role of Local Centres is to provide for top-up shopping and local services particularly food and drink as set out in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP13. Development within them should be appropriate in scale to complement and support existing businesses in the centre and the visitor experience.

4.6.26 Residential areas are immediately adjacent to these local centres and there are some residential properties intermixed with the shops and services. It is therefore important that any development protects or mitigates against any impacts on residential amenity.

Primary shopping areas of Holmfirth and Honley Map 18



Policy 8: Facilitating Development in Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District Centre and Brockholes and New Mill Local Centres

Within Holmfirth Town Centre and Honley District Centre, development for retail, leisure, office, commercial, cultural and tourism and other main town centre uses¹⁴ will be encouraged where they help enhance the viability and vibrancy of the centres.

Development proposals in town, district and local centres will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. New developments and changes of use should complement existing provision and ensure that the town, district or local centre offer provides a range of uses appropriate for the relevant type of centre. Care should also be taken to ensure that development does not adversely affect other amenities and facilities, such as open and green space.
2. Proposals should be designed to secure easy pedestrian access and cycle and car parking to standard (including electric vehicle charging points). The development should be within easy walking distance of public transport facilities, use clear signage and provide facilities for the disposal of litter.
3. Retail development should be located in the primary shopping areas of Holmfirth and Honley as defined in Map 18. If retail development is to take place outside the primary shopping areas proposals will be subject to the sequential test¹⁵.
4. The reuse of upper floors for residential use will be supported subject to the use being compatible with ground floor commercial uses.
5. Distinctive and detailed historic architectural features of buildings should be retained and enhanced in accordance with HVNDP Policies 2 and 4.

Within Brockholes and New Mill local centres, development for top-up shopping and local services, particularly food and drink as set out in Local Plan Policy LP13, will be considered acceptable in principle providing:

¹⁴ NPPF Glossary: Main town centre uses: Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment and more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

¹⁵ The 'sequential test' is a "planning principle that seeks to identify, allocate or develop certain types or locations of land before others. For example, brownfield housing sites before greenfield sites, or town centre retail sites before out-of-centre sites.

6. They are of an appropriate scale in relation to the other units within the local centre; and
7. The amenities of local or adjoining residents or users are protected or suitable mitigation measures are provided to address any adverse impacts on residential amenity resulting from additional noise, smell and visual intrusion.

Policy 8 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP13 Town Centre Uses

Policy LP14 Shopping frontages

Policy LP15 Residential use in town centres

Policy LP16 Food and drink uses and the evening economy

4.7 Community, Education, Health and Well-being

- 4.7.1 The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of services that affect the well-being of local residents and the quality of their lives. These are referred to in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP47 Healthy, Active and Safe Lifestyles, Policy LP48 Community Facilities and Services, Policy LP49 Educational and Health Care Needs and Policy LP50 Sport and Physical Activity.

Community Facilities

- 4.7.2 Community facilities are defined as facilities which are of value to the local community and they will be protected, developed and enhanced wherever possible. This could be shops, meeting places, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship but could also include emergency services and statutory services. It is therefore not defined by ownership with both privately and publicly run provision included. This Neighbourhood Plan has therefore regarded community facilities as a broad category which can include any facility actively used by a number of people living in the Holme Valley.



Figure 27 - Honley Feast & Sands Recreation Ground

- 4.7.3 At the moment, the Holme Valley is fortunate to have a good range of local community facilities. These include village halls, a swimming pool and sports facilities (both public and privately provided), recreation grounds and sports fields, tennis and cricket clubs, children's play areas, churches, village pubs and good schools. Young people have identified, however, that there is a need for better provision for teenagers and young adults. The 2017 consultation responses from the Holmfirth High School students were particularly clear that they viewed facilities for young people as limited. Comments about what additional services were needed included 'A trampoline park and more things for teenagers to do' and 'more youth clubs'.
- 4.7.4 It is clear that community facilities are important to residents of the Holme Valley given the recent asset transfers of the Holmfirth Civic Hall and Wooldale Community Centre and the imminent transfer of Honley library. It is interesting to note that in the 2017 consultation, 55 responses said that no facilities were missing in the Valley with one respondent saying, 'The Valley meets all my needs' and another saying 'Nothing [is missing] that cannot be found within half an hour's

drive’. The Holme Valley has a larger number of local facilities and it must be recognised that whilst having larger facilities available nearby can be desirable, in practice, the viability of large sports venues, conference centres, specialist healthcare etc. depend on the larger population of the urban conurbations of the cities. It is therefore important that a balance is struck between what can and should be provided locally and how access can be improved to allow residents of the valley to readily travel to larger provision wider afield.

- 4.7.5 There is a growing need for facilities to meet the needs of the elderly population who may be less mobile and have greater needs for locally based services and facilities. The Holme Valley has an ageing demographic as shown in the census figures from 2011 and local access particularly to healthcare and leisure opportunities to maintain social networks is important.

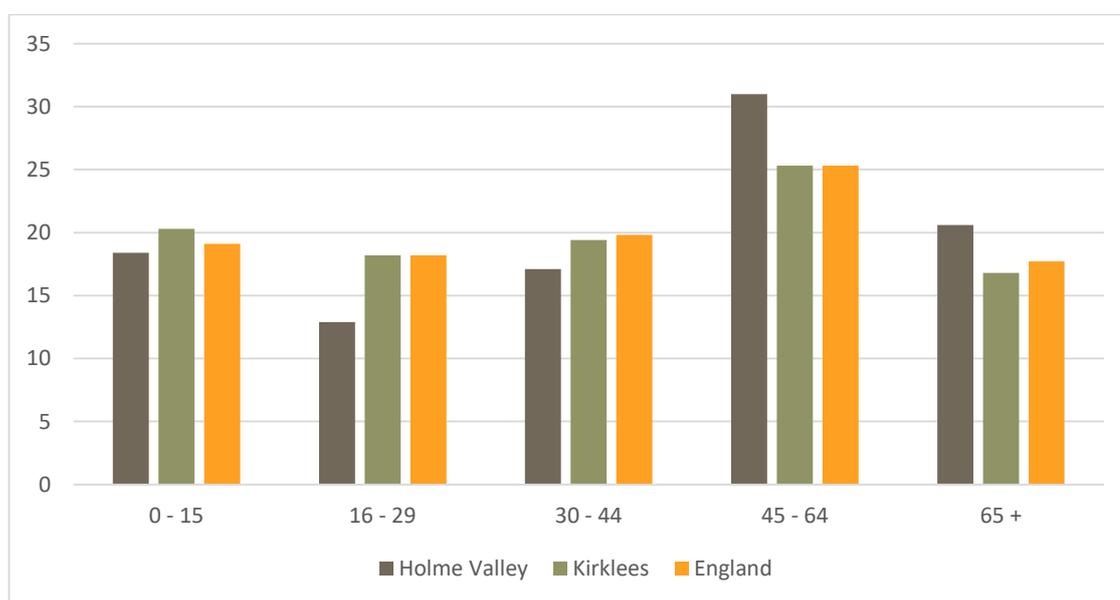


Figure 28 - 2011 Census data showing the percentage of each age group in the Holme Valley

- 4.7.6 As well as protecting existing facilities, the Plan could support investment and development of new facilities in areas of housing growth.
- 4.7.7 There are also a number of disused or underused buildings in the Holme Valley which have the potential for their re-use for purposes that would have benefits for local people. In 2019, the former Adult Education Institute in Holmfirth was reopened by a newly established Community Benefit Society as ‘Holmfirth Tech’ and this successfully secured the mothballed building from Kirklees College in May 2020. This positive step to utilise the building has clearly fulfilled a local demand as it is already in daily use for regular music, art and social groups alongside providing desk space for local businesses.

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.7.8 As recognised in Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, the area has a wealth of local community facilities and these are regarded as extremely valuable to the area. One

community group, for example, outlined that ‘protecting community facilities which are a focal point in each village should be more than an ambition... it should be an uncompromising and determined commitment’. It also recognised the need to ‘develop close working relationships with community groups as... it is impossible to separate community facilities from those groups and volunteers which run them’. Recognition of the role of both physical resources in terms of buildings and locations alongside the human resources of volunteers and expertise to utilise facilities is a key part of sustaining community assets. In fact, the larger percentage of retired people in the Holme Valley (just over 20% all residents were aged 65 or over in 2011 as opposed to 15.2% in Kirklees as a whole)¹⁶ potentially creates a wider pool of volunteers who may be able to offer their time and expertise to support the ongoing development of these facilities.

- 4.7.9 Resident feedback from the pre Regulation 14 consultation identified the importance of making effective use of community facilities: one respondent observed that ‘we cannot ossify the past: market halls, village halls, schools, churches not required should be closed’. The Holme Valley has such a range of facilities both old and new and the challenge is identifying the best way to sustain them in a way that cherishes the past whilst recognising and embracing the potentially different uses of the future. Another respondent commented that ‘local community facilities should not only be protected but also be enhanced and further developed to meet the needs of all residents and visitors’. The Neighbourhood Plan has therefore not sought to identify a comprehensive list of locations but instead provides examples of what we regard as community facilities.
- 4.7.10 Community facilities are defined as facilities which are of value to the local community and they will be protected and enhanced where possible. They are recognised as an essential part of providing accessible and varied services for the area. For the purposes of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan this includes buildings and open spaces. Examples of the types of building and facility that fall under this category include but are not limited to:
- Village Halls
 - Civic Halls
 - Community Centres
 - Churches
 - Libraries
 - Parks and Gardens
 - Recreation grounds and facilities
 - Leisure facilities
 - Village Greens
 - Schools, colleges and adult education facilities
 - Market Halls
 - Doctors Surgeries
 - Medical services
 - Cultural and performance venues.

¹⁶ 2011 Census

- 4.7.11 Community facilities ultimately provide a venue to offer a service and we have therefore sought to create a policy (Policy 9) which highlights their importance in facilitating groups and services to run. These are essential parts of building a community and are particularly evident in supporting high quality education, health and wellbeing in the valley.



Figure 29 - Holmfirth Civic Hall & Upperthong Cricket Club

Education, Health and Wellbeing

- 4.7.12 The Holme Valley has 13 Primary Schools: Holmfirth J&I, Upperthong J&I, Hinchliffe Mill J&I, Netherthong Primary, Kirkroyds Infants, Wooldale Juniors, Holme J&I, Scholes J&I, Hade Edge J&I, Brockholes J&I, Hepworth J&I, Honley Infants, Honley Juniors. It also has two Secondary Schools: Holmfirth High School and Honley High School.
- 4.7.13 The Primary school provision generally consists of small community-based schools of either half, one or two forms per year and the retention of schools within the existing villages is strongly supported. Whilst there has been recent pressure on school places, the advice from Kirklees through their 'Securing Sufficient High-Quality Learning and Childcare Places' 2015-2018 has been that there is forecast to be a decline in school age population across the Valley in the future. The future trend for local schools is therefore a declining number of pupils, not a shortage of school places. For the reception in-take of 2017, only two schools within the Holme Valley area were over-subscribed with all pupils living within their catchment accommodated. This downward trend in child population is expected to continue and with the current approach to funding schools per pupil, this will put pressure on school budgets.
- 4.7.14 This is a challenge for the Local Education Authority, but it should be noted that it runs counter to the local perception that schools are 'already full' since the classes for older pupils reflect the population bulge of the past. The proposed level of housing development in the Valley may fill some of the places and cause small areas of pressure on the education system but overall, the valley's schools should be able to accommodate the predicted population growth. This is particularly as the growth in population within Kirklees is expected proportionately to change more at the older end of the demographic. This is visible on Kirklees 'Factsheet 2016 on Population and Households' as shown below.

Kirklees projected population 2015 - 2025

	2015 No	%	2020 No	%	2025 No	%	Change from 2014 %
0-4	28,400	7	28,400	6	28,900	6	1
5-15	59,400	14	42,600	14	43,600	14	7
16-24	51,000	12	50,700	11	51,300	11	1
25-44	112,500	26	113,200	25	115,800	25	0
45-64	109,700	25	113,600	26	113,400	25	3
65-84	64,400	15	70,600	16	76,400	17	19
85+	8,800	2	9,800	2	12,300	3	37
All Ages	434,300	100	448,500	100	461,500	100	6

Source: ONS revised 2014 - based Subnational population projections, ONS Mid Year Estimate 2015. Columns may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 30 - Predicted percentage growth in each age group

- 4.7.15 Policy LP49 of the Kirklees Local Plan reflects the need for development to support suitable school places and appropriate healthcare provision. The Parish Council recognises that the existing provision of small primary schools serving local areas both reduces the need to travel and are an important part of the social sustainability of communities.
- 4.7.16 The Neighbourhood Plan supports this policy but also recognises that education is not just for children and providing learning opportunities for all is a vital part of supporting a vibrant community. A number of Parish Council Actions are identified in the HVNDP to support projects which promote lifelong learning and improvements to health and community facilities provision. Local groups such as the Women’s Institute, University of the Third Age (U3A), Sports Clubs, and groups such as the Phoenix Owls or Civic Society all offer opportunities to meet, socialise and learn new skills. As already outlined, having a range of community facilities is important to support the provision of these activities and the NDP will support the principle of life-long learning.
- 4.7.17 Learning opportunities can be accessed within the valley through a physical or virtual space and the provision of residential high-speed broadband is an important means of supporting this. In addition, it is important to retain facilities for internet facilities for young and old alike through continuing computer provision in public libraries and youth clubs alongside the encouragement of wi-fi in local cafes. Kirklees Council announced in 2019 that they were working to extend its full fibre network to offer high speed broadband through Cityfibre within Huddersfield. The NDP is keen to support its further delivery into the Holme Valley in the future.
- 4.7.18 In addition, learning opportunities may be further afield and retaining access to provision of both over 16 education and adult education through effective transport infrastructure and specifically public transport is essential. This is covered in more detail in the transport section of the NDP.

- 4.7.19 In light of the Holme Valley's ageing population, it is particularly important that action is taken to retain suitable healthcare provision in the Valley and measures are taken to avoid social isolation. The Valley has three GP surgeries and the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital which offers services such as day surgery and school health. The NDP supports the continuing provision of these services and in light of concern over the proposed changes to the healthcare provision of Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, any opportunities to provide minor surgery clinics or similar within the valley would be welcomed.
- 4.7.20 There are a large number of community and voluntary groups based within the Holme Valley undertaking a huge range of different activities such as environmental projects (Earthworks – New Mill Community Garden), music groups (brass bands, ukulele groups), sports teams (football, rugby, tennis) and art projects to counter social isolation (Friend to Friend). In addition, the array of events and festivals in the Valley are predominantly organised by volunteers. Residents responding to the pre Regulation 14 consultation commented that 'Holmfirth Arts Festival, Folk Festival etc. should be encouraged and supported. They make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of local residents as well as contributing to the local economy' and 'I'd like to see buildings other than schools (such as pubs, warehouses, restaurants etc.) being used to support and promote health and wellbeing out of normal trading hours'.
- 4.7.21 As now recognised, improving connectivity with the natural world can also help reduce mental health problems and this is linked with our policy on building a sustainable future for the valley. The NDP therefore supports proposals to increase opportunities for all ages to access both the built and natural environment. This includes encouraging access to local green spaces to enable 'Forest School' learning in the valley. 'Forest School' is child-centred learning that takes place in a woodland or natural environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world and is already offered by qualified practitioners in local schools such as Upperthong Junior & Infant School.
- 4.7.22 Kirklees Council's Living Play 2020 Draft Playable Spaces Strategy sets out in section 3.1 Increasing diversity of play, that *'Forest Schools are becoming increasingly popular in Kirklees as the importance of wild play and a child's connections with nature are appreciated. By providing more natural environments for play, not only are potential platforms for Forest Schools increased so too are the opportunities for children to re-enact and further explore wild play as well as allowing them the opportunity to share their experiences with others.'*
- 4.7.23 The Strategy also sets out in paragraph 4.1.1.2 Across Kirklees, that *'while a reviewed approach to play may see a reduction in manufactured play equipment across the district and less 'designated' play areas, there will be an increase in natural play provisions and this will result in more natural looking landscapes. Implementation of the strategy will result in an increase in play quality and more play opportunities which will provide more learning opportunities throughout Kirklees. Encouraging 'wild' play and providing more natural playable spaces will not only make nature more accessible, it will increase the biodiversity and the ecological base of Kirklees. Increasing areas of natural play areas will increase the*

level of through-age play provisions within Kirklees, providing more play opportunities for older generations and more multi-generational opportunities.'

- 4.7.24 Kirklees Local Plan Open Space Study 2015 (Revised 2016) Open Space Assessment Report notes that there are deficiencies in several types of open space provision in the two wards of Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South. Paragraph 7.10 notes that *'The most notable deficiencies in the provision of amenity greenspace are in the Huddersfield and Kirklees Rural areas. The greatest deficiencies are in the Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South wards with only 0.01 and 0.05 hectares of amenity greenspace per 1,000 population. However, other types of open space, such playing fields, parks, recreation grounds also play an important role both in terms of their physical and aesthetic value and thereby providing important amenity benefits.'* Paragraph 8.12 goes on to advise that *'The Open Space Demand Assessment (2015) suggests there is a high demand for allotment provision in the Lindley and Greenhead areas of Huddersfield, and in the Colne Valley and Holme Valley in the Kirklees Rural area.* Table 8.2: Provision of allotments compared to the district wide quantity standard (0.5 ha per 1,000 households) identifies deficiencies in Holme Valley North and Holme Valley South Wards. Table 11.4: Summary of Open Space Deficiencies in the Kirklees Rural area identifies deficiencies for Holme Valley North and South Wards in natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotments.
- 4.7.25 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP61 Urban Green Space seeks to protect urban green spaces as identified on the Policies Map from development. The designated Urban Green Space in the Holme Valley Parish is included in Section 14 of the Kirklees Local Plan Allocations and Designations. This list is reproduced in Appendix 6.
- 4.7.26 In addition to the identified Urban Green Spaces, there are other means of protection for existing spaces such as Cliff Recreation Ground which is a 'Field in Trust'. This offers it legal protection in perpetuity through a Deed of Dedication and an active group of volunteers, Friends of Cliff Rec, organise local events and activities to make use of this open and scenic heathland above Holmfirth.
- 4.7.27 Participation in the community and access to open space helps support both physical and emotional well-being and the NDP supports the continuing provision of these usually locally driven activities and projects and providing suitable facilities to accommodate them. Our local community facilities policy reflects their importance.

Policy 9: Protecting and Enhancing Local Community Facilities

Community facilities of value to the local community as listed in paragraph 4.7.10 will be protected and retained for community use. Development or change of use proposals involving their loss will be managed in accordance with Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP48.

Where the proposal involves a community facility listed as an Asset of Community Value on a Community Assets Register the community must first be given the opportunity to acquire the asset to continue its operation before planning permission for an alternative use or development can be granted.

Education, Health and Community Learning

1. Proposals to create, expand or alter schools will be supported, particularly where the proposal will assist the retention of small community-based schools.
2. The expansion of health provision in the Valley will be supported.
3. Proposals to expand the provision of Forest Schools and natural play environments, and to improve provision of accessible natural and semi natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotments, will be supported subject to being in accordance with HVNDP Policy 12 and Policies LP31, and LP63 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

Policy 9 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP47 Healthy, active and safe lifestyles,
 Policy LP48 Community facilities and services,
 Policy LP49 Educational and health care needs
 Policy LP50 Sport and physical activity

Holme Valley Parish Actions 18 -21

Parish Actions relating to community facilities are set out in Appendix 1.



Figure 31 - View of and from Cliff Rec

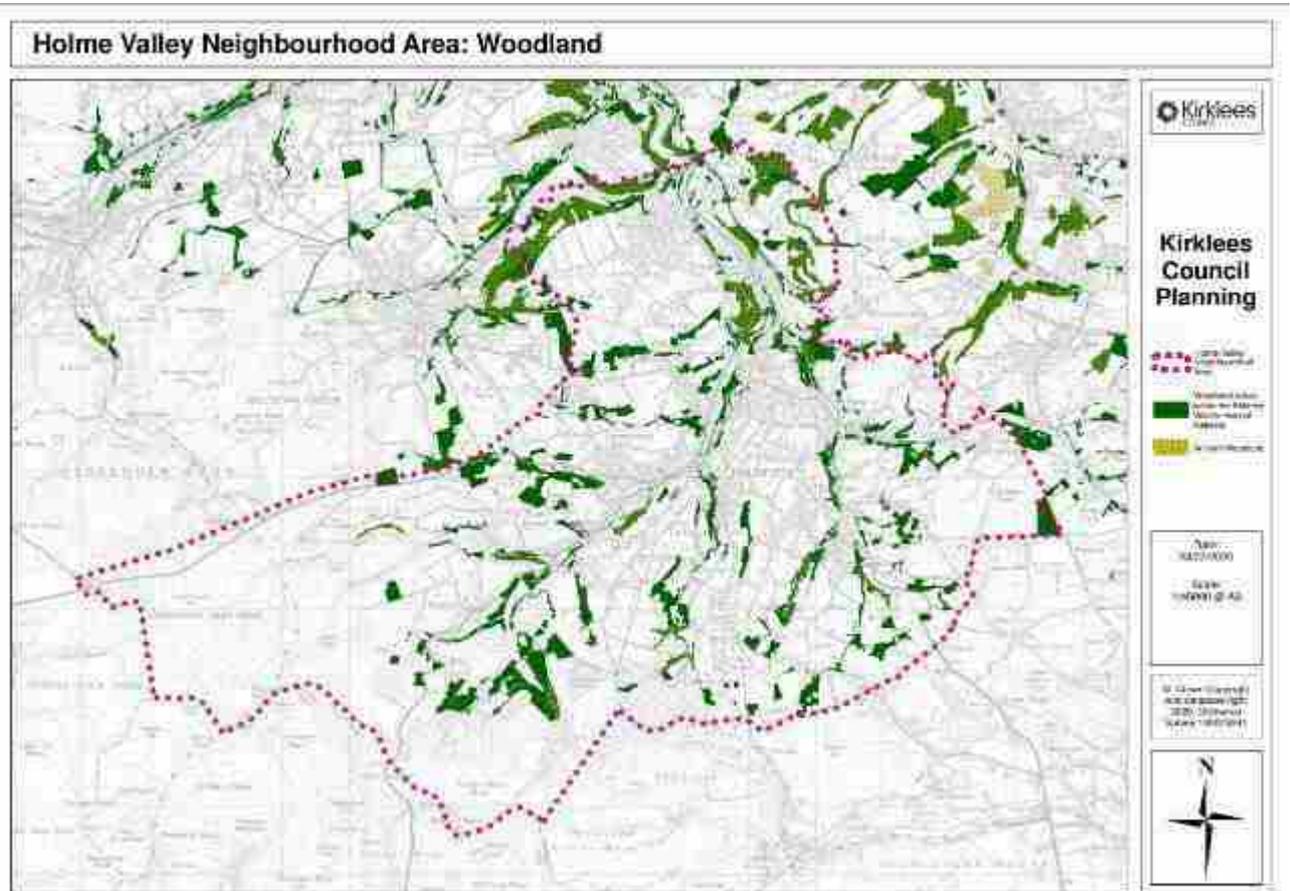
Areas of Woodland

- 4.7.28 Ancient woodland is also given particular protection with the 2018 National Planning Policy Framework stating that “development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons”. Kirklees already expressed its commitment to the value of woodlands through its Trees and Woodland Strategy and the principles of protecting existing trees and extending tree cover are supported by this NDP. Map 19 below identifies that the NDP area is dotted with areas of valuable deciduous and ancient woodland. They often coincide with the river corridors which local charity River Holme Connections is striving hard to enhance and protect. It also illustrates areas in the valley where grants have been awarded over recent years through the Government’s Woodland Grant Scheme. These include small and large areas across the valley but most notably in the southern areas, where tree planting is underway. A local community group, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT), is currently working with local landowners and school groups to plant native trees supplied both by the Woodland Trust and by local people growing them from seed. The Parish Council Climate Emergency Action Plan also states that it will ‘encourage the planning and management of more trees and woodlands in our Valley for carbon sequestration’ and River Holme Connections has already planted 4,773 native trees and hedges across the area in the winter of 2019/2020. This demonstrates local commitment to the woodlands which are valued as a ‘green’ resource in the valley.



Figure 32 - Local tree planting

Map 19 Key Woodland Areas in the Holme Valley



Local Green Space

4.7.29 A NDP can identify areas of land known as Local Green Space. This is space which is of particular local significance and should be protected from new development in a similar way to Green Belt protection. The plan has to set out clearly the justification for such areas if they are to be protected. The NPPF paragraph 100 sets out that:

'The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.'

4.7.30 Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP62 Local green space seeks to protect identified areas of Local Green Space from development, giving them the same level of protection as Green Belt. There are no Local Green Space designations within the Holme Valley so local people were asked to identify sites that should be afforded protection so that the NDP could identify any appropriate sites.

4.7.31 The 2017 consultation identified a large number of different parks and green spaces which were important to residents. These included formal parks such as Sands Recreation Ground with its skate park, football pitches and swimming pool and various playgrounds and other green spaces. However, many residents said that formal facilities were not the only green spaces they valued with one respondent saying, 'even the daffodils on the verges are important' and another saying they wanted a 'place where you can bike ride, horse ride and do things like that'. 'Green fields, woodlands and fields near my house' were cited by respondents so the overall message was that green space either in an informal or formal setting is valued by local people and should not be developed without sufficient engagement with the local community.

4.7.32 The Pre-Regulation 14 consultation question about Local Green Space produced many replies advocating the protection of woodland with identified locations such as Hagg Wood and Honley Wood. However these are already protected through separate designation as Local Wildlife Sites and afforded protection under Local Plan policy LP30 so do not need to be given protection as designated areas of Local Green Space. In the same consultation, respondents were asked to identify potential Local Green Spaces and 155 different responses were given with a variety of specific spaces proposed and others seeking to protect all green spaces: 'There is so little left, all is of enormous importance'. The Steering Group considered all the locations and identified 12 for discussion and review against the NPPF criteria given above.

4.7.33 Four specific sites have been identified for formal designation as Local Green Space. The justification for each Local Green Space is provided in Appendix 4.

4.7.34 The four Local Green Spaces are identified on Maps 20, 21, 22 and 23 and are:

1. Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden

2. Scholes Sandygate Fields
3. Wooldale 'Chapel Field'
4. Hade Edge 'Gateway Triangle'

Policy 10: Protecting Local Green Space

The following sites are designated and protected as Local Green Space in the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan. Development affecting Local Green Spaces should be considered against Local Plan Policy LP62:

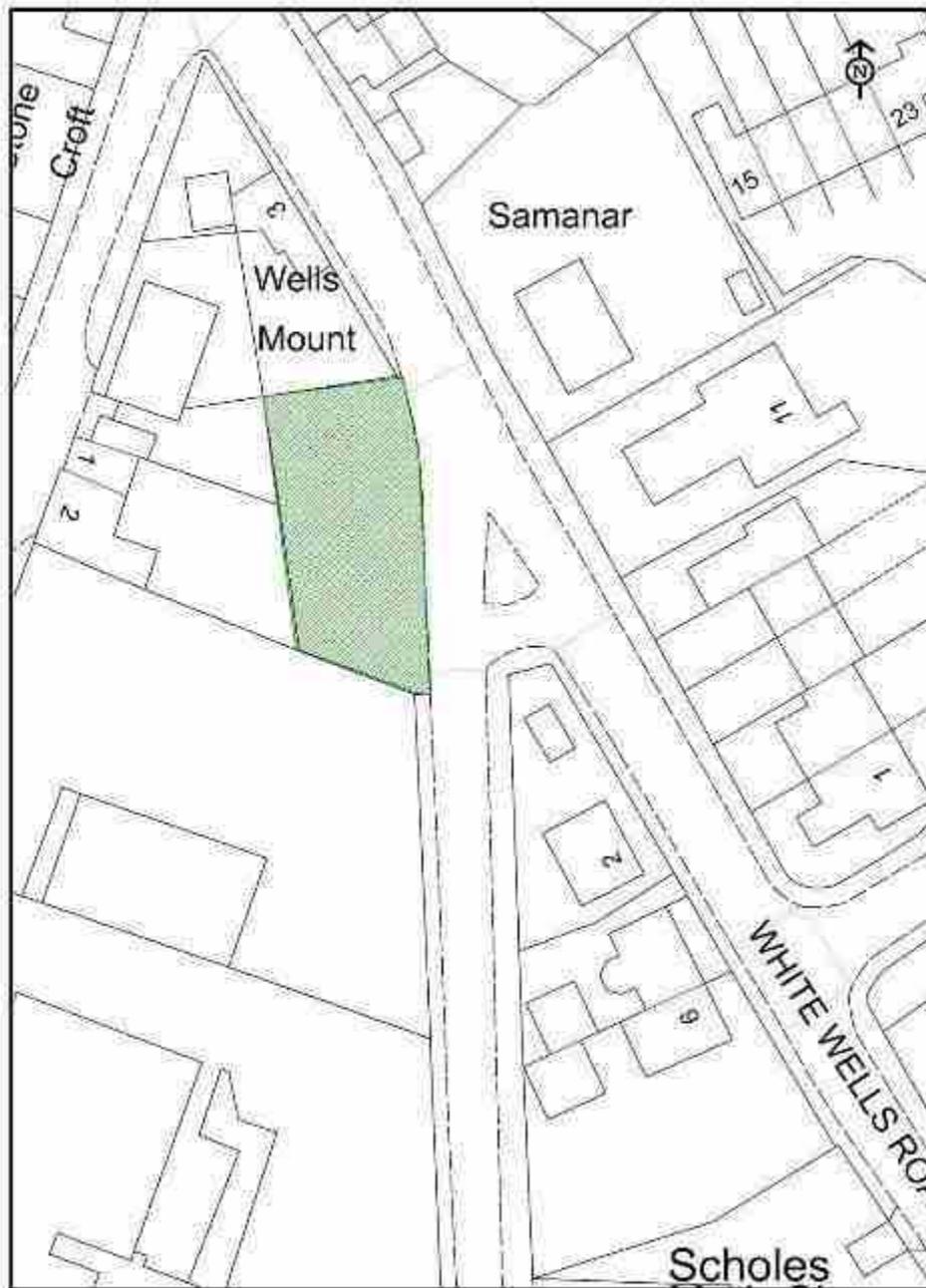
1. Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden (Map 20)
2. Scholes Sandygate Fields (Map 21)
3. Wooldale 'Chapel Field' (Map 22).
4. Hade Edge Gateway Triangle (Map 23)

Policy 10 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031
Policy LP62 Local Green Space.

Map 20 Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden

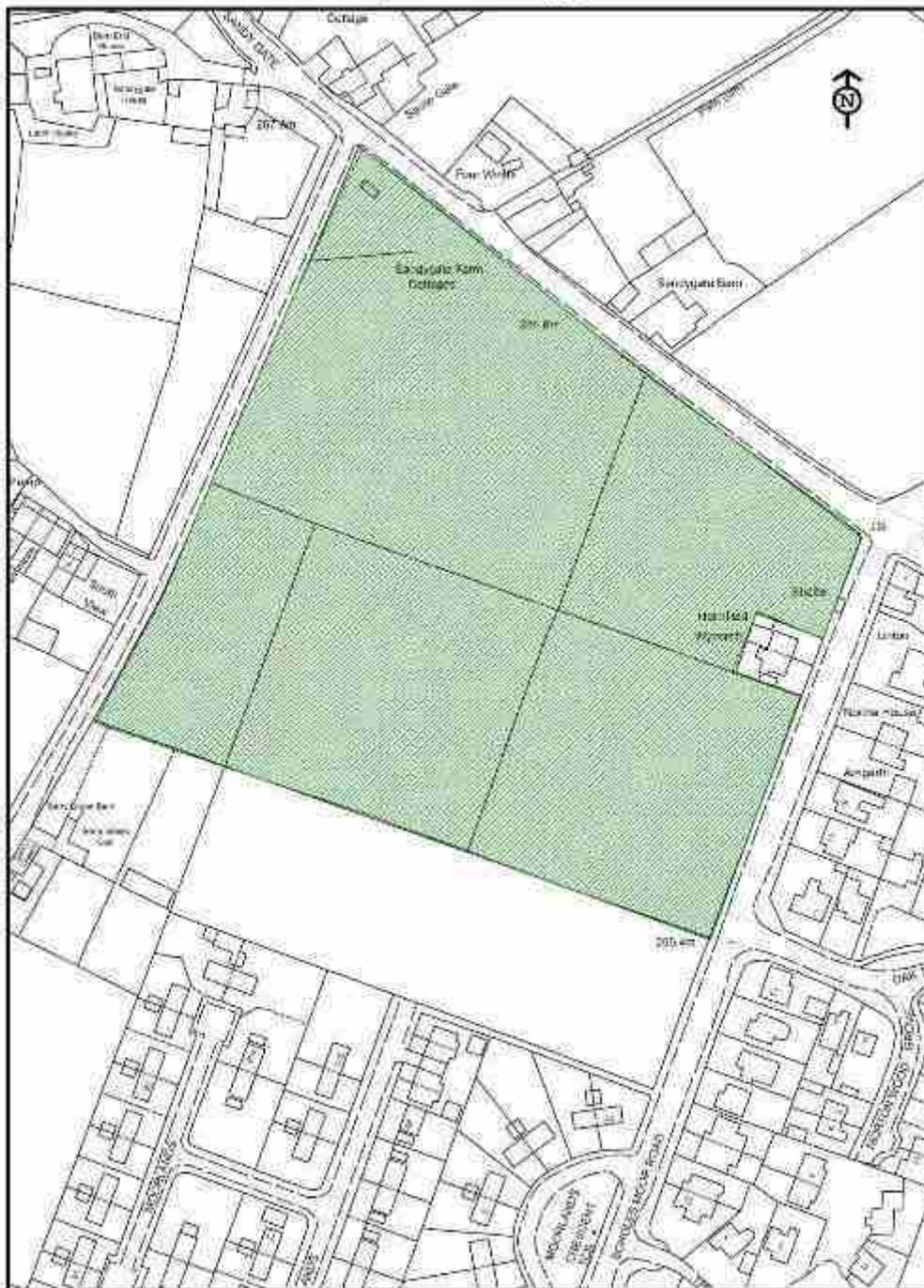
Local Green Space - Well Garden, Marsh Road, Scholes



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Map 21 Scholes Sandygate Fields

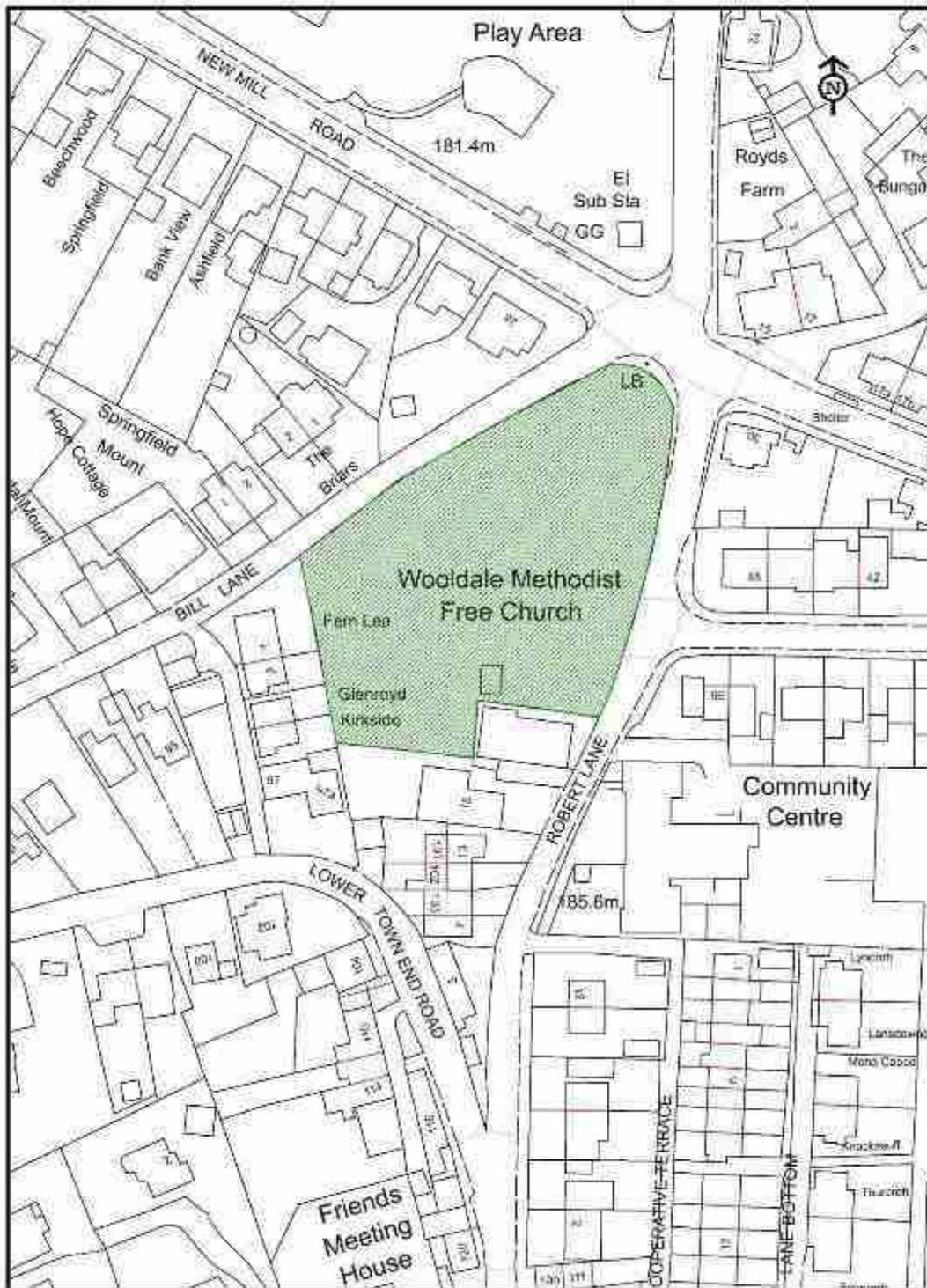
Local Green Space - Sandygate, Scholes



Copyright Ordnance Survey - PSMA Number: 0100053855

Map 22 Wooldale Chapel Field

Local Green Space - Wooldale Chapel Field



Copyright Ordnance Survey - PSMA Number: 0100053855

Map 23 Hade Edge Gateway Triangle

Local Green Space - Hade Edge ground opposite Bay Horse



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4.8 Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure

Traffic and Transport Infrastructure

4.8.1 Traffic is seen as a problem and in the 2017 consultation, improving traffic featured as the number one thing people would like to see addressed in the valley. Alongside this, the 9th highest concern was the need to slow down traffic with limiting HGVs also in the top 15 responses. Residents had suggestions which broadly tackled three issues:

- **Road safety and speed** e.g., 'Make all village centres 20mph zones, to ensure drivers are respectful of people's places where they live and feel they can walk safely'

- **Road usage and HGV traffic** e.g., and road networks; more 'unsuitable for heavy traffic' signs; one-way systems around villages; timeslots for unloading goods lorries.'

- **Road congestion** e.g., 'Solve all the traffic congestion problems, especially Holmfirth centre'.

4.8.2 Holme Valley Parish Council is not the local planning authority and does not have the powers to control, enforce or implement highway infrastructure or other infrastructure projects. The Highways planning authority within the Holme Valley is Kirklees Local Authority as there are no trunk roads through the valley. The nearest is the A628 'Woodhead Pass' which is the key route between Manchester and Sheffield. When it is closed by high winds or snowy weather, traffic is diverted through Holmfirth (via the A635) creating significant tail-backs and congestion throughout the valley. These diversions include HGVs which cause particular irritation with feedback in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation including 'do whatever we can to discourage HGVs, not make it easier for them to drive through Holmfirth' and 'prohibit HGVs from passing through Holmfirth except for access'. The key trans-Pennine routes are the A628, A62 and M62 and the increasing use of the A635 through Holmfirth as an alternative by HGVs is a source of local concern. Recent incidents with large HGVs ignoring weight limit signs and getting stuck on Hollowgate in the centre of Holmfirth have damaged infrastructure, caused significant delays and added to local frustration. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan cannot direct transport infrastructure, it can offer guidance on what the local community expects to see in terms of considerations in any transport design and improvements.



Figure 33 - Truck stuck on Hollowgate, Holmfirth & HGV damage to 'bell' protecting bridge on Hollowgate

- 4.8.3 To some extent traffic is always viewed negatively as it delays journeys and causes air pollution, but it is an inevitable result of dependence on private cars. According to the 2011 Census data on travel to work over 50% people in the Holme Valley travel to work by car or van (either as the driver or a passenger) and this inevitably has consequences for congestion particularly at peak times. As the Valley is a large semi-rural area, it is not surprising that according to the 2011 Census, over 85% households have a car or van with over 44% having two or more.
- 4.8.4 Travel to work data provided by Kirklees from the 2011 Census is given in Table 3 below and shows that 18.8% people travel to work within the Holme Valley whilst 35% travel elsewhere in Kirklees. Given that the Holme Valley is near the border of Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, it is not surprising that commuting outside of Kirklees or West Yorkshire is relatively high. The very limited public transport connectivity to these other locations contributes to a high level of commuting outside of Kirklees by car.

Table 3 Travel to Work

Work Location	People	Percentage
Greater Manchester	425	3.1%
Within Holme Valley	2619	18.8%
Elsewhere in Kirklees	4876	35.0%
Barnsley	314	2.3%
Bradford	287	2.1%
Calderdale	535	3.8%
Leeds	707	5.1%
Wakefield	395	2.8%
Sheffield	191	1.4%

Elsewhere in UK	627	4.5%
At home / not fixed	2940	21.1%
Total	13916	100.0%

Figure 34 - 2011 Travel to work data using the 3 MSOAs covering the Holme Valley area

4.8.5 Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to encourage a shift towards more sustainable use of public transport, in reality, seeking to reduce the negative impact of traffic and car use is a more realistic aim. Providing better infrastructure to accommodate electric cars through the provision of a network of charging points through the valley could encourage drivers to consider utilising a more sustainable type of car. In addition, promoting safer walking and cycle routes could help people to consider avoiding car use for short journeys. As one respondent commented in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, 'promote walking to and from school... ban parking on narrow roads, bends and village centres'. Creating a pleasant environment for walking or cycling is not a purely a result of preventing vehicular access but rather changing the emphasis so cars are not seen as the priority in particular locations such as village centres or around schools. Sustainable transport reduces reliance on imported oil, reduces carbon emissions, increases travel options, improves air quality and reduces congestion and traffic noise. It improves access to services and employment and supports community cohesion and health and quality of life. In addition to planning policies, the HVNDP also sets out a number of Actions for the Parish Council, working with other partners to address issues of accessibility and movement across the NDP area.

Infrastructure Design

- 4.8.6 The Heritage and Character Assessment report by AECOM provides more detail about the distinctive local characteristics of routes and networks in the Holme Valley. Narrow winding streets and use of stone setts in road surfaces are prevalent in built up areas, and more rural roads are often edged with grass verges and dry stone walls. The characteristics of each defined Landscape Character Area are defined in the report and summarised in paragraph 4.1.17 of the HVNDP.
- 4.8.7 In settlements it is particularly easy for the public realm to be dominated by traffic and the 2019 Holmfirth Town Centre Action Plan undertaken by Kirklees was strongly opposed by local residents when it was viewed as prioritising traffic flow over the town's heritage. The creation of a one-way system in the centre to speed up travel through the town was viewed by 80% of 2,500 consultation respondents as damaging the very character of the town causing safety concerns. Kirklees Council had never received such a high level of feedback on a scheme and are currently working on an

alternative to balance highways improvements with the public realm. Kirklees Council also recognised the high level of frustration with HGVs travelling through the centre and have reported that they are considering how to take action to reduce the use of routes through the town centre by lorries seeking diversionary routes across the Pennines. The Parish Council is supportive of any initiatives that reduce the congestion and pollution associated with large lorries based outside of the local area unnecessarily passing through our towns and villages.

- 4.8.8 Allowing the public realm to become dominated by traffic can sever connectivity for pedestrians and non-car users, reduce the quality of the environment and undermine the sense of place in a location. Honley for example has speed humps and a 20mph limit through its centre and as a result, the speed of traffic and potential conflict with other road users is reduced. Its form like many other villages includes narrow, cobbled streets and these inherent parts of the village's character limit traffic flow and speed, thereby avoiding cars dominating the centre. Many villages do not have pavements making traffic calming to create the environment safer for pedestrians particularly important. Exploring opportunities to create 20mph speed limits through the centres of towns and villages across the Holme Valley is an aspiration of this Neighbourhood Plan.



Figure 35 - Magdale Quiet Lane & 20mph speed restriction in Honley

- 4.8.9 Opportunities for pedestrianisation should be assessed; and amendments to the road layout to facilitate vehicular movement should be a consideration, whilst creating more public space and opportunities for shared surfaces, where safe and practical to do so. Holmfirth in particular attracts a large number of visitors for its festivals and its long history as a tourist location and the ease of access along streets, footpaths for all users including those using wheelchairs, pushchairs and partially sighted users' needs to be considered. As a resident commented in the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, 'Holmfirth is dreadful for wheelchair users...no use getting into town in the

car and then getting stuck on the pavement'. Creating shared spaces or surfaces, rather than segregating traffic from pedestrians can potentially both enhance the public realm and improve safety.

- 4.8.10 There is one road in the Valley, Magdale, which is a 'Quiet Lane' which is a shared space for pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists and cars and encourages careful driving by highlighting its mixed use. Whilst the principle of slow considerate driving along the many narrow rural roads in the Valley, where people may wish to walk, cycle or ride, is welcomed, the Neighbourhood Plan does not wish to identify a list of other locations which could become official 'Quiet Lanes'. Where specific locations are identified by the local community, this should be considered but a balance must be struck between providing signage and potentially undermining the appearance of the rural landscape. In addition, by identifying specific routes, this could by default lead to the assumption that all other unmarked roads should be dominated by motorised traffic. However, a number of opportunities are available in terms of encouraging more considerate driving such as the use of mirrors round corners, verges being cut back less frequently to give the appearance of a narrower road and public awareness about popular walking routes.
- 4.8.11 The Peak District has recently published a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on transport design policy within the Peak District and this is open to consultation. As part of the Holme Valley (Holme village) sits within the Peak District, it would apply in that area and it offers many useful principles which could equally apply to the wider Holme Valley. According to the document, "the SPD will be used to ensure that the purposes and special qualities of the National Park are reflected in the planning, designing and installing of transport infrastructure. For this to be achieved there is a need for a consensual approach with stakeholders, in particular with transport infrastructure providers."
- 4.8.12 The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan would like to capture some of these Peak District principles regarding transport infrastructure planning and these are reflected in Policy 11. Fundamentally, street layout will vary from village to village, so it is important to reflect specific local character in a particular settlement. An element of road infrastructure, such as a junction on a rural road, may be considered relatively low in impact when viewed only as the metalled road surface itself. However, once the need for road widening, signage, visibility splays, verges, drainage, fencing, and changes to boundary walls or hedges is considered, the overall result can be a significant change in the character of the place. Any design process for highways should therefore be holistic and consider both the safety of road users and its specific location and sense of place.

4.8.13 The key principle which the Neighbourhood Plan wishes to highlight is that traffic flow is clearly important as it is a vital part of residents and businesses transporting themselves and their goods around the Valley. However, it must not dominate the environment and conflict with the character of the area which is so important to the community. Road widening to accommodate new vehicle movements should consider the aesthetic and traffic flow effect of the removal of verges and dry-stone walls and changes to the local character should be limited.

Parking

4.8.14 Parking is a source of local frustration with regular complaints about car parking provision in the settlements but also the proliferation of on-street parking which in turn narrows local roads. Respondents to the 2017 consultation cited 'better roads' and 'more parking' in their top five infrastructure changes with one person saying 'The road system and network needs addressing. The valley is already choked by cars and the level of roadside parking is ridiculous'.

4.8.15 The topography of the valley is a constraint on road design and traffic is concentrated on the main roads which creates congestion particularly in Holmfirth, New Mill and Honley Bridge. As the number of households rises, there is concern that the roads will become more congested and alongside traffic flow, the number of cars parked on the highway will increase. There is a balance to be struck with encouraging private parking off the highway and recognising that parked cars along the side of roads such as the Woodhead Road and Huddersfield Road act as informal traffic calming measures by slowing vehicles down. Judicious use of passing places with appropriate 'white lining' may help enable traffic flow and reduce the risk of gridlock whilst not unreasonably limiting the parking required for houses built before the advent of the car. The excessive use of white lines and road markings should be avoided within conservation areas to reduce the dominance of highways over the local character.

4.8.16 In many villages, houses pre-date the car so parking is in the front gardens or converted outbuildings. This approach can work as the car is often screened behind boundary walls or vegetation and its presence is intermittent and not permanent, thereby limiting its visual impact. However, within Conservation Areas in particular, the loss of front gardens to parking may create a negative impact on setting as well as having sustainability implications in terms of water run-off. In some areas such as the historic centres of Upperthong, Hepworth, Netherthong, where the houses do not have gardens, the result has been increased pressures from high levels of on-street parking. The narrow lanes are often constrained and create pinch-points for traffic to the frustration of local residents.



Figure 36 - Narrow streets in Netherthong & Upperthong

- 4.8.17 Parking provision is a challenge in the valley as workers and residents wish to have long-term parking whilst shoppers and visitors often only need short-stay provision. People want to park close to the facilities they wish to access. In Holmfirth for example, the lack of long-stay parking for workers and the opportunity to park at no cost on residential streets has led to all day parking along the key routes into the town such as the Greenfield, Huddersfield, Dunford, Station and Woodhead Roads. This causes frustration for residents who cannot park outside their properties and in specific places on the Dunford and Station Road, bays have been marked out for permit parking. This may provide localised relief for residents but does little to improve the situation for workers within the town, which as considered in the economy section of this plan, are a key part of retaining a sustainable town centre. Encouraging new ways of maximising existing parking provision and helping facilitate temporary solutions is the short-term aim but in the long run, improving access to non-vehicular or public transport is essential.
- 4.8.18 The Parish Council would like to see more imaginative solutions for effective parking provision such as the use of underground designs, screened communal parking and temporary parking provision for large events. This can be seen when the Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival uses part of Sands Recreation Ground as a 'park and walk' facility to accommodate the visitors in addition to the normal parking provision in the town centre. This approach is encouraged and the work by River Holme Connections to enhance riverside walkways into Holmfirth from both the Sands and Holmbridge may improve the viability of promoting the use of 'park and walk' and cycling access for visitors all year round.

Accessibility and Public Transport

- 4.8.19 Enabling residents and visitors to access services and facilities within the Valley is a crucial part of maintaining a thriving community. The built heritage often has steep steps and narrow lanes to fit within the varied topography which can pose challenges for maintaining accessibility for all. The traditional setts, snickets and steps to enter shops can make access

difficult particularly in the towns and villages for those with limited mobility or encumbered by pushchairs. It is important that consideration is given to improving access wherever possible for example through the inclusion of lifts in public buildings, disabled parking bays and handrails on steep ramps or steps. In addition, opportunities to explore more shared space rather than seeking to segregate pedestrians from cars would be welcomed.

- 4.8.20 Accessibility is important in terms of encouraging more sustainable means of travel either through private or public transport and LP20 of the Kirklees Local Plan relates to sustainable travel.
- 4.8.21 The Holme Valley has two train stations at Honley and Brockholes and these currently offer an hourly service towards Huddersfield or Sheffield. These stations are part of the Penistone Line Partnership which is a voluntary organisation which supports and promotes community involvement along the Huddersfield to Sheffield railway line. It draws together train operator Northern, Network Rail, local authorities and users to raise awareness of the railway in the local community, promote and market it more effectively, develop ideas and arrange funding for local improvements. Any move to increase services on these routes would be supported by this Neighbourhood Plan as would any opportunities to improve awareness of the journeys available particularly for bringing in visitors to events.



Figure 37 - Honley Train Station & Local Minibus Service in Holmfirth Bus Station

- 4.8.22 Historically, there was a train line into Holmfirth but this was closed in 1965 and whilst some residents called for its reopening in the Pre-Regulation consultation, in reality much of the line has been sold off for development so this is not a realistic prospect. Similarly, opportunities to create a 'parkway' facility in terms of large parking areas at Honley and Brockholes stations to allow people to drive to the station and then travel by train to further destinations are thwarted by the recent development of land near these stations. This is regrettable but there are still ways to support improved services for those able to readily access train services in that part of the Valley whilst encouraging connectivity between other transport and the stations.

- 4.8.23 Whilst not strictly public transport, taxis are often a lifeline for those unable to drive as well as those wishing to use them for an evening out. They can offer a convenient and affordable means of travelling, particularly if shared. Provision of appropriate taxi ranks in Holmfirth and Honley is therefore supported.

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.8.24 Views on the current provision of public transport were mixed in the 2017 consultation with some commenting that the 'public transport network is good' but others saying, 'I would like to be able to use more public transport, but it is just not practical'. Overall, the highest response about how easy people found it to move around the Valley and further afield was 'good by car or using my own transport' with 'poor or impractical public transport' in second place. However nearly 75% respondents indicated that it was very easy or easy to move around the Holme Valley and further afield with only 4% saying it was very difficult. Anecdotally, those who are frequent users of the bus services think they offer good connectivity towards Huddersfield in particular and the network of mini-buses currently subsidised by the Parish Council help maintain connectivity between the villages. Providing a range of bus services which support both weekday journeys to school, work and college, also needs to be supported by effective journey opportunities for leisure including Sunday services and evening opportunities.

Cycling and pedestrian access

- 4.8.25 Cycling in the valley can be challenging given the steep hills but roads in the valley bottom such as the Woodhead / Huddersfield Road provide relatively level routes into Huddersfield. Opportunities to improve routes for cycling are encouraged at a Kirklees level. Parts of the Huddersfield Road from Thongsbridge already have marked cycle lanes and cycling has a strong presence in the valley as a leisure pursuit with Holmfirth Cycling Club having over 400 members after its creation in 2013.
- 4.8.26 As well as cycling purely for pleasure, there is considerable potential to grow the number of people who may choose to cycle for regular short journeys within the valley as electric bikes become more affordable and they provide access for more people on the challenging topography. To encourage this, provision of racks for bicycles in central locations and near community facilities within Holmfirth and Honley are required so users have the confidence that secure locations are available to park their bicycles. The Parish Council's recent Climate Emergency Action Plan includes the aim to 'promote a walking and cycling culture, reducing the need for vehicle transport whilst also improving our health and well-being etc, providing pathways, cycle routes and safe parking facilities for bikes, trikes, cargo-bikes and e-bikes'.

- 4.8.27 Cycling and walking need to be safe, desirable alternatives to private car use and effective planning can help facilitate this. For example, in highways planning, opportunities to improve access for bicycles should be considered with cyclists allowed to use lanes in both directions on one-way streets and the use of advanced waiting areas at key traffic lights. This should be considered on a location by location basis but when consideration for cycling is included from the outset, all road users can benefit. Similarly offering well-maintained, direct and appropriately lit walkways to schools and local facilities will make walking a more attractive option for all ages. For example, joining up key sections of route such as linking the riverside walking route from Holmbridge into Holmfirth in the Prickleden Mills area and connecting off-road paths from Sands Recreation Ground to Thongsbridge would create attractive alternatives for those reluctant to walk along the busy A6024 or A635.
- 4.8.28 The Travel to Work data identified that nearly 5% people walk to work which is slightly higher than other Kirklees Rural locations such as Kirkburton but is still lower than the more urban parts of Kirklees. This is not surprising given the dispersed nature of settlements across the valley. Means of travel to work are related to distance but there is an opportunity to combine both easy access with economic growth in the local area. If people are able to enjoy the natural environment, access good quality local facilities and feel safe walking along routes into village and town centres, they are more likely to choose to walk. Improving pedestrian access can be as simple as maintaining the existing network of footpaths and bridleways across the valley. Holmepride for example has worked hard to clear overgrown paths around Holmfirth, whilst Friends of Holmfirth Library and Tourist Information Centre organised a 'Walking Festival' in September 2018 to celebrate the opportunities for walking in the area. A Holmfirth Walkers are Welcome group has also now developed in the valley with walking clearly a popular pastime for locals and visitors alike.
- 4.8.29 Improving pedestrian access has many benefits in terms of access for residents, making the area more desirable as a visitor destination and improving health alongside potentially reducing congestion through fewer car journeys. The Neighbourhood Plan supports traffic calming measures on key walking routes to schools for example to be considered so those who wish to walk to school can actively choose to do so rather than regard it as a last resort. As already outlined in Policy 6, new developments should encourage opportunities to both walk and cycle in their designs.
- 4.8.30 Kirklees Walking and Cycling Strategic Framework 2018 - 2030 sets out that the Strategic Framework will:
- Help make walking and cycling of all types more attractive and available for the benefit of all sectors of the Kirklees community.

- Help raise awareness and understanding of the many benefits of being more active and travelling in a more sustainable way.
- Influence other people's agendas and decision makers in the allocation of resources.
- Enable co-operation with other agencies at district, sub-regional and regional levels on a co-ordinated basis.
- Ensure that new infrastructure is appropriate.
- Encourage us to question how we travel.
- Use local and national evidence to support planning and interventions.

4.8.31 In the NDP area, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT) have been working to identify how a cycle way could be created to link the Holme Valley to Huddersfield. *'The proposal seeks to create, as far as possible, an off road cycle path between the town centres of Huddersfield and Holmfirth, together with link paths from other significant Holme Valley settlements, notably Honley, Brockholes, Netherthong, New Mill and Wooldale. In addition to these settlements there are a number of other significant workplace and school destinations linked to or on the proposed route, notably Thongsbridge, Armitage Bridge, Lockwood, Folly Hall, Kirklees College, and Honley and Holmfirth High Schools. Where an off road path is not considered to be achievable, the proposed route utilises the road network, with appropriate amendments and improvements to create a safe cycling environment. Existing routes include some off road paths which are usable and used currently for cycling, and which will become part of the complete route, subject to any necessary improvements. Where off road paths connect to the road network, and for on road elements of the route, improvements to create a safe cycling environment are proposed.'* A map of the proposed route can be found on the HoTT website at:

<https://hott.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/cycle-2015.pdf> .

4.8.32 We have sought to bring together all the themes around transport and accessibility in the following policy, whilst recognising that elements of them are contained in other NDP policies around design and public realm. Whilst some elements are not within the remit of the NDP, there are positive ways that the Parish Council can work with other bodies to improve transport across the valley and these have been captured as actions.



Figure 38 - Leisure on footpaths, bridleways and quiet rural roads in the valley

Policy 11: Improving Transport, Accessibility and Local Infrastructure

Traffic Management and Design

1. In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, proposals should follow the principles set out in Kirklees Council's latest guidance on highway design¹⁷. In the part of the Neighbourhood Area which is in the Peak District National Park Authority Area proposals should follow the principles set out in the Peak District National Park Authority Transport Design Guide.
2. Traffic management interventions should be designed on the basis of two principles:
 - The user hierarchy set out in the Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP20 and
 - Interventions that are the minimum necessary to achieve the traffic management objective and which do not adversely impact on the historic environment and public realm.
3. Any highway works associated with new development should aim to protect the key characteristics of the Landscape Character Areas of the Holme Valley. These include for example grass verges, traditional road surfaces such as stone setts, and dry-stone walls as reflected in other policies. Road widening schemes to improve traffic flow should also consider potential impacts on non-car users (pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and wheelchair users).

Accessibility and Infrastructure

4. All development proposals should take opportunities to provide safe access to local streets, footpaths, and publicly accessible spaces for all users to help support healthier lifestyles and active travel. Developments adjacent to the River Holme should consider access improvements to the River Holme footpath network.
5. Existing local green infrastructure should not be compromised by new development, and proposals to enhance access, particularly to the River Holme for leisure activities, will be supported.
6. Highway layouts should be imaginative in approach and include traffic calmed streets using a sense of enclosure to reflect the

¹⁷ Current guidance is in the Kirklees Highways Design Supplementary Planning Document November 2019

traditional design and layout found in the Valley.

7. Designs should take account of and link to public transport, pedestrian and cycle routes especially where these can provide safe and convenient routes to schools, local shops and other facilities. The potential to connect the new development to the existing settlement by providing pedestrian and other non-vehicular routes through the site should be fully explored.

Parking Provision and Standards

8. Where planning permission is required proposals to convert existing garaging into non-parking provision will be discouraged unless suitable alternative off-road parking is available.
9. In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, proposals to develop 'park and walk' or 'park and ride' facilities where planning permission is required (e.g to access Holmfirth Town Centre) will be supported provided they mitigate any detrimental impact on the landscape through appropriate surfacing and screening as necessary. Park and ride would not be appropriate in the Peak District National Park part of the Neighbourhood Area as it would harm the valued characteristics of the area.
10. New developments in that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, should provide off-road parking provision in line with Kirklees Local Plan policy LP22 (Parking) and the Council's latest guidance on highway design¹⁸. In the Peak District National Park parking provision should accord with Peak District Local Plan Part 2 Policies DMT6-8 and associated parking standards.
11. Parking areas should be designed sensitively and use suitable materials which are sympathetic to the character of the local area. Proposals should also aim to maximise accessibility for all groups through careful and considerate design.
12. Where communal parking is required for apartment development, it should be conveniently located close to the dwellings it is intended to serve.

Policy 11 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031
Policy LP20 Sustainable travel

¹⁸ As above in footnote 18.

Policy LP21 Highways and access
Policy LP22 Parking
Policy LP23 Core walking and cycling network.

Holme Valley Parish Actions 22 - 47

Parish Actions relating to traffic, transport and parking are set out in Appendix 1.

4.9 Sustainability and Biodiversity

Introduction and Background

4.9.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is keen to support the development of the Holme Valley as a low carbon neighbourhood in order to:

- Improve health
- Empower the community
- Improve quality of life
- Benefit the local economy
- Improve resilience
- Address climate change
- Reduce energy bills

Public Consultation and Engagement

4.9.2 In our 2017 consultation, eco / sustainable housing was cited by over 150 consultees as a consideration for any additional housing built in the Valley. Comments included 'All new housing should be eco or sustainable as an investment for the future' with another stating that they 'would love to see modern eco houses added to the stock to accentuate the higgledypigledyness of the Holmfirth area'. The importance of the local landscape and environment has already been highlighted with wildlife and biodiversity featuring highly as features of the Valley needing protection.

Actions to tackle the Climate Emergency

4.9.3 The Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019, pledging that the Parish would become carbon neutral by 2030, in order to 'help in making our planet safe for ourselves, our children and future generations'. A formal Action Plan was developed and adopted in October 2019 and the Parish Council established a Climate Change Committee with dedicated budget to drive forward a number of projects through 2020 and beyond. The summary leaflet detailing the Action Plan is available at Appendix 7. This demonstrates the high level of community interest and engagement in sustainability and how it has emerged as a clear local priority. This Action Plan has calculated the carbon emissions of the Holme Valley as about 180,000 tonnes per year and sought to identify the relative contribution of eight different elements, all of which have local actions associated with them.

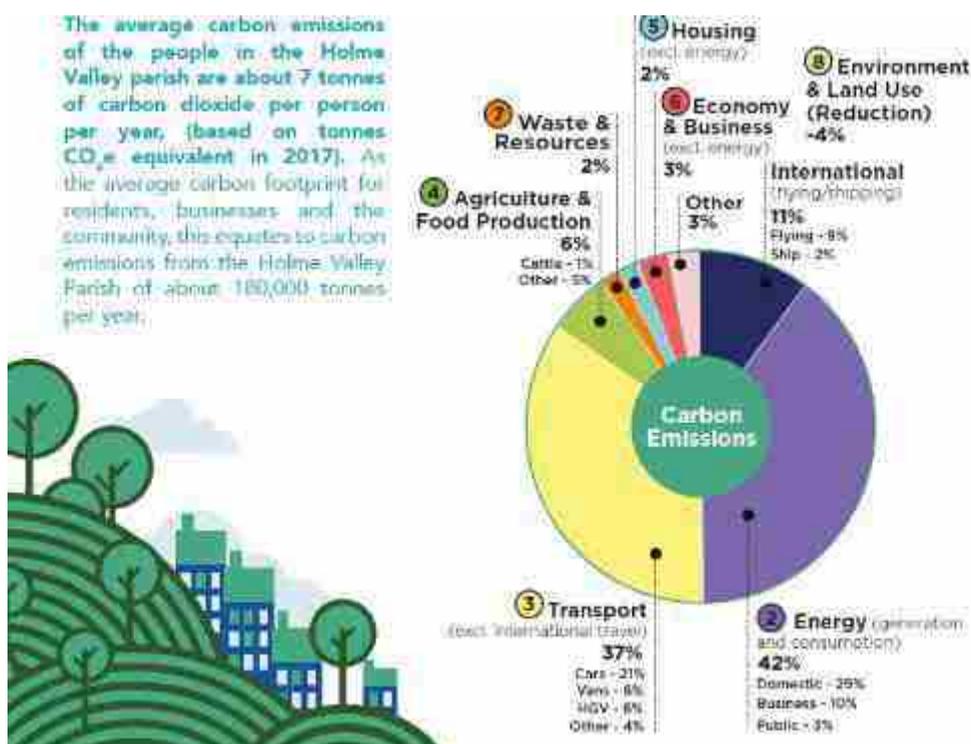


Figure 39 - Carbon Emissions in the Holme Valley (Climate Emergency Action Plan)

- 4.9.4 A local community group, Holmfirth Transition Town (HoTT) started in the valley in 2010 and has been involved in a number of initiatives with the aim of encouraging sustainable low-carbon living in the Holme Valley. It has been instrumental in the local Affordable Warmth Initiative, preparing Feasibility Studies for Energy Projects and raising awareness of the implications of climate change.
- 4.9.5 The dairy, Longley Farm, is a long-standing and important employer in the valley based in Hade Edge and it installed the first commercial wind turbine in the UK, in November 1986. Its aim was to provide a degree of energy security for the Longley Farm Dairy at a time of great uncertainty in the energy market, but with sensitivity to the landscape and local people.



Figure 40 - Community Wind Turbine 'HoTTWind@Longley' & HoTT Edible 'community garden'

- 4.9.6 When the turbine reached the end of its operational life, HoTT worked with Longley Farm to launch its first community energy project for a 225-kW wind turbine near Holmfirth. This renewable energy scheme, known as HoTTWind@Longley near Hade Edge, is in its third year of operation with some 180 investor members, 80% from the Holme Valley. This project generates enough green energy to supply 188 homes saving about 287 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year and is also generating funds for more low-carbon projects in the Holme Valley through the Bright Green Community Trust. Over its 20-year lifetime, the turbine is expected to provide local organisations in excess of £500,000 of funding to help deliver a greener cleaner valley and encourage more sustainable living.
- 4.9.7 In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published Net Zero – The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming. The report responded to a request from the Governments of the UK, Wales and Scotland, asking the Committee to reassess the UK’s long-term emissions targets. The CCC recommended a new emissions target for the UK:
- A net-zero GHG target for 2050 will deliver on the commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement. It is achievable with known technologies, alongside improvements in people’s lives, and within the expected economic cost that Parliament accepted when it legislated the existing 2050 target for an 80% reduction from 1990.
 - However, this is only possible if clear, stable and well-designed policies to reduce emissions further are introduced across the economy without delay.
 - In June 2019, the updated target was legislated by the UK Government.¹⁹
- 4.9.8 Reaching net-zero emissions requires an annual rate of emissions reduction (15 MtCO₂e per year, 3% of 2018 emissions); that is 50% higher than under the UK’s previous 2050 target and 30% higher than achieved on average since 1990. This is an indication of how substantial the step up in action must be to cut emissions in every sector.
- 4.9.9 The NDP has an objective to promote sustainability, reduce impact on climate change and move towards a zero-carbon local economy by 2030, which is the driver behind our policy on sustainability. Whilst sustainability is a principle which applies to all elements of life, we have separated it into two elements: one which is focused on human activity (Policy 12) and the other which focuses on wildlife and biodiversity (Policy 13). They should both be read in conjunction with all other policies as they indicate the aspirations of the community to ensure that the Holme Valley makes a contribution towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. In the Pre-Regulation 14 consultation, 97% respondents supported the proposed sustainability policy with comments such as ‘I would like this policy to be more prominent in the plan’ and ‘I would like to see it further integrated into all other policies in the plan’. Whilst we have sought to reflect sustainability principles in the other policies, we still felt it was important that there was also a stand-alone policy which captured the overall aims of sustainability as well as a specific policy highlighting biodiversity. The Valley has an important role in biodiversity in Kirklees in terms of its sites of environmental significance as listed in Appendix 3 and the

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>

breeding sites it has for lapwings and curlews. The policies have been informed by the guidance document produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on 'Low-carbon Neighbourhood Planning'.



Figure 41 - Protected birds: Lapwing & Curlew

4.9.10 The three different elements of the policy are:

a) Renewable energy

Building renewable energy sources reduces reliance on fossil fuels, decarbonises energy supply and balances local supply with demand to increase local resilience. Community energy projects create revenues that can be reinvested in the community and have the potential to reduce energy bills and fuel poverty. Holmfirth lies at a high elevation ideal for efficient wind turbine production of energy and its south facing hillsides offer opportunities to consider small scale solar arrays where they can be achieved in a manner sympathetic to the aesthetics of the landscape. District heating from renewable resources can reduce local reliance on fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions and reduce heating costs. The Holme Valley is underlain by Millstone Grit Sandstone which is suitable for the production of open loop ground source heating. The cost and efficiency of renewable energy is improving as technology evolves and this NDP wants to encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources in all new build wherever possible.

b) Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency such as updated boilers, double / triple glazing and insulation reduces reliance on finite sources of fossil fuels, improves comfort and health in warmer homes, reduces energy bills and fuel poverty. It also decarbonises energy supply and reduces reliance on imported oil and gas. Developers are encouraged to carry out a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) sustainability assessment method if a proposal falls within its remit. BREEAM provides third party certification of the assessment of an asset's environmental, social and economic sustainability performance allowing it to be compared to other developments. It works to raise awareness amongst owners, occupiers and designers of the benefits of taking a sustainability approach. It helps them to successfully adopt sustainable solutions in a cost effective manner and provides market recognition of their achievements thereby seeking to reduce the negative effects of construction and development on the environment.

In the Peak District National Park Authority part of the Neighbourhood Area, renewable energy generation will be permitted only where valued character is not compromised and proposals for anaerobic digestion must be related to individual farms or those in close proximity. 'Moorland areas' within the NDP are in the natural zone where development is not permitted.

c) Sustainable living

In addition to planning policies, the NDP includes various Actions for the Parish Council, working with other bodies, to promote more sustainable lifestyle choices for everyone. Encouraging effective recycling and reducing plastic usage is an important way to reduce expensive landfill and protect the local environment by limiting the amount of litter which is visible on verges and in the river. This is important both from an environmental point of view in terms of harm caused to wildlife but also undermines the Valley's desire to offer an attractive landscape which will bring visitors and tourists to the area. Living sustainably also involves using local shops and services thereby reducing food miles and supporting the development of community gardens and allotments. Kirklees Council's Open Space Assessment Report 2015 (Revised 2016) set out that *'17% of respondents from the Kirklees Rural area and 12.4% of respondents from the Batley and Spennings Dale area are very or quite dissatisfied with the availability of allotments. This may reflect the lower number of allotment sites available within these areas and the high number of people identified on allotment waiting lists in these areas.'* Sustainable living decreases reliance on imported food and goods, reduces waste and increases health and well-being. HoTT established a HoTT Edible group in 2017 which following the lead of local towns such as Todmorden 'Incredible Edible' initiative has established new community food growing areas such as by Holmfirth Library and Longley's Café in Holmfirth. Supporting the use of local shops and services and maintaining their viability helps reduce food miles and initiatives to 'buy local' should be encouraged as they not only reduce the impact on the environment but also support the local economy. Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP43 Waste management hierarchy sets out that the council will encourage and support the minimisation of waste production, and support the re-use and recovery of waste materials including, for example, recycling, composting and Energy from Waste recovery.

A range of Parish Council Actions are set out to complement NDP Policy 12 and to promote more sustainable lifestyles locally.

Policy 12: Promoting Sustainability

All development is expected to be designed to contribute to the following elements of sustainability and all major development (as defined in the NPPF) must prepare a sustainability statement which outlines how the development will contribute.

Promoting Renewable Energy

1. In that part of the neighbourhood area where Kirklees Council is the local planning authority, proposals for individual and community scale energy from hydro-electric, solar photovoltaic panels, biomass, anaerobic air digestion and ground source heating will be supported where they can be achieved without conflicting with the NDP policies to protect and enhance the landscape and built character of the Valley.
2. New developments should develop opportunities to deliver on site heat networks using renewable energy sources.

Energy Efficiency

3. Sustainable, energy efficient designs should be used in all new buildings.
4. All new non-residential buildings should be designed to achieve a BREEAM rating of excellent or outstanding.
5. All new buildings should aim to meet a high level of sustainable, design and construction and be optimised for energy efficiency, targeting zero carbon emissions. This might include:
 - a. Orientation to optimise passive solar gain.
 - b. Use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials, subject to consideration of local character and context - see Policies 1 and 2.
 - c. Installation of loft and wall insulation and double/triple glazing.
6. All new buildings should incorporate technologies which generate or source energy from renewable, low carbon sources.
7. Retrofitting of older properties to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy is encouraged where proposals are sensitive to local character. Alterations to existing properties where planning permission is required should be designed to reduce energy demand and comply with sustainable design and construction.

Encouraging Sustainable Living

8. The inclusion in development proposals of community gardens and further allotment space in the valley for local food growing will be supported.

The requirements of this policy will be expected to be met unless it can be demonstrated that this would render the development unviable. In this case, developers must demonstrate that they have worked with third parties, (commercial and community), to assess the viability of opportunities.

Policy 12 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP1 Presumption in favour of sustainable development

Policy LP24 Design.

Policy LP26 Renewable and low carbon energy

Peak District National Park Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD 2011 - 2026

L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics

CC1: Climate change mitigation and adaptation

CC2: Low carbon and renewable energy development

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

DMC2 Protecting and managing the Natural Zone

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- 4.9.11 Green infrastructure is essential to health and well-being and is a crucial element in adapting to climate change and protecting biodiversity. Green spaces should provide a habitat for wildlife, routes for walking and cycling, space for food growing, regulation of microclimates and increased flood retention and reduced surface water run-off. The Holme Valley has a key role to play in supporting biodiversity as outlined in the Kirklees Biodiversity Strategy which highlights the economic and social importance of managing land for biodiversity. The NDP area is in the south west of Kirklees and as can be seen from Figure 43, it features several of the key Biodiversity Opportunity Zones.



Figure 42 - Local wildlife: Heron & Brown Hare

- 4.9.12 Local organisations such as River Holme Connections are working hard to tackle invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam along the riverbank and have raised awareness of the issue amongst 1,600 school children in 2017. Educating young people about valuing their environment is also a key element of the Forest Schools initiative which as mentioned earlier in the plan, we are keen to support. Encouraging awareness of how we can actively improve biodiversity, not just halt its decline is essential if the Holme Valley is to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability.
- 4.9.13 We support the positive action being led by Kirklees to improve biodiversity and local group, River Holme Connections is working with a number of different organisations including Yorkshire Water, Aire & Calder Catchment Partnership (ACCP), Peak Park and the Environment Agency on partnerships to improve the river catchment in the Holme Valley. This includes supporting better ecological quality and River Holme Connections commissioned a report through the Wild Trout Trust to identify ways of raising the quality from moderate to good over forthcoming years. This partnership working and engagement between experts and local people is encouraged.

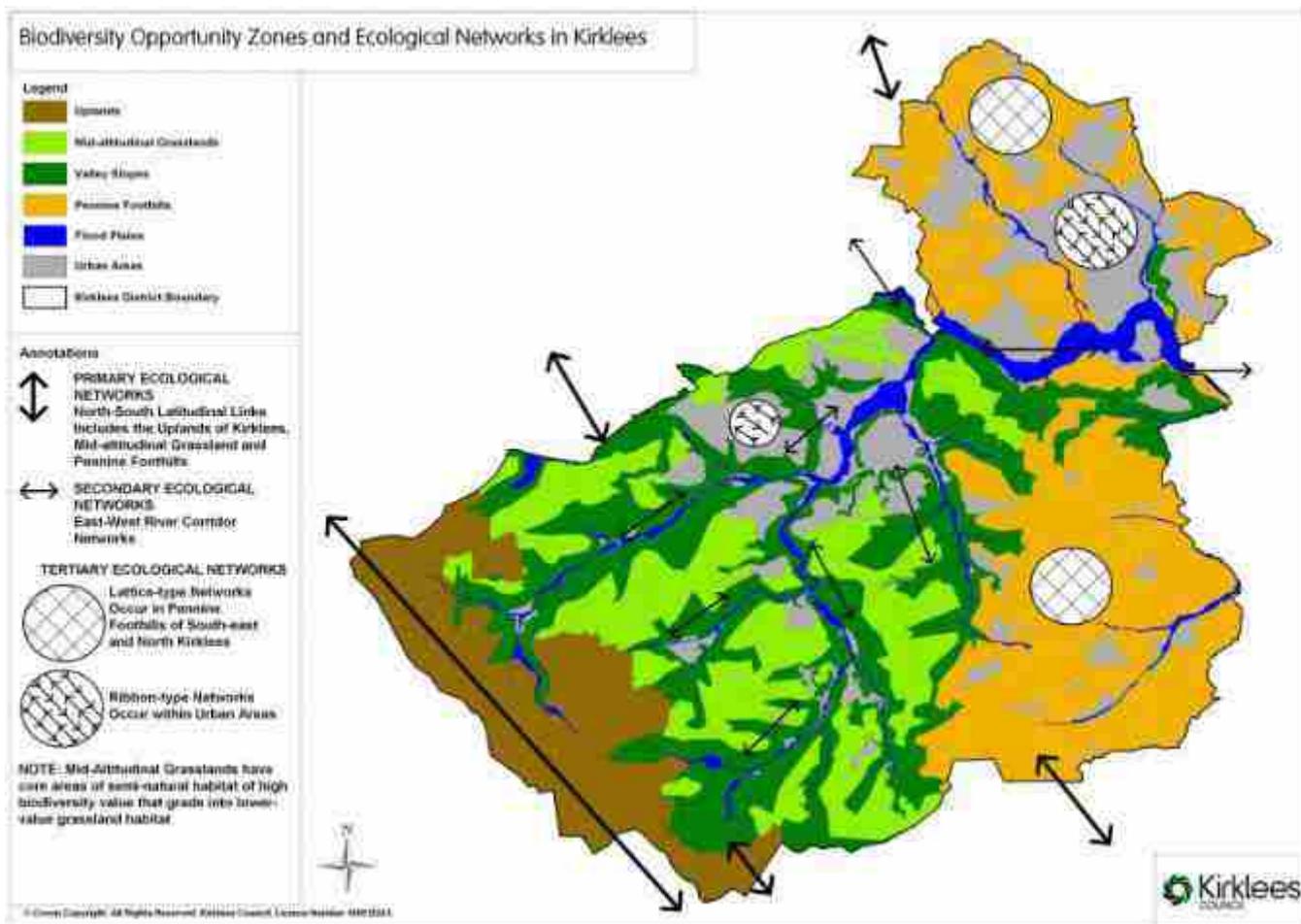


Figure 43 - Map of the Biodiversity Opportunity Zones & Ecological Networks in Kirklees

- 4.9.14 In their response to the Regulation 14 public consultation (and other informal public consultations) and following the SEA process, Kirklees Council recommended the addition of a further Policy in the NDP to protect and enhance local biodiversity. Policy 13 Biodiversity has been prepared to add additional detail to Local Plan Policy LP30 Biodiversity and Geodiversity.
- 4.9.15 Paragraph 170 of the NPPF advises that '*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: ... d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.*' Where appropriate, biodiversity offsetting is an option available to developers to fulfil their obligations under the planning system's mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, mitigation, compensation, net gain).
- 4.9.16 Biodiversity net gain delivers measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with development. Biodiversity net gain can be achieved on-site, off-site or through a combination of on-site and off-site measures. The biodiversity net gain approach involves the use of a metric to calculate the difference in a score, expressed in 'biodiversity units', for a site prior to development and post development. This score is based on the extent, type, quality, connectivity and strategic location of the habitats present, and development proposals are required to demonstrate a proportional increase in biodiversity units.
- 4.9.17 A biodiversity net gain can be achieved through a variety of measures, including retaining and improving existing biodiversity features on-site but also through the creation of new biodiversity opportunities, such as creating green corridors, planting trees or forming natural spaces, either within the development site or off-site elsewhere. In circumstances where mitigation is not possible developers may be required to pay a levy for habitat creation or improvement elsewhere.
- 4.9.18 Such biodiversity net gain can be achieved through development by:
1. managing habitats retained within the development site to improve quality;
 2. securing local off-site habitat management to provide an overall benefit;
 3. a combination of the above.

Policy 13: Protecting Wildlife and Securing Biodiversity Net Gain

All development proposals should demonstrate how biodiversity will be protected and enhanced including the local wildlife, ecological networks, designated Local Wildlife Sites and habitats.

New development should create a measurable net gain in natural capital and biodiversity in accordance with the latest national and local guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain²⁰.

A biodiversity net gain will be expected to be achieved through development by:

1. managing habitats retained within the development site to improve quality and / or;
2. securing local off-site habitat management to provide an overall benefit.

Direct and indirect impacts upon biodiversity and/or geodiversity should be avoided. Where impacts cannot be avoided, mitigation and then as a last resort compensatory measures (for example biodiversity offsetting) should be provided.

Policy 13 is in general conformity with:

Kirklees Local Plan - Strategies and Policies 2013 – 2031

Policy LP30 Biodiversity & Geodiversity

Peak District National Park Local Development Framework Core Strategy DPD 2011 - 2026

L2: Sites of biodiversity or geodiversity importance

Peak District National Park Development Management Policies Part 2 of the Local Plan for the Peak District National Park, up to 2026

DMC2 Protecting and managing the Natural Zone

DMC11 Safeguarding, recording and enhancing nature conservation interests

Holme Valley Parish Actions 48 - 51

Parish Actions relating to sustainability are set out in Appendix 1.

²⁰ Kirklees Council Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note approved 29/6/2021

4.10 Implementing and Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan

Implementation

- 4.10.1 The policies in this Neighbourhood Development Plan, once made, will become part of the development plan for the area alongside the Kirklees Local Plan and the Peak District National Park Local Development Framework.
- 4.10.2 The policies will be applied by Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority through the development management process in the determination of planning applications, together with the use of conditions and planning obligations under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 where the tests for these are met.
- 4.10.3 The Parish Council, applicants, developers and the community will be able to use the content and policies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to inform representations to the relevant Local Planning Authority regarding planning applications within the Holme Valley.
- 4.10.4 The Parish Council actions set out in Appendix 1 to address the non-planning issues will be progressed by the Parish Council to support the achievement of the vision and objectives for the Holme Valley.

Monitoring

- 4.10.5 The Parish Council will put procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Development Plan through planning application decisions, the use of conditions and appeals.
- 4.10.6 The Neighbourhood Development Plan may be reviewed by the Parish Council in line with changes to the Local Plan with this likely to take place at least once every 5 years from the date made and the Plan updated where necessary. The procedure for reviewing neighbourhood plans in place at that time in Neighbourhood Planning Legislation and the National Planning Practice Guidance will be followed.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Holme Valley Parish Actions

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Built environment and design

The Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

1. Prepare a design handbook with specification of acceptable styles which merge with the local style. This may include examples of what is not acceptable such as out of proportion, window layout etc. This applies to both new build and renovation projects.
2. Encourage Kirklees to produce and implement Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans which illustrate the vernacular design for specific areas that should be reflected in new development.
3. Encourage enforcement where appropriate within the Conservation Areas.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Built heritage

The Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

4. Develop a list of non-designated heritage assets building on the suggested sites in Honley from the Honley Civic Society and initial list of key buildings identified in Holmfirth by the Holmfirth Conservation Group in accordance with Historic England's advice note to put forward to Kirklees Council as part of a Local List of Key buildings. Both lists are provided in Appendix 2.
5. Recommend that any changes to reservoir designs (walls, spillways etc.) be done in a sympathetic way to the local environment, using local materials.
6. Support community purchases and development where a heritage asset becomes structurally unsafe for use and encourage community ownership of locally important buildings.
7. Support the provision of workshops and or advice to owners of heritage assets possibly through community groups.
8. Promote and support the adoption of community assets and any redevelopment in sympathetic and financially viable ways.
9. Where an Article 4 Direction is in place, work with Kirklees Council and local stakeholders to protect designated and non-designated heritage assets from harmful change.
10. Work with Kirklees Council to identify potential Heritage Action Zones in the Neighbourhood Area such as Holmfirth Town Centre.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Public realm

The Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

11. Ensure that any new or replaced street furniture such as lighting columns, street-signs, benches and litter bins are designed in a coordinated style which enhances their appearance. This does not preclude allowing bespoke designs to be considered to reflect the character of specific location. This will create a more consistent appearance to street furniture suited to the area concerned.
12. Ensure that overhead wiring and road signage within the public realm are installed in a manner which reflects the town or village's character. Redundant electrical infrastructure or signage should be removed to reduce visual pollution associated with new installations.
13. Ensure that opportunities to develop out-of-sight storage for trade waste bins for existing premises are pursued to reduce unsightly clutter on the public highway.
14. Work with traders and shop keepers to discourage the use of A-boards and clutter to keep routes clear for people who may have mobility or visual issues, or for parents with children in buggies.
15. Work with Kirklees Council to identify and promote more sustainable approaches to waste management in the Holme Valley which support a hierarchy of reduction, re-use and re-cycling. The provision of more effective recycling and waste facilities will be supported.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Local economy

The Parish Council will:

16. Support place-making initiatives seeking to build both community and economic value from our unique heritage and environment.
17. Work with local businesses and Kirklees Council to manage opening hours and control litter.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Community facilities

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

18. Ensure easy access to good quality education for children and adults.
19. Encourage life-long learning by encouraging opportunities for active citizenship, volunteering and participation in the community.
20. Increase the appreciation and understanding of the environment, the arts and the Valley's cultural and industrial heritage.

21. Ensure sufficient health and care facilities are provided to cope with demand and the infrastructure is in place to support the delivery of modern health and social care services, for example improving telecommunication systems to support tele-medicine.

Holme Valley Parish Actions - Traffic, transport and parking

Traffic Management

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

22. Implement speed limits and traffic calming measures in town and village centres and around schools and homes of vulnerable people.
23. Implement management of traffic at peak times, particularly around schools and places of employment with one-way systems or drop-off zones considered.
24. Work with Kirklees on any future road improvement schemes in Holmfirth to ensure proposals enhance place-making alongside traffic flow.
25. Share local proposals concerning traffic management on Victoria Street/ Dunford Road / Station Road/ Hollowgate with Kirklees.
26. Work with local residents in villages such as Hade Edge where revised layouts of the road network may improve highways safety.
27. Introduce restrictions to HGV access on particular routes and discourage the use of Holmfirth as a diversion for HGVs off trunk roads.
28. Support proposals to create 20mph speed limits in residential areas.
29. Ensure limited use of warning signs such as dangerous junctions, roads impassable to heavy vehicles or appropriate weight limits with designs being appropriate to the location.
30. Introduce and enforce time zones for deliveries in Holmfirth and Honley.
31. Liaise with other bodies in addition to Kirklees Council regarding the impact improvement works to the Woodhead Pass and the proposed Trans-Pennine motorway will have on the Valley.
32. Consider the introduction of "priority passing/give way" calming measures on narrow rural roads.
33. Ensure that new housing and industrial developments do not exacerbate existing congestion areas, including the centres of New Mill and Holmfirth, and at Honley Bridge.
34. Consider local identification and designation of "Green Lanes" as shared spaces on popular horse riding, walking and cycling routes.

Public Transport

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

35. Ensure that access means accessible to all regardless of age, ability and cultural background, and eliminating unnecessary barriers.
36. Explore opportunities to reduce traffic in town and village centres to improve air quality and health.
37. Support proposals to increase the use of shared cars, buses, trains and cycling.
38. Ensure good quality public transport is maintained, with subsidies considered where appropriate to support local connectivity with smaller rural villages across the Valley.
39. Support initiatives by the Penistone Line Partnership and others to encourage and enable the greater use of rail travel, to improve the route between Huddersfield, Sheffield and further afield.
40. Investigate the feasibility of renaming Brockholes railway station “Brockholes and Holmfirth” and providing a linked shuttle bus service to Holmfirth town centre.
41. Encourage better bus/train connectivity to link villages across the valley with train services and support strategic actions to improve parking and facilities at Honley and Brockholes stations.
42. The provision of taxi-ranks to support the use of taxis as an alternative means of transport will be supported as long as they align with the other policies in the NDP regarding fitting with the local character and avoiding any noise pollution from idling engines.

Sustainable Transport

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

43. Promote infrastructure such as charging points to increase the use of electric vehicles.
44. Encourage the introduction of electric buses and taxis in the area to improve air quality.
45. Develop pathways for safer cycling and walking, subject to landowner permissions for access using natural conduits such as the River Holme and maintain existing pedestrian, bridleway and cycle routes.

Parking Provision

Holme Valley Parish Council will work with the relevant bodies to:

46. Investigate the feasibility of providing suitable parking on the edge of Holmfirth to accommodate a “Park and Ride” service.

47. Explore innovative ways of creating additional parking in specific areas lacking sufficient provision such as the de-consecration of part of a churchyard, rental of drives in the daytime or use of private land for specific events.

Parish Council Actions - Sustainability

The Parish Council will:

48. Encourage awareness of a sustainable way of life and the purchase of goods which will last for life, and discourage a throwaway society through effective design, appropriate waste management facilities and education initiatives.
49. Consider the provision of a free water fountain in Holmfirth to encourage the re-use of drinking bottles.
50. Seek to engage with local environmental groups to explore how they can best support their initiatives to increase biodiversity and increase local understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.
51. Encourage proposals to increase the level of recycling of waste. Retail development must demonstrate how they will manage and reduce their waste in planning statements or other supporting documents. These should include proposals to support the principle of plastic free living.

Appendix 2A: Positive Contributors to Conservation Areas within the Holme Valley

The following table includes sites, buildings or other structures deemed to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of a conservation area within the Holme Valley. They have been identified using the selection criteria set out in paragraph 4.3.4 of the HVNDP. Further positive contributors may be included over the life of the plan.

Photograph of Positive Contributor to Conservation Area	Conservation Area	Identifier	Name	Location	Description	Significance
	Honley CA	Honley - PC1	Southgate Theatre	Southgate, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6NT	Stone built two storey with double-height upper floor. Slate roof, ashlar entrance with stone steps.	Site of the first Primitive Methodist chapel in Honley (built in 1842), redeveloped in 1899 with a new Sunday School erected in 1914. In 1972, following the demolition of the chapel, the Sunday School was bought by three local men and became the home of "Southgate Players". The building, believed to be the only theatre in Yorkshire owned by its amateur dramatic group, continues to play a significant part in the cultural life of the village.
	Honley CA	Honley - PC2	Old People's Park	Westgate, Honley, Holmfirth Hd9 6AA	Treed open space with lawns and flowerbeds	Contains a small children's play space as well as seats and attractive flower beds, lawns and trees. Land given to the people of Honley by a private donor in 1899. The "green lung" of Honley, providing residents with

						space to sit and socialise. Also used for community activities such as commemorative events.
	Honley CA	Honley - PC3	Nos. 1 and 5 Southgate	Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6NT	Ashlar stone, 2 storey, central cart arch leading to internal courtyard	Good examples of the local vernacular, these superior quality houses were probably built for supervisory staff.
	Honley CA	Honley - PC4	Nos. 6, 8 and 10 Southgate	Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6NT	Ashlar stone, 2 storey, arched pediment above door	Good examples of the local vernacular, these superior quality houses were probably built for supervisory staff.
	Honley CA	Honley - PC5	Holmeleigh	Southgate, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6NT	3 storey substantial stone house, hipped roof, margin light windows, sash, chimneys and set back from road. Built in 1908 in the "Gothic" style.	This is of historical significance as Mrs. Winder, daughter of Mr. Josiah France, purchased the ground, built and furnished the house as a nurses home. She also endowed a sum of money to provide a trained nurse for the sick and poor of Honley.

	<p>Honley CA</p>	<p>Honley - PC6</p>	<p>Honley Silver Band Room</p>	<p>22 Berry Croft, Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6BP</p>	<p>Single storey building with multi paned windows, stone.</p>	<p>This is the home of the present Honley band which has a proud history going back to 1865. The Band took First Prize on September 1st 1884 at Belle Vue, Manchester, beating such famous bands as Black Dyke Mills</p>
	<p>Holme CA</p>	<p>Holme Village - PC1</p>	<p>Underhill</p>	<p>Underhill, Woodhead Road, Holme, HD9 2QE</p>	<p>Earth sheltered house.</p>	<p>This is a 1970s property which was designed by Dr Arthur Quarmby. It is the first modern earth shelter to be built in Britain and as such is an innovative design of local and national interest.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC1</p>	<p>Ribbleden Mill & Chimney</p>	<p>Dunford Road, Holmfirth, HD9 2DP</p>	<p>A striking building on a main road into Holmfirth with its traditional frontage. It still operates as a dyer and finisher, supporting the textile business, which was so dominant in the local area.</p>	<p>The date of this mill is circa 1865 and should be preserved as the last mill existing in the Holmfirth Conservation Area (HCA). It has retained its Georgian venetian windows and multi panelled glass, string course and shallow pitched roof. It also has the last mill chimney in the HCA making it a reminder of the industrial heritage of the area.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC2</p>	<p>Bamforths</p>	<p>Station Road, Holmfirth</p>	<p>Five storey warehouse with distinctive long window on the upper floor.</p>	<p>Bamforth's was established in 1870, and by the end of that century James Bamforth was well-known in Holmfirth as a photographer and artist. In the 1890s the magic lantern was a popular form of entertainment and Bamforth produced slides of these lantern shows. Bamforth was also a producer of postcards and was in at the very beginning of the silent movie era, creating short comic films in the Hollywood style comic but using Holmfirth as the background and local people as the stars and actors in his films. At the outbreak of the First World War film making came to an end. However the production of picture postcards continued and was a lucrative market opened up by Bamforth particularly of the saucy seaside postcards with their "near the knuckle" double entendres. The building has a very long window on the upper floor to provide extra studio light. The</p>
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						<p>Bamforth business closed in 1980s and the building was subsequently neglected. In 2016 renovation work was started on the building. It has a blue plaque.</p>
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	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC3</p>	<p>Holmfirth Technical College</p>	<p>140 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AR</p>	<p>The Technical Institute, a Victorian building, exhibits elaborate tall gables, steep roof with lanterns, tall elaborate windows letting in lots of light and fanlights over the doors.</p>	<p>A design by Joseph Smith of Sheffield and Holmfirth was selected and the foundation stone was laid on 16 July 1892. This building housed evening classes for apprentices, after completing their days work in the mills, from 1894. First known as the technical Institute, it was built by public subscription and opened in 1894 providing technical and manual education outside the then existing elementary school system. Plans for the Institute date back to 1891 and the fundraising was initiated by James Marsden JP of Wigan and a native of Holmfirth. The college had rooms specifically for weaving, dying and clay modeling, science lectures, designing, art, reading, conservation, a secretary, chemistry laboratory, an examination and lecture hall and the ladies room (on the upper floor). Following the education act of 1902, the newly established West Riding County Council assumed responsibility for</p>
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						<p>the Institute which, until then, had been managed by volunteers and local businessman. From 1907 until 1932 the building provided accommodation for Holmfirth's first secondary school with 48 pupils, although the technical classes still continued in the evenings. Pupils had to achieve a certain level of education and pay for the privilege of attending. Initially fees were 6 pounds per year, although some scholarships were awarded. In 1959 it became a further education centre on technical courses. After a recent period of the building being mothballed, it has reopened as Holmfirth Tech, run by a charitable Community Benefit Society. It has a blue plaque.</p>
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	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC4	8 - 10 Towngate	Holmfirth	Well-proportioned building with retail on the ground floor (currently Age UK)	Built in early 19th century, adjacent to the Parish Church, this is a handsome building with traditional shopfront reflecting the residential and commercial style of the town and conservation area.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC5	15 Daisy Lane	Daisy Lane, Holmfirth	Attractive tall building with original features now with ground floor housing Daisy Lane Bookshop	Known to exist before 1793 and then a dwellinghouse and cow house. Occupant was a blacksmith and a smithy was next door (now demolished, but evidence on outer wall)
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC6	Towngate	Harvey's Bar & Kitchen, Holmfirth	Harvey's Bar & Kitchen. Situated on the ancient approach into Holmfirth from the north, this is one of three hostelries that were important "fuelling stations for travellers. They still remain as pubs to this day.	1800 - 1850 Previously the White Hart, Harvey's is one of the many Holmfirth pubs which would have been used not just by drinkers in its time but also for coroners inquests, property auctions, manorial court leets, and the inevitable location of annual

						<p>dinner for local associations. The White Hart was established around 1795 and the landlord at the time was John Boothroyd who moved to the Nook in 1826. In 1830 records show that there was a brew house on site. Later records mentioned a slaughterhouse and stable.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC7</p>	<p>54-56 Huddersfield Road (& Norridge Bottom)</p>	<p>En Route Café, Holmfirth</p>	<p>Chapel style building with entrances on two levels currently housing En Route Café upstairs and Bar downstairs.</p>	<p>1800 - 1850 This building, resembling a small church, has seen many different guises. The date 1879 can be seen at the apex of the building and it is said that it was built for the local temperance society. In The building was also owned for a period by Eli Collins, a printer who started the Holmfirth Express in 1886. The Express closed in early 2000s and is currently a cafe upstairs & bar</p>

						downstairs.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC8	23 Victoria Street	Holmfirth	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top). No. 23 (now RSPCA charity shop) is of particular significance architecturally because of the curved glass frontage. It has a resemblance to the shop across the road which today is Multicraft cabin.</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In the first instance was probably trading as James Haigh, outfitters. This firm traded from 1834 (they claim) until around 2000. Very traditional interior with curving glass windows. Currently a charity shop.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC9</p>	<p>15 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. The shop has been a bakery ever since it was built.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC10</p>	<p>13 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In 1909 was James Brooke, toys and ornaments. 1927 William Simmonds,</p>

						glass and china, 1980 G B Hirst travel agent. Currently a travel agent.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC11	11 Victoria Street	Holmfirth	Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).	The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. First time this is recorded in Trade directories or newspapers by name and number is 1980. Gledhill and Brook have been here since at least 1901.

						<p>Originally (early 20th century) they were water and steam millers. It was attached to buildings destroyed in 1944 flood. It was prone to lorry crashes (from Dunford Road direction). Currently Forget-me-not Charity Shop.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC12</p>	<p>17 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In 1930 was a joint shop with no 19. Coldwell and Battye, outfitters. In 1980 was linked with no. 19 as Hobson choice, grocer In 1990/2000</p>

						<p>no. 17 only was Otters Pet and Grooming Centre In 2000 -2016. Now Holmfirth Food & Wine shop.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC13</p>	<p>19-21 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top).</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. In 1913 no. 21 was the Labour Exchange In 1930 nos. 17 -19 were joined and trading as Coldwell and Battye In 1980 nos. 17- 19 were</p>

						joined and trading as Hobson choice and now Occasions card shop.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC14	27 Victoria Street	Holmfirth	Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top). No.27 is on the right hand side of the top section in the photograph.	The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. Arthur Charlesworth been there since 1880 something. Never traded anywhere else and still operates as newsagents.

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC15</p>	<p>27a Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street, this property is off the main street but retains its traditional window openings and commercial use.</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC16</p>	<p>25 Victoria Street</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Town centre shops on Victoria Street numbered 13 - 27 inclusive are to be considered important as a continuous terrace (with a break near the top). No.25 is on the left hand side of the top section in the photograph.</p>	<p>The terrace shops were built by November 1852 following the Bilberry dam flood in February 1852 and were built using the stone salvaged from the flood damaged houses and mills which had been swept down the river following the dam burst. Currently a home furnishings shop (Pattern Principle).</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC17</p>	<p>2 Dunford Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Shoulder of Mutton pub. Situated on the ancient approach into Holmfirth from the north, this is one of the 3 hostelries that were important "fuelling stations" for travellers. They still remain as pubs to this day.</p>	<p>This pub was established in 1788 and had stabling. It retains its original name to the present day (Shoulder of Mutton). In the 19th century there was a butchers and slaughterhouse here. Has a blue plaque.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC18</p>	<p>3a Victoria Square</p>	<p>The Nook, Holmfirth</p>	<p>The Nook pub. Situated on the ancient approach into Holmfirth from the north, this is one of the 3 hostelries that were important "fuelling stations" for travellers. They still remain as pubs to this day.</p>	<p>The Nook is one of Holmfirth's oldest pubs, dating from 1754 and rebuilt in 1819. Previously the Rose and Crown, it was recently renamed the Nook to reflect the name used by local people for the many decades past. It takes its name from the site, and is on one of the Holmfirth's ancient routes. Has a blue plaque.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC19</p>	<p>Modd Laithe Farm, New Fold</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>2 storeys, coursed stone, farmhouse with added laithe barn to northwest, stone slate roof, 1800-1850. House with central doorway to northeast, window on either side with window over each on first floor. Quoins to ground floor (perhaps suggesting that the first floor was added to an older building). Southwest elevation two windows each floor, plus southeast first floor window. Laithe barn with quoins, domestic door adjacent to house on northeast side, another door beyond a projecting single storey extension, and window overlooking extension roof. Large barn door next to house and high-level loading door beyond in southwest elevation, window in northwest wall.</p>	<p>Modd Laithe Farm is right at the top of Goose Green, near the old swimming pool (a lido of great popularity in the 1930s & 40s, which still remains albeit derelict). The farmhouse lies within the boundary and is the only working farm in the conservation area (although its 10 acres of land lie outside the boundary) and as such reflected the agricultural heritage of the area. Historic England commented in the Holmfirth Conservation Group's appraisal that the description suggests the farm may be substantially intact and unaltered making it a potentially good candidate for a listing application.</p>
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	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC20	4/5 Bridge Lane	Holmfirth	<p>Building appears on 1854 OS Map. 3-storey plus basement, ashlar stone, moulded cornice, stone slate roof. North side rendered with possible second basement.</p> <p>Ground floor: No. 5 to left, central door with fanlight and shop widow either side, No. 4 to right door with fanlight on left and shop window on right.</p> <p>First floor: No. 5 two windows, No. 4 one window, 6 over 6 sashes, projecting sills form string course. Second floor: No. 5 two windows, No. 4 one window, 8 over 8 small ashes, projecting sills form string course.</p> <p>Ornamental cast iron railings on street frontage.</p>	<p>Attractive pair of houses which are Georgian Ashlar stone in style and retain their original features. Very tall structures especially when viewed from the riverbank below.</p>
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	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC21	39 & 39a Station Road	Holmfirth	<p>Currently retail premises (Red Hairdressers & Cocoon) with history of commercial and residential purpose. Two storeys plus basement. Ashlar stone, stone slate roof with stone tabling, cornice, central ashlar stack. Each half: shop front (apparently original) with central doorway and shop window on either side, windows with aprons, lintels supported on pilasters either side of doorways, at ends and in centre, moulded string course above. At each end door to rear with fanlight. First floor: each half 2 windows with fluted stone jambs and lintels, and projecting sills. Ornamental railings to street frontage.</p>	<p>Building appears on 1854 OS map. Prominent pair of properties which have both commercial and residential function. Matching style and appearance with good proportions. In the late nineteenth century these were an antiques and furniture shop and they retain their original shopfronts.</p>
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	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC22</p>	<p>Fire Station, Huddersfield Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Single storey, coursed stone with quoins. Gable to road with elaborate tabling and kneelers. Large window set in moulded architrave, with replacement lintel. Carved label mould over with finials and text 'FIRE STATION'. Blue slate roof. Rear part altered.</p>	<p>Holmfirth fire station was built in the late 1800s. Initially it was the single story building which housed one appliance (Fire engine) whose gable end is adjacent to Huddersfield road. An additional two large wooden sheds attached to the main building housed the second appliance and an ambulance. The Holmfirth urban district Council ran the station until 1939, when the National Fire service was formed and around all the county and district fire services. In 1954 the two detached wooden sheds which housed the second pump and appliance were demolished and replaced with the three bays adjoining the original station building. The ambulance was withdrawn but the two appliances remained.</p>
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						<p>Both full-time and part-time personnel manned station. The watch room was manned 24 hours a day with a duty fireman. At the present time there are 13 retained firefighters.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC23</p>	<p>Old Police Station, 16 Bridge Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Coursed stone with raised ashlar quoins. Office to right single-storey front, two storeys to rear, with 5-light canted bay, moulded string course and parapet, door to right, small window in right gable wall. Inspector's house to left two stories with door to right, projecting gabled front having window on each floor with moulded architrave. Roof blue slate with stone tabling to all</p>	<p>This building which is an annex attached to the rear of the Technical College was originally Holmfirth police station. Built in 1857 at a cost of £1000, it had three cells and the house for the inspector. The force consisted of one inspector and eight constables. The building is now an architect's office.</p>

					<p>gables, prominent ashlar chimney stack to office, small ashlar chimney on house ridge.</p>	
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC24</p>	<p>Wagstaffe's, 29 Station Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Symmetrical, detached building housing a shoe shop.</p>	<p>Wagstaff's is one of the select few businesses in Holmfirth to survive for well over a century. This boot and shoe business was situated at No.1 Towngate from late Victorian times. They transferred to their present shop at No. 29 Station Road in May 1921 as a result of the demolition of the Riverside buildings to widen Towngate.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC25</p>	<p>Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Dominant civic building now part of the Holmfirth Civic Hall.</p>	<p>The building of the Drill Hall, opened in 1892, was the result of the decision taken in May 1884 that there was a priority requirement for a new purpose-built drill hall in the town. Prior to this the National school and then the Druids Hall had been used for drill exercises. The E company 2nd Volunteer Battalion West Riding Regiment, established in 1860 was growing in size and needed larger premises. The site acquired for this Tudoresque-style building was land adjacent to the town hall (Opened in 1842). The premises including a spacious hall, two large ante-rooms, armoury, band room, orderly room and sergeants mess. It was financed by public subscription</p>
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							<p>and the building was used as a place for educational meetings, entertainments and social gatherings. What is seen today is the combined Town Hall and the Drill Hall which became the Holme Valley Civic Hall in 1947. In the entrance is the memorial to some of those who died in the South African (2nd Boer) War, 1899-1902. Has a blue plaque.</p>
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	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC26</p>	<p>25 High Town Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>2-storey, coursed ashlar, moulded cornice and parapet with dormer over, mid-19th century. Door to right with pilasters and heavy drip moulding, passage door to left with moulded lintel, wide central window with moulded architrave, moulded sill and apron and triangular head. Upper floor 3 windows with moulded architraves and moulded sills on brackets.</p>	<p>Mid 19th century property which is a good example of a town villa and indicating the increasing affluence of Holmfirth residents. Part of a pleasing row of terrace houses with individual architectural styles.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC27</p>	<p>31 High Town Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Ginnel to High Town Lane. Drip course over doors, with aediculated opening to ginnel in centre.</p>	<p>This ginnel is a discreet means of accessing the rear of terrace properties and forms a neat transition between 2 front doors. Has arch pediment above. It is in the mid-section of a row of terrace houses and was in place before 1888.</p>

	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC28	57 Huddersfield Road	Holmfirth	Important building at top of Victoria Street.	1800 - 1850 period. Now two shops (footwear & kitchens) but originally one shop. Grocer's Wallace's and then (from 1920s) Hinchliffe Mill Industrial Co- operative Society. Upper floor was a community space used for dancing, meetings. Important architecturally as it is an important vista when viewed up Victoria Street from Victoria Square direction.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC29	Toll House, 32 - 34 Huddersfield Road	Holmfirth	Attractive corner position by historic bridge, this is a multi-level building with attractive frontages used for retail.	The present building dates from around 1870, replacing a previous toll house on or near the same site. The Tollhouse lay on the Shepley Lane Head to Greenfield Turnpike, evidence of it still existing in the form of the mileage plate on the parapet of the nearby bridge. In 1875 the trustees discontinued the

						Turnpike and in 1876 sold the building. The building has been a wine and spirits outlet, butchers shop, off-licence, café, bookshop and, currently a fair trade shop. Has a blue plaque.
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC30	Druid's Hall, Station Road	Holmfirth	Large handsome symmetrical building with imposing frontage and original features.	The Druids Hall dates back to 1846. It cost over £2000 to build. It was the premises of the Holmfirth Branch of the Ancient Order of Druids Friendly Society, an organization offering financial help and security to the poor. They paid funeral expenses for example. The Druids was one of a number of friendly societies that were quite common in the 19th century. In 1851 590 Druids were recorded in the Holmfirth/Wooldale area. Apart from the Druids the hall was

						<p>used for other functions including a staff dinner of the workers at Albert Mills in 1884. By the beginning of the 20th century the Friendly Society movement was in decline and membership had fallen drastically. In 1906 the remaining membership decided to offer the building for sale at public auction and it took on a new existence as a hotel and a fully licensed public house with brew house attached. It continued in this form until 1917 when the local Masonic Lodge, in need of larger premises, purchased the Druids Hall for some £700. The Druids Hall, now known as the Masonic Hall, has been home of the Holme Valley branch (number 652) since 1921. It has a blue</p>
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						<p>plaque.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC31</p>	<p>50 - 54 Back Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>3 identical houses in terrace, 2 storeys, 1800-1850. Principal elevation to west, coursed stone, each house with Gothic door on left and a 2-light Gothic window on each floor on right. Remaining elevations rendered with small windows on east and modern windows in</p>	<p>Built in the early 19th century, these building's architectural significance is that they contribute to the sweeping vista that contributes to the oldest part of Holmfirth and that leads the eye up to</p>

					<p>north gable. Stone slate roof, with stone tabling to gables and ashlar chimney for each house.</p>	<p>the hillside above.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC32</p>	<p>Henry Mitchell, 1 South Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Adjoining buildings with private residence on left and business premises on right including warehouse with taking-in doors. Deep set central doorway with moulded semi-circular arch and fanlight on left hand side and plain shop window and door to right.</p>	<p>Pre 1800 period. Grand and imposing frontage on left hand side which is known as Grove House, named after the residence in Honley which Henry Mitchell rented. Half of the house is a warehouse for the Mitchell business and it is noteworthy that it has remained the same business since mid nineteenth century and has 'taking in' doors on first and second floors.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC33</p>	<p>54 -58 Upperthong Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Weavers cottages</p>	<p>Mid 19th century weavers cottages. Noticed the "taking in door", with its exterior stair in the end wall of the terrace. This is where the raw materials were brought in and the finished cloth taken out of what would have been a communal weaving space across the whole top floor. Excellent example of upper i.e. third floor weavers windows which remain intact in all three dwellings. They appear as an almost continuous run.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC34</p>	<p>The Old Sunday School, 52 Upperthong Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>It is a traditional building with a large door opening with pilasters and extremely elaborate head adjacent to the Chapel, and three windows beyond, the nearest two in a slight projection. These windows have segmental arched heads. On the first floor there are five very plain windows,</p>	<p>Adjoining the Lane Congregational Chapel, the late Sunday School, possibly built in 1847 with frontage rebuilt in 1912.</p>

					<p>two over the door and one over each ground floor window. Early 20th century extension to rear now demolished.</p>	
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC35</p>	<p>Lane Congregational Chapel</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Former chapel converted into residential flats in early 2000s. The Chapel has 4 bays of windows on each of its two floors, the central two being in a slight forward projection. It stands on a raised platform with ornamental cast iron railings. The frontage is very elaborate, rebuilt in 1889, with aprons below the windows, three moulded string courses, pilasters to the two central windows, segmental lintels to the ground floor and arched lintels to the first floor. Similar windows in return of northeast wall. Some plain windows to rear. The roof is a slated hipped roof.</p>	<p>One of several nonconformist groups in the Holmfirth area, the Independents shared a church with the Methodists before building their own small place of worship, described as a 'place of worship for Protestant dissenters', in 1777, further down Upperthong Lane from the present site. The Chapel moved to its present site in 1829, with the rear showing a dated inscription. The early burial ground was across the road from the chapel, but is now a private garden. It</p>

						<p>was later joined by a much larger burial ground further up Upperthong Lane.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC36</p>	<p>The Old Manse, 46 Upperthong Lane</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>Coursed stone, door to right with stone jambs and fanlight. Canted bay window to left, probably later alteration. First and second floors each two windows with stone jambs and raised sills. Stone slate roof, with tabling and kneelers to gable.</p>	<p>Formerly the Manse for the adjoining chapel, this was built during the ministry of the Rev John Cockin (1806-1849). He was the son of the Rev Joseph Cockin of Honley, sometime pastor of the Square Chapel in Halifax. He took up his post (at the then Binsfield Chapel) on 8 Mar 1806, and served until 1849. Newspaper reports have him born on 26 Feb 1883 at Kipping, Halifax, although the</p>

						<p>Censuses of 1851 and 1861 refer to Thornton, Bradford. He died on 17 Oct 1861 at New Bond Street, Halifax, and was buried at the Lane Chapel on 23 Oct 1861.</p>
	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC37	39 - 40 Huddersfield Rd	Holmfirth	<p>Ashlar stone frontage & recently refurbished from residential use to commercial. Attractive properties set back from the road and now housing a bookshop and tattoo parlour downstairs with more commercial at the back.</p>	<p>Burtens Academy (after John Burton) is next door to the present Holmfirth Library and until recently has been a B&B establishment but has recently been sold. The first mention of a school being here is in Pigot's 1834 Directory where it is described as a boarding and day school.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth CA</p>	<p>Holmfirth - PC38</p>	<p>Former Council Offices, 49 - 51 Huddersfield Rd</p>	<p>Holmfirth</p>	<p>L-shaped building, 3 storeys, coursed stone, ashlar stone plinth. Porch in re-entrant angle with window, 3-light canted bay window to right, 3-light window with wide central opening to left. Upper floors 2-light windows over ground floor windows, single windows over porch. Windows also in first floor left gable and second floor right gable. Dentilled eaves cornice. Pitched roofs. Gables with stone tabling and plain kneelers. Windows mainly traditional sashes, except some on second floor.</p>	<p>1851 - 1900 period. Originally Shaley cottages this building was purchased and adapted by Holmfirth District Council by 1903 and was used by the Holme Valley Parish Council as its office and council chamber until 2017 when it was asked to vacate the building by Kirklees Council.</p>
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	Holmfirth CA	Holmfirth - PC39	Pump 'ole, under South Lane	Holmfirth	Water pump and trough.	<p>This is a water pump and trough, in a recess under the steep incline of South Lane. It was erected by public subscription in 1850 and was in use until late 1920s. People would meet here the local lads' rugby team took their name the pump. One of the Pump Hole Rangers, Harold Wagstaff, began his career with them in 1905 at the age of 14 and went on to become one of the greatest players of all time. He captained England in 1914 and in 1920 on tours to Australia and New Zealand. In 1995 at the centenary of the rugby league, Harold Wagstaff was chosen for one of the five commemorative postage stamps. It is an example of how water was accessed before modern day piped water was</p>
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						<p>introduced. It probably connected to a series of wells which started further up the hillside and which can be seen as troughs by the roadside today. The pump ole today is dry but is featured in an arch-shaped recessed gap underneath the road above. A rudimentary hand pump and trough remain.</p>
	<p>Oldfield CA</p>	<p>Oldfield - PC1</p>	<p>National School, Oldfield</p>	<p>Oldfield</p>	<p>Former school building.</p>	<p>Built in 1838 as a day and Sunday school. restored in 1874 and renamed the Mission room and where Sunday services were held. In 1908 it returned in use as a school until the 1970s. It is now a private dwelling.</p>

	<p>Netherthong CA</p>	<p>Netherthong - PC1</p>	<p>Zion Methodist Church</p>	<p>Giles Street, Netherthong</p>	<p>Former methodist church, now a private dwelling.</p>	<p>Opened in 1872 and closed in 1980s. This church was a breakaway from a nearby Methodist church and they were also called Zion methodists.</p>
	<p>Netherthong CA</p>	<p>Netherthong - PC2</p>	<p>15-21 Moor Lane</p>	<p>Netherthong</p>	<p>Striking symmetrical building restored 20 years ago.</p>	<p>This was Netherthong's first Workhouse and was known locally as the Bastille. Inmates were then transferred to the workhouse in Deanhouse in 1862. This Bastille building was marked on the Ordinance Survey Maps of 1854, 1888 and 1918 but by 1922 it was referred to as Lydgett farm. The building, pre 1950, was then used as part of a farm. There were three floors with corn on the top floors and cows on the ground floor. It was converted into terraced housing in 1990s.</p>

	<p>Upperthong CA</p>	<p>Upperthong - PC1</p>	<p>Ash Villa Farm</p>	<p>Towngate, Upperthong, Holmfirth, HD9 3UX</p>	<p>Handsome well-proportioned house at the top of Upperthong village. It is 2-storey stone with raised ashlar quoins and hipped stone slate roof. Central doorway with pilasters, segmental arch lintel and fanlight. Sash windows with projecting sills on brackets and projecting jambes. 3-light window with wide central opening to right. Single window to left with segmental arch lintel and 3 similar windows to first floor. Ornamental garden wall with cast iron railings and gate.</p>	<p>The Farm originally consisted of an original tithe barn dating back to 1600-1755 with part of the barn originally being the dwelling house which was the site of the Toll Gate at the end of Towngate, Upperthong. This attractive house was then built between 1854 and 1906 complete with outdoor privies dated from 1898, two wells and a cellar. In 1810, open cast coal was dug at the rear of the property and it is thought that the original dwelling was demolished during the Luddite riots of 1812. Its prominent position in the village makes it a key focal point for the conservation area and it is noteworthy that it was the first house in Upperthong to have a telephone.</p>
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	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC1</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill Methodist Chapel & Sunday School</p>	<p>Woodhead Road, Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>These are two large buildings adjacent to each other (shown together in upper photograph). The Chapel (on the left & in left lower photograph) is a 3-storey ashlar-fronted building with central door having pilasters and a heavy architrave. It has an ornamental front wall with cast iron railings. The first floor has 3 windows with arched voussoirs, and the second floor 3 plain windows. Windows on the south west elevation are in similar styles. The Sunday School (on the right & in right lower photograph) is inscribed 'Wesleyan - 1877'. Set on an ashlar plinth, it has a central doorway with pilasters, heavy architrave, and door within inner arch. On either side are windows with segmental arch lintels. Above the door is a 3-light window with arch tops and projecting sill on brackets. On either side are two windows with</p>	<p>The chapel was built in 1839, with an adjoining Sunday School built in 1878. It had seating for 650 people. By 1971, the chapel had closed and the buildings sold. It was converted into flats. These are historic buildings used for communal purposes but now converted to residential. They reflect the heritage of the area.</p>
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					<p>arched tops.</p>	
	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC2</p>	<p>No.180 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>Well-proportioned town house: 2-storey, stone, ashlar front, stone slate roof, sash windows. Central door with stone jambs and fanlight. 1 window either side with stone jambs and projecting sills. 3 similar windows to first floor with sill forming string course. Cornice above. Ornamental front wall with</p>	<p>This house was built in 1840 and is a typical design for a foremans' house. It was the house of the foreman for the mill in the bottom of the valley (Cross Mill) and the house next door (Broadfield) was the mill owner's house. It is an attractive property maintaining</p>

					<p>cast iron railings and gate.</p>	<p>its key features.</p>
	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC3</p>	<p>No.130 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>Elegant 2-storey stone house with ashlar front, quoins, stone slate roof, 6 over 6 sash windows. Central door with pillars, moulded architrave and fanlight. 1 window either side with apron below, fluted stone jambs and lintels. 3 windows to first floor with fluted stone jambs and lintels, and projecting sills on brackets. Cornice with blocking course above. Ornamental front wall with cast iron railings and gate.</p>	<p>Built in the 1840s, this was the house for the foreman of Yew Tree Mill and is a typical design reflecting the heritage of the area. It is also thought to have been the home of Samuel Roebuck who was a wealthy butcher in Hinchliffe Mill and is buried in Holmbridge churchyard. The slaughterhouse was next door to this building.</p>

	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC4</p>	<p>Nos.90-92 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>2-storey, stone, ashlar front, cornice above, stone slate roof, now with uPVC windows. No. 92 earlier, central door with stone jambs and fanlight. 1 window either side with stone jambs and projecting sills. 3 similar windows to first floor. No. 90 a little later, door to left with arched lintel and fanlight. 2-light window in rustic Italian form with arch lintels and keystones on each floor.</p>	<p>Appear on map of 1854 and a good example of housing of the time. The two houses were each part of a building then called Carr House and they were owned by William Henry Barber, who was the owner of Clarence Mill in Holmbridge.</p>
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	<p>Hinchliffe Mill CA</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill - PC5</p>	<p>Nos.84-88 Woodhead Road</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill</p>	<p>Good example of style of houses in terrace: all 3-storey, coursed stone, cornice above, stone slate roof. Each house has central doorway with stone jambs and fanlight. On either side window with stone jambs and raised sill. 3 similar windows on each floor above (central ones narrower).</p>	<p>Building appears on map of 1854 and is a well-proportioned terrace of houses adding to the character of the conservation area. This row of three houses was originally called Carr Terrace (84 = 1 Carr Terrace, 86 = 2 Carr Terrace, 88 = 3 Carr Terrace). No.86 and 88 are underwellings with overwellings accessible from Fairfield Road at the back. In 1910 the overwellings were described as a garret and a kitchen. No. 84 originally had a carriage house and stables and was owned by Jonathan Roberts, son of Jonathan Roberts, the owner of Yew Tree Mill. The Roberts family had owned Yew Tree Mill from its origin around the 1780s right through to</p>
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						<p>it becoming modern times when two wool manufacturing families Butterworth and Roberts went into partnership. No. 86 was lived in by members of the Butterworth family and No. 88 was lived in by Henry Whiteley, woollen manufacturer. The Whiteleys were owners of Whiteley and Greens Ltd which ran their business from a part of Butterworth's mill at Hinchliffe Mill.</p>
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Appendix 2B: Candidate Non-Designated Heritage Assets

The following table includes those candidate sites, buildings or other structures deemed significantly important to warrant consideration for inclusion in the 'local list of non-designated heritage assets'. The candidate assets will be assessed as part of the combined West Yorkshire initiative (outlined in paragraph 4.3.8 of the HVNDP) and based on an agreed set of selection criteria. Further NDHAs may be included over the life of the plan.

Photograph of Candidate Non-Designated Heritage Asset	Identifier	Name	Location	Description	Significance
	Honley - Candidate NDHA 1	Honley library	West Avenue, Honley, Holmfirth, HD9 6HF	Stone and part-rendered building with cross-hipped roof of stone tiles. Ashlar entrance, windows set high (wall dormer style)	A distinctive building, built in 1936, partly funded by the Carnegie Trust. One of the "Carnegie" libraries, Honley library was built with funds donated by the Scottish-American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, and first opened its doors in 1936. Over the years the library has been a focal point for the village and remains a hive of activity today.
	Hade Edge - Candidate NDHA 1	Hade Edge School	Greave Road, Hade Edge, Holmfirth, HD9 2DF	Dating from 1899, a traditional school building built of stone with large vertical windows.	The main school building which is still used today is a traditional building which contributes positively to the historic character of the area. It is one of the few historic buildings in Hade Edge and has a prominent position on the edge of the village.

	<p>Hade Edge - Candidate NDHA 2</p>	<p>J Brindon Addy</p>	<p>Penistone Road, Holmfirth, HD9 2JG</p>	<p>Former weavers cottages and attached barn dating from the 18th century currently operating as a butcher's shop.</p>	<p>This property has 8 mullioned windows in a row and outline of cart doors and is one of the few historic buildings within Hade Edge which reflects the original character of the area.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth - Candidate NDHA 1</p>	<p>Bridge Mills</p>	<p>Bridge Mill, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3TW</p>	<p>Large, imposing mill building occupied by a range of local businesses</p>	<p>Built in 1865 and occupied by many different companies over the years until its closure in the 1980s. These companies carried out many of the processes in producing wool cloth under the same roof. One company invented a shuttle- less loom which resulted in machinery capable of weaving many designs with many colours. The remaining building is now a business park within the original building with a range of companies operating within it. Other parts of the original mill were on the opposite side of the Huddersfield Road but were replaced by a supermarket in 2014. Bridge Mills is a striking building reflecting Holmfirth's industrial</p>

					<p>heritage and visible on a key gateway to the town.</p>
	<p>Holmfirth - Candidate NDHA 2</p>	<p>Bottoms Mill</p>	<p>Hinchliffe Mill, HD9 2PU</p>	<p>Mill buildings, chimney and mill dam</p>	<p>Originally built in the 1820s, Bottoms Mill is one of Holme Valley's oldest mills. The iconic, 150ft red chimney was added in 1911 and acts as a landmark to this day. The mill relied on water from the River Holme, which was channelled via a narrow watercourse, known as a goit, into the Bottoms Mill pond.</p>

	<p>Holmfirth - Candidate NDHA 3</p>	<p>Former St. John's School</p>	<p>1 - 6 St John's Court, Greenfield Road, Holmfirth</p>	<p>Former school building now residential as St Johns Court. It is an attractive building with ashlar dressings including carved heads and bosses above the principal doors and windows and has an inscription above the door.</p>	<p>Built in 1871, this former school house has an inscribed date above the door 'St Johns Church School' and is a noteworthy building up this busy road out of Holmfirth centre. It was built in an L shape by architect Mr J. C Teale at a cost of £1150 with the mixed school in one part and the infant school in another. It accommodated 300 children between 1871 and 1971 before closing with the opening of the new 'Parkhead' school further up the road (now Upperthong J&I School).</p>
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Appendix 3: Biodiversity Assets

International and National Designated Sites

Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area (SPA)
South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Honley Station Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Local Geological Sites

Brockholes and Round Wood, Brockholes
Digley Quarries, Holmbridge
Scar Hole Quarry, Jackson Bridge

Local Wildlife Sites

Cliff Wood
Hagg Wood, Honley
Hey Wood/West Wood
Honley Wood
Round Wood, Brockholes
Spring Wood, Honley
Carr Green Meadows, Holmbridge
Digley Reservoir/ Marsden Cough
Holme House Grasslands, New Mill
Holme House Wood, New Mill
Holmroyd Wood, Netherthong
Malkin House Wood, Holmfirth
Morton Wood
New Laith Fields, Holmbridge
Rakes Wood
Wild Boar Clough
Yateholme Reservoirs & Plantation

Appendix 4: Summary of Local Green Spaces

The following four locations have been identified for Local Green Space designation in the NDP:

- 1) Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden (Map 19)
- 2) Sandygate Fields (Map 20)
- 3) Wooldale 'Chapel Field' (Map 21)
- 4) Hade Edge 'Gateway Triangle' (Map 22)

NPPF Paragraph 100 sets out that the Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The following justification sets out how each of the Local Green Spaces meets the criteria in the NPPF:

1) Scholes Marsh Road Well Garden



Situated just below the School, Scholes Methodist church and on the road to Hepworth, this small location is closely located to the communities it serves and has long-standing local significance.

a) **Close proximity**

Situated just below Scholes School and Scholes Methodist Church, this site contains the original wells for the locality, the adjacent stonework including the base structure for what was the community hand pump.

b) Demonstrably special

The site is currently laid out as an attractive park area with shrubs surrounding a grassed area with two benches, litter bin and the wells themselves. The house across the road, previously named 'Denhirst', is Grade II listed. It is the only place in this part of the village with recreational value and has long served as a meeting place for local community activity.

The Annual Hepworth Feast procession stops at the well for singing on its circular route, a tradition dating back to 1884. The location was also used for open-air services connected with Scholes Sunday School, the Holmfirth Express reporting one such event in July 1918. The church and school still use it for displays and events and the School for example, used it for a well-dressing project in 2012. The location has been used in filming for the Last of the Summer Wine. Local wildlife is visible here with the well hosting frogspawn in the spring.

c) Local, not extensive

The site occupies the corner at the junction of White Wells Road and Marsh Road, comprising approximately 0.04 Ha. It is thus local and certainly not extensive.

2) Scholes Sandygate Fields

View from Scholes Moor Road looking towards Sandygate Farmhouse

This location comprises the historic setting of two Grade II listed farmhouses, those of Sandygate Farm and the Old House, Ryecroft; their ancient relationship with each other and the land of Scholes Moor as part of the medieval township of Scholes; and the connection with the Sandygate road, part of the historic Maythorne Way which connected Marsden, Holmfirth and Penistone.

a) Close Proximity

For this historic site, the concept of close proximity should be understood within the concept of the medieval township of Scholes, particularly because it is the heritage aspect of the area

which local residents wish to preserve. Faull and Moorhouse [1] state “Scholes was a hamlet lying in the townships of Wooldale, Fulstone, Cartworth and Hepworth. It was described as a township in 1285 and 1286 and its bounds were referred to in 1315.”

Further, they state “each township has a share of high moorland, freely draining brown soils and wetter gley soils, ie land suitable for both plough and pasture”. Within this context, Sandygate fields represent the heart of the totality of the medieval township considered in relation to its high moorland and ‘land suitable for plough and pasture’, and retains this proximity with respect to the modern settlement, the built element of which now extends from St George’s Road to Cross Lane.

[1] Faull and Moorhouse “West Yorkshire: An Archaeological Survey to 1500. Volume 3 - The Rural Medieval Landscape” pub West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council 1981

b) Demonstrably special

The special nature of the site derives from its historic origins and village heritage as described above, and its importance to local residents may be gauged by their continuing efforts over years to protect the site from development.

The demonstrably special nature of the site has been recognised in the final reports of two different Planning Inspectors who have both refused previous planning applications for the site.

In June 1996, the decision of the first Planning Inspector focussed on the character and setting of the location, being one of openness at the edge of the village allowing views out to the countryside beyond.

More recently, during the development of the Kirklees Local Plan, several hundred objections to the allocation of the site for housing were made, together with representations made by the Residents’ association (Scholes Future Group) who also gathered expert opinion from Historic England to support the case that the site should not be allocated for housing development.

In January 2019, the report of the Inspector of the Kirklees Local Plan supported this position by stating “The site consists of a series of open sloping fields on the edge of the village, divided by traditional stone walling. There are views across the site towards the nearby listed building of Sandy Gate Farmhouse and to the wider countryside, and the site provides an attractive setting to the village. The Council’s HIA identifies areas of moderate significance within the site which form part of the agricultural setting of Sandy Gate Farmhouse and another nearby listed building (The Olde House, Ryecroft). I concur with Historic England that the HIA underplays the significance of other parts of the site, as these form part of the historic field system, and there are clear views towards Sandy Gate Farmhouse from along much of Scholes Moor Road. The HIA indicates that views towards the asset are of ‘high significance’. I therefore conclude that development across much of the site would cause considerable, albeit less than substantial, harm to the listed farm, and detract from the character and setting of this part of the village.”

It is this special, recognised character and setting which Local Green Space designation would defend and preserve.

c) Local, not extensive

From the above, the site is clearly local and is self-contained within clearly defined boundaries. However, the word 'extensive' warrants further consideration. The extent of the site put forward is approximately 3.25 hectares which may seem excessive in respect of typical LGS areas. However, the special nature of the site within the historic bounds of the hamlet and associated moor within which it has been so closely related for so many centuries supports the case that not only is the area not too extensive, but indeed is as small as is necessary, to preserve the historic relationships within the locale with the associated landscape views and vistas.

3) Wooldale 'Chapel Field'**a) Close Proximity**

The field sits within the village of Wooldale, adjacent to Wooldale Free Methodist Church and close to the Wooldale Community Centre, and thus close to the community it serves.

b) Demonstrably special

The field fulfils an important function as a tranquil oasis of agricultural grazing space within Wooldale Conservation area. Wooldale Free Methodist Chapel was built in 1868 and in its early days, services were held on this field in the open air. In 1923, the chapel trustees bought the field for gatherings and the annual Wooldale Sing was held here for a number of years as well as annual bonfires, parades and other community events. The present trustees took over ownership of the field in 1997.

c) Local, not extensive

The field is contained within a boundary wall and has an area of approximately 0.4 Ha.

4) **Hade Edge 'Triangle'**



a) **Close Proximity**

The Hade Edge triangle sits on the northern edge of the village of Hade Edge, acting as a 'Gateway' to the village from the north. As the 'gateway' to the village, it is clearly close to the community it serves.

b) **Demonstrably special**

The area is maintained by the local residents' group, being used as a village green with benches and planters. It is furnished with a carved stone place name monument and is used locally as a meeting place and location for the display of local notices.

c) **Local, not extensive**

The site is not an extensive tract of land with an area of approximately 0.17 Ha.

Appendix 5: Kirklees Highway Design Guide November 2019

The Kirklees Local Plan states that car parking provision in new developments will be determined by the above criteria (Policy LP22). LP22 also states that new developments will incorporate (in their curtilage) flexibly designed and sufficient parking provision for private cars, considering a range of solutions. This is to provide the most efficient arrangement of safe, secure, convenient and visually unobtrusive car parking within a site, including a mix of on-street and off-street parking in accordance with current guidance. Policy LP22 also states that provision will be made to meet the needs of cyclists for cycling parking in new developments and that provision will be made to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities

The government abolished national maximum parking standards in 2011 as maximum parking standards can lead to poor quality development and congested streets. Local planning authorities must now seek to ensure parking provision is appropriate to the needs of a development and not reduced below a reasonable level.

20 **KEY DESIGN DRIVER**

Kirklees Council has not set local parking standards for residential and non-residential development. However, as an initial point of reference for residential developments (unless otherwise evidenced using the criteria in Para. 5.1), it is considered that new:

- 2 to 3 bedroom dwellings provide a minimum of two off-street car parking spaces
- 4+ bedroom dwellings provide three off-street spaces.
- 1-2 bedroom apartments provide one space (3+ bed two spaces)

In most circumstances, one visitor space per 4 dwellings is considered appropriate. One cycle space per unit is recommended. The council can advise on provision for other uses. Further guidance can be found [here](#):

Further guidance on parking design is outlined in the Kirklees Highway Design Guide November 2019 which can be viewed at: Highway Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (kirklees.gov.uk)

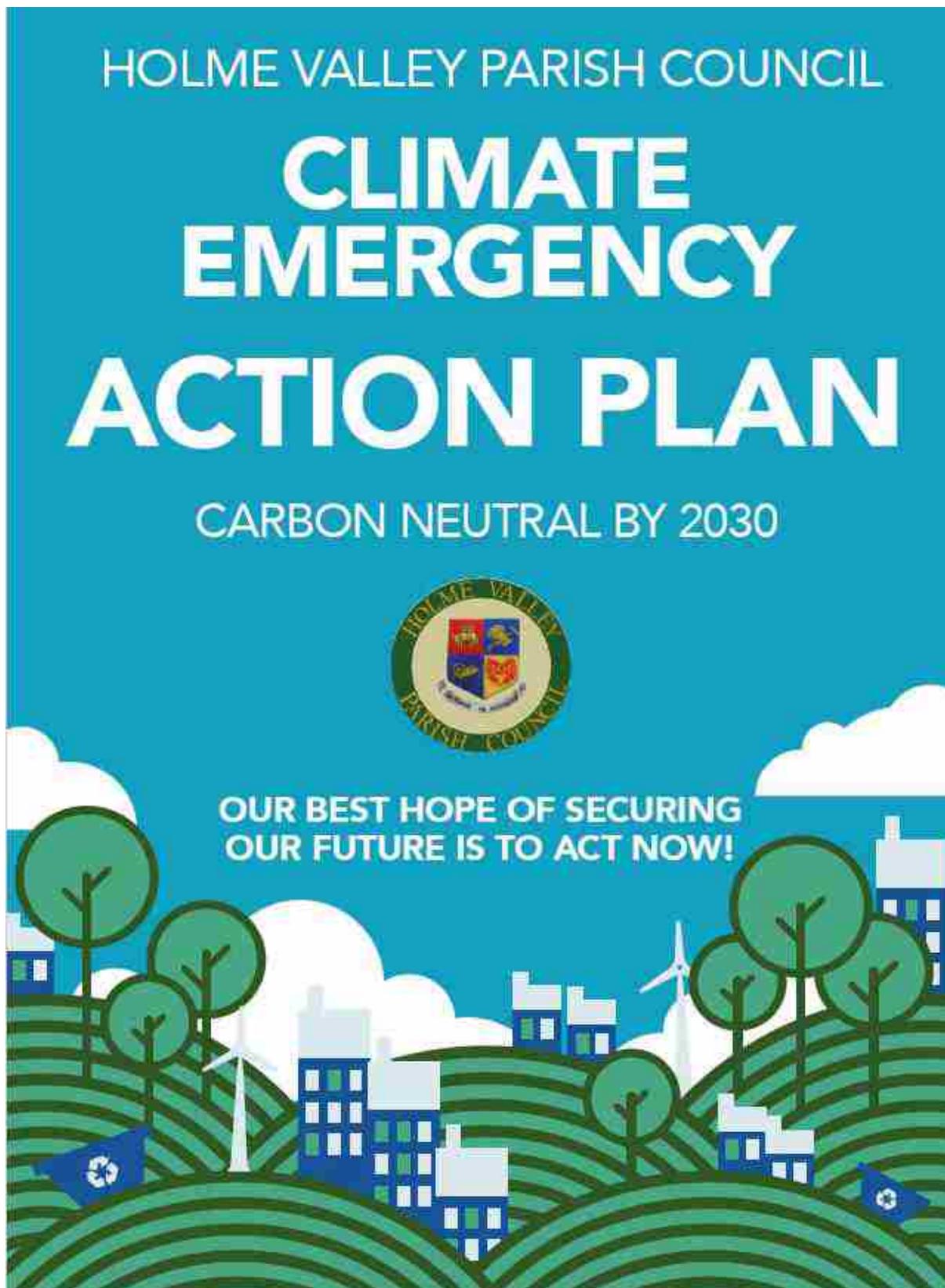
Appendix 6: Kirklees Local Plan Designated Urban Green Space

Ref No	Ward	Address	Street	Locality	Size
UGS903	Holme Valley North	Honley Park, Jagger Lane Recreation Ground & Honley Junior School	Jagger Lane	Honley	6.73
UGS904	Holme Valley North	Honley High School Playing Fields	New Mill Road	Honley	4.26
UGS906	Holme Valley North	Brockholes Junior & Infant School	Brockholes Lane	Brockholes	1.15
UGS907	Holme Valley North	Brockholes Recreation Ground	Brockholes Lane	Brockholes	0.56
UGS908	Holme Valley North	Scar Wood, Oakes Avenue Recreation Ground & Oakes Avenue Allotments	New Mill Road	Brockholes	1.51
UGS1242	Holme Valley South	All Saints Church	Town Gate	Netherthong	0.61
UGS1243	Holme Valley South	Christ Church	Sude Hill	New Mill	0.42
UGS1245	Holme Valley South	St John's Church	Upperthong Lane	Holmfirth	0.62
UGS1246	Holme Valley South	Land rear of Shawfield Avenue	Shawfield Avenue	Holmfirth	0.89
UGS1247	Holme Valley South	Land rear of Paris Road	Paris Road	Scholes	1.34
UGS1278	Holme Valley South	Dean Brook Woodland	St Marys Road	Netherthong	1.27
UGS1307	Holme Valley South	Holy Trinity Church	Butt Lane	Hepworth	0.44
UGS2150	Holme Valley South	Mill Pond	Wickleden Gate	Scholes	0.58
UGS1279	Holme Valley South	Land east of Springwood Road	Springwood Road	Thongsbridge	3.82
UGS861	Holme Valley	Holmfirth Parish Church Tennis	New Mill Road	Wooldale	0.96

Ref No	Ward	Address	Street	Locality	Size
	South	Club			
UGS884	Holme Valley South	Netherthong Primary School	School Street	Netherthong	1.13
UGS885	Holme Valley South	The Oval Playing Field	New Road	Netherthong	0.48
UGS886	Holme Valley South	Sands Recreation Ground	Huddersfield Road	Holmfirth	11.11
UGS887	Holme Valley South	Sycamore Recreation Ground & Holmfirth High School	New Mill Road	Thongsbridge	8.28
UGS888	Holme Valley South	Land between	Stoney Bank Lane & Holmfirth High School Playing Fields	Thongsbridge	3.43
UGS889	Holme Valley South	Land between	Stoney Bank Lane & Holmfirth Road	Thongsbridge	3.52
UGS890	Holme Valley South	Kirkroyds Infants & Lydgate Schools	Kirkroyds Lane	New Mill	2.34
UGS891	Holme Valley South	Land at junction of	Pell Lane and Little Lane	Wooldale	0.67
UGS892	Holme Valley South	Wooldale Recreation Ground	Little Lane	Wooldale	0.4
UGS893	Holme Valley South	Wooldale Junior School	Royds Avenue	New Mill	1.97
UGS894	Holme Valley South	New Mill Recreation Ground	Holmfirth Road	New Mill	1.03
UGS895	Holme Valley South	Victoria Park	Cooper Lane	Holmfirth	1.93
UGS896	Holme Valley South	Upperthong Junior & Infant School	Burnlee Road	Upperthong	1.19
UGS897	Holme Valley South	Cinderhills Recreation Ground	Field Road	Holmfirth	0.41
UGS898	Holme Valley South	Scholes Junior & Infant School	Wadman Road	Scholes	0.87
UGS899	Holme Valley	Holmbridge Cricket Club Ground	Woodhead Road	Holmbridge	0.68

Ref No	Ward	Address	Street	Locality	Size
	South				
UGS900	Holme Valley South	Holmbridge Recreation Ground & St Davids Church	Woodhead Road	Holmbridge	4.53
UGS902	Holme Valley South	Hade Edge Junior & Infant School & Hade Edge Recreation Ground	Greave Road	Hade Edge	1.72

Appendix 7: Holme Valley Parish Council Climate Emergency Action Plan



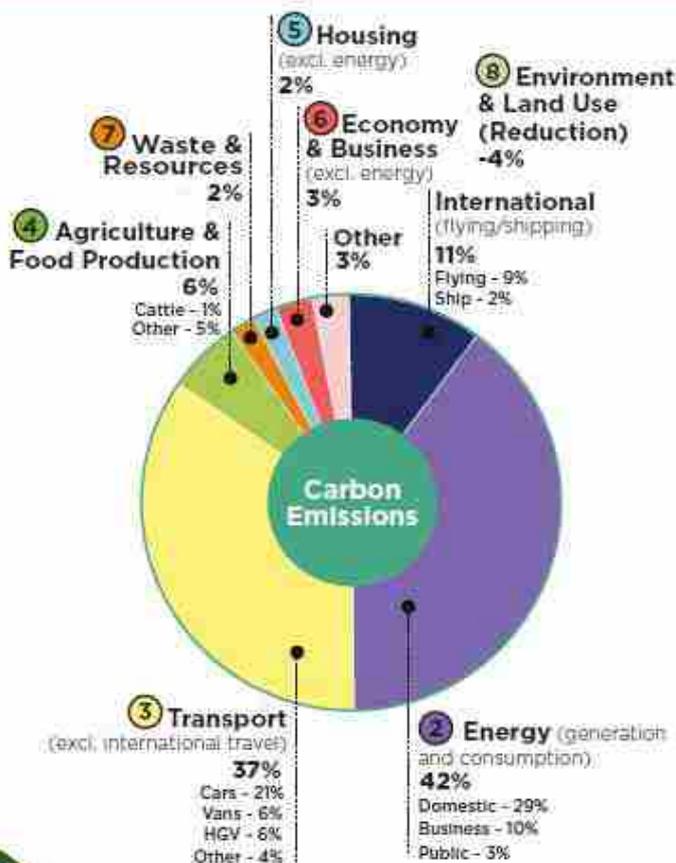
Holme Valley Parish Council recognises that we are in a state of climate emergency. Action is required by all of us to mitigate the impact of climate change on our community, our country and our planet.

Whilst we may like to think the worst impacts are far away, we are already seeing some effects close to home, with intense heat waves, heavy rainfall and flooding and more frequent moorland fires. Globally, these extremes are causing large scale flooding, crop failures and droughts, increasingly leading to massive people migrations, collapse of societies, mass starvations and millions of species threatened with extinction. These conditions are only predicted to get worse, threatening the futures of our children and grandchildren.

OUR BEST HOPE OF SECURING OUR FUTURE IS TO ACT NOW!

On 25th March 2019, the Holme Valley Parish Council pledged the Parish to becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, in order to help in making our planet safer for ourselves, our children and future generations. The Parish Council has developed this Climate Emergency Action Plan to work together with our community and other levels of government to achieve this aim.

The average carbon emissions of the people in the Holme Valley parish are about 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person per year, (based on tonnes CO₂e equivalent in 2017). As the average carbon footprint for residents, businesses and the community, this equates to carbon emissions from the Holme Valley Parish of about 180,000 tonnes per year.



REDUCING OUR CARBON EMISSIONS

To avert or reduce the effects of climate change, we need to limit the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) and remove the excess emissions already in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are mainly produced when fossil fuels (e.g. oil, gas and coal) are burned to create energy to power our homes and businesses, and to run our vehicles and machinery.

Reducing these emissions and becoming carbon neutral will require all of us to change to a more sustainable lifestyle, involving ambitious energy efficiency measures (decreasing the energy we use in the first place); getting our electricity from renewable sources (such as wind and solar); moving away from natural gas for heating and electricity generation from fossil fuels; moving to transport powered by renewable energy, eliminating waste and reusing resources, travelling less and promoting sustainable cycling, walking and the use of public transport.

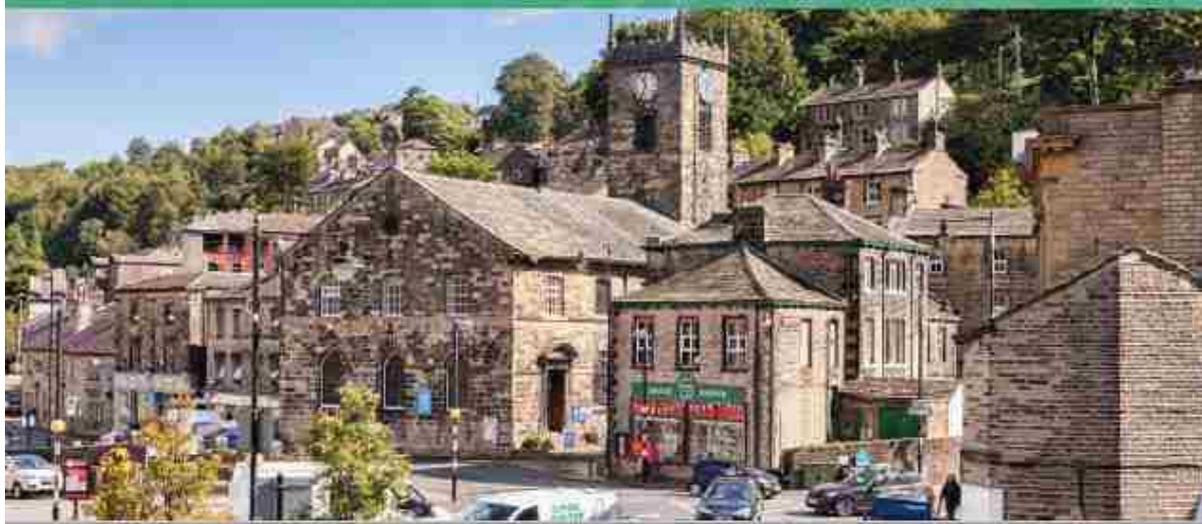
ACTION TAKEN SO FAR

The Holme Valley Parish Council with the local community and Kirklees Council, have already taken some local actions which will have reduced our carbon emissions, such as:

- Installed significant renewable energy generation capacity, particularly solar PV and wind turbines, including a community wind turbine 225kW which saves some 210 tonnes of carbon CO₂e each year.
- Insulated for free over one third of the homes in the Valley under the Kirklees Warm Zone Programme, reducing our domestic energy requirements
- Planted a number of young trees and new woodland in the Valley since 2000.
- Started upgrading Holme Valley street lighting to energy-efficient LED lights, saving electrical energy and carbon emissions
- Developed a Neighbourhood Plan with ambitions for energy-efficient homes fit for the future.

OUR GOALS:

- Inform, educate and change behaviours of residents, businesses and the wider community. In order to take the actions needed.
- Build resilience within our community to counter the adverse impact of climate change.
- Work towards a safe climate by radically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.



With a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, actions will need to be progressive; building up from *short term actions* raising awareness and showing what can be done, to *medium term actions* setting up pilot or transitional changes delivering some carbon reduction and then the *longer term actions* bringing in major change and the carbon reductions needed to get down to carbon neutral.

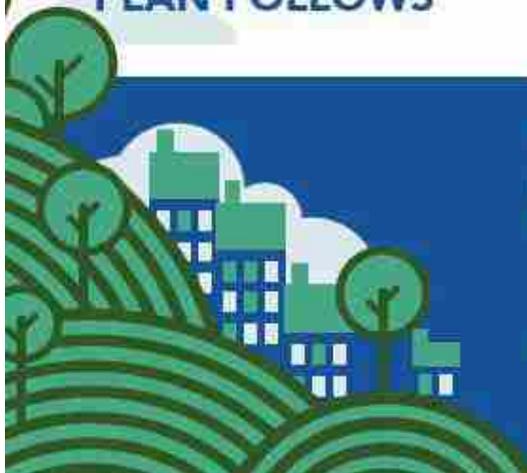


CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION WILL REQUIRE:

- Our homes and businesses to be dramatically more energy-efficient, with carbon-free heating sources.
- 100% clean electricity grid energy and more renewable energy generation within the Holme Valley.
- Ending our reliance on fossil-fuelled personal cars, vans and goods vehicles, with more shared transport and fewer journeys.
- Healthier lifestyles based on locally grown food, less red meat, more walking & cycling and a sustainable local farming economy
- Significant planting of woodland, restoration of our peatlands, preservation of green spaces and the maintenance of biodiversity in our flora and fauna.
- Working together as community residents, businesses, community organisations and all levels of government to respond to the Climate Emergency.



OUR 8 POINT ACTION PLAN FOLLOWS



Holme Valley Parish Council will work with other councils and organisations to show what is possible at the local level. Some of the largest changes, such as decarbonising our domestic energy and transport sectors by moving to 100% clean energy generation and leaving fossil fuels in the ground, will require concerted action at all levels of government, both local and national.

We will build support for this action in our local area and work with community groups and Kirklees Council to advocate for change at higher levels of government.

1 CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOBILISATION

Action is needed to avert the impact of climate change, and its impact on the lives of our community, as well as other parts of the UK and the world. The Holme Valley community needs to mobilise in response to the Climate Emergency. As the Parish Council we will facilitate this process of change within our community, and will:

SHOW LEADERSHIP

The scale and speed of transformation needed to change our energy markets, our economy, our legislation, and our behaviour in order to reduce carbon emissions, requires leadership at local, national and global levels. For our part, the Holme Valley Parish Council will:

- Engage and partner with other organisations to urge local and central government to declare and act on the Climate Emergency to meet the goals of this Climate Emergency Action plan
- Support our local community organisations to engage and take action on the Climate Emergency
- Report back on our actions and key achievements.

BUILD ENGAGEMENT

Build engagement and communications between the key stakeholders in our community, e.g. residents, community organisations, businesses, Kirklees Council, and central government. The Holme Valley Parish Council will:

- Provide information and advocacy through public meetings, events, newsletters, social media and Council website.
- Build relationships and partner with local community organisations, businesses and Kirklees Council to further our Action Plan.

STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE

Strengthen resilience of our community for dealing with economic, social and extreme environmental change. The Parish Council will:

- Seek a shared community vision of the challenges facing us with the Climate Emergency and the actions proposed, through meetings, events, website, social media etc.
- Strengthen our community identity and social cohesion, by building our Holme Valley brand, promoting our strengths and values etc.
- Build community capacity (knowledge-sharing, skills and networks) to carry out the actions proposed.

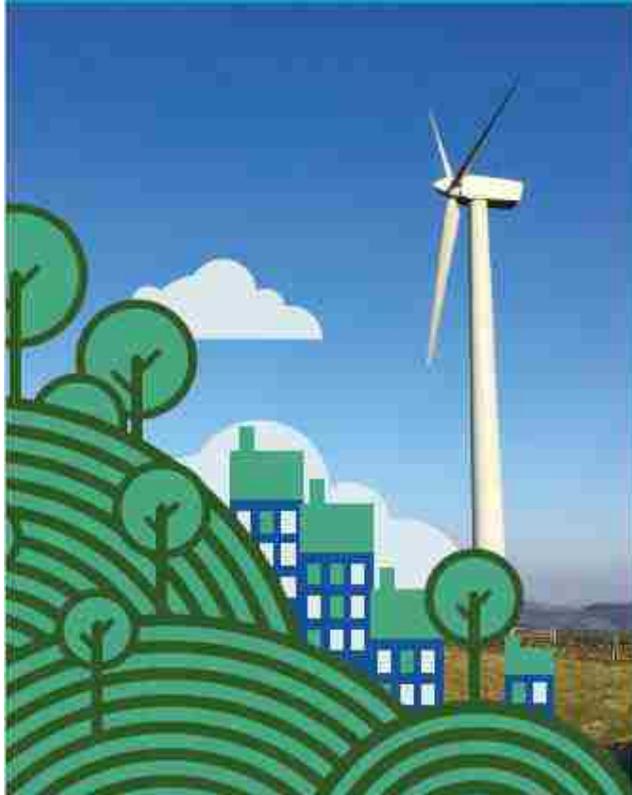


2 ENERGY ACTIONS

42% of Holme Valley Parish carbon emissions

Our major challenge is to reduce and decarbonise our domestic energy consumption, by switching to clean fuels for heating and lighting, and by transforming our local buildings and infrastructure to be more energy efficient and fit for the future. The Parish Council will:

- Encourage residents and business to **change behaviours and use less energy**
- Promote the **retrofitting of existing housing stock** (80% of 2050 homes) to make homes **more energy-efficient**, including insulation, draught-proofing, efficient heating/cooling systems and 'smart' controls.
- Ensure **new buildings** (20% of 2050 homes) are built to high **environmental and energy-efficiency standards**, through the planning process and the Local and Neighbourhood Plans.
- Support **local businesses and industry to be more energy-efficient and sustainable**.
- Support the **changeover of our street lighting and other public facilities to energy efficient LED lighting**.



- Explore how residents can **purchase renewable electricity on a communal basis** and can access communal district heating networks.
- Urge the government to **power up renewables** so that 100% of grid electricity is clean energy as soon as possible.
- Urge the government to **phase out natural gas use** for all domestic heating boilers and plan for switching to clean fuel sources for heating our buildings, such as renewable electricity, hydrogen, biofuels or heat pumps.
- Support more **renewable energy generation** in the Valley, particularly wind energy, solar and ground/air source heating, and encourage community-led schemes.

3 TRANSPORT ACTIONS

37% of Holme Valley Parish carbon emissions

The second major challenge is to make the switch to non-fossil fuelled vehicles, such as electric vehicles (EV), to reduce car dependency through better alternative transport services and infrastructure and to reduce our travel journeys. The Parish Council will:

- Promote a walking and cycling culture, reducing the need for vehicle transport whilst also improving our health and well-being etc, providing pathways, cycle routes and safe parking facilities for bikes, trikes, cargo-bikes and e-bikes.
- Support and facilitate the switch to electric (EV) and other clean energy vehicles, with dedicated parking and charging point facilities.
- Promote clean energy public transport, providing local, flexible and public transport services interconnecting our rural areas with transport hubs, using community buses, electric 'uber' style taxis, rickshaw e-bikes etc.



- Encourage more car-sharing and vehicle-free environments, reclaiming our road space, limiting personal car access, giving preference to walkers, cyclists and providing better access to public shared transport.
- Encourage residents to reduce air travel, pending clean-energy fuelled aeroplanes coming into service.

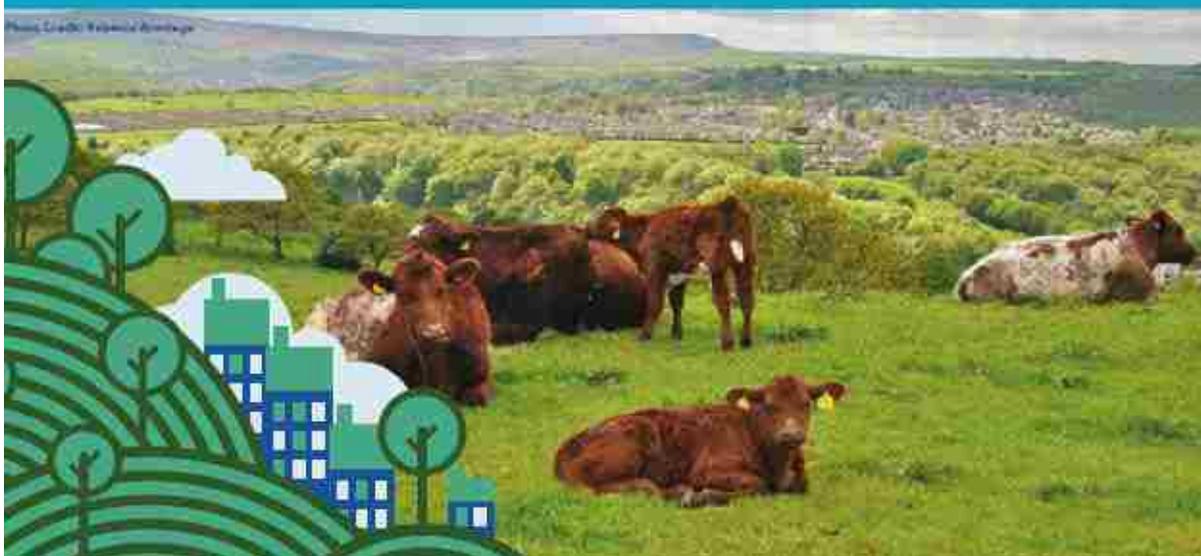


4 AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION

Current agriculture and food production practices in the modern world have degraded the land, increasing carbon emissions and reduced the land's capacity to store carbon. A transformation in the way the world produces food and manages the land is required if we are to reduce the sector's carbon emissions. The Parish Council will:



- Promote local food growing, local producers, farmers markets and local restaurants, for our local producers to have outlets for their produce, restaurants to use local foods and to encourage residents to 'eat local', whether at home or dining out.
- Seeks sites for more community allotments and community greenhouses to promote all year round growing of local foods, to meet local demand.
- Encourage healthy personal lifestyles based on maximising use of local produce, with lower red meat and dairy consumption, more fruit and vegetables, to reduce imports of food and to support our local farming economy.
- Promote sustainable farming practices in the Valley that maximise local food production and restore the carbon storage capacity of our land, such as natural animal raising, natural pest control, permaculture, polyculture and pasture management.



5 HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite our ageing housing stock and rural setting, housing demand in the Valley has risen significantly whilst house building has not kept up. A 'perfect storm' is coming, with shortages of both affordable housing for young people and compact quality housing for older people, coinciding with our existing housing stock needing to be retrofitted with energy-efficiency measures to be fit for the future. These challenging issues will have to be addressed so that the Valley community gets the housing it needs for a sustainable low carbon future. The Parish Council will:

- Support the supply of **affordable housing** in the Valley, including starter homes for the next generation of Valley residents.
- Support the supply of **compact quality housing for older residents** which meets their access and mobility needs, thereby releasing larger family homes onto the market.
- Use its powers under **Local and Neighbourhood Development Plans in the planning process**, to support development of appropriate housing to suit our community needs.
- Facilitate access to land and property for **community-led housing projects**
- Promote the development of **sustainable infrastructure** including green space landscaping, sustainable drainage (SUDS), water conservation measures, permeable surfaces and flood protection measures associated with housing and other building developments.

6 ECONOMY & BUSINESS

As a rural community within commuting distance of the large conurbations of Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester, the Holme Valley has to work hard to keep its own town centre shops and businesses going – in many similar rural areas around the country their town centres are failing. For a sustainable local economy, the challenge is to ensure sufficient local jobs and businesses to give the opportunity for residents to work locally in the Valley, instead of commuting for work within West Yorkshire and elsewhere, with all the carbon implications this brings. We will:

- Support **local small business opportunities in the growing green business sector**
- Seek to expand **local employment and training opportunities** as a means of reducing levels of commuting and to encourage young people to stay in the local area.
- Support **local service businesses in the vibrant tourism/entertainment/dining sector**
- Promote better **IT and Broadband services** in the Valley for home workers
- Encourage setting up **business hubs for local working**, with start-up offices, workshops and studios with hot-desking and commercial services facilities
- Support the establishment of **community-led businesses, such as co-operatives, community benefit societies etc**, which are supported by their local community and providing local services.
- Support **local festivals and other lifestyle events** which stimulate tourism and the local economy, as well as contributing to the character and well-being of the Valley.



7 WASTE & RESOURCES

With a natural limit to global resources, our community has to consume less products, produce less waste and recycle more of these waste resources for re-use. As we move to a 'circular economy' where waste become resources, as a community we need to change our 'throwaway' behaviours in order to reduce our carbon footprint. The Parish Council will:

- Support resource initiatives involving public awareness campaigns, educational action etc. which reduce consumption and wastage and increase recycling and recovery rates.
- Encourage local businesses to minimise their trade wastes and maximise their resource recycling and recovery rates.
- Facilitate the reduction in single-use packaging and containers e.g. by providing drinking water fountains in public spaces to reduce the need for single-use plastic water bottles.
- Encourage local businesses to make recycled and-market products from local wastes, and sell these locally, through initiatives to drive forward a local circular economy within the Valley.
- Support community re-use and recycling e.g. recycling hubs, repair cafés, cooperative businesses etc.
- Urge government to enforce the highest levels of resource recovery and to implement their new UK Waste and Resource strategy in the move towards a circular economy for the UK.

8 ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE

With the realisation of the role that sustainable land use and afforestation plays in reducing carbon, the Valley can offset its carbon emissions by planting more woodland, conserving peatlands and wetlands, restoring grasslands and other changes to farmland and moorland, in order to retain them as carbon sinks and promote biodiversity. The Parish Council will:



- Encourage the planting and management of more trees and woodlands in our Valley for carbon sequestration (as carbon sinks)
- Support the restoration and conservation of peatlands and wetlands (bogs) on our moors
- Support the restoration of agricultural pastures and grasslands in the Valley
- Promote community gardens, permaculture, wildlife gardens and green spaces
- Encourage biodiversity of our flora and fauna to protect our pollinators and sustain a natural environment for crop production.
- Support sustainable land use measures in the Valley that can ensure water conservation, flood protection, and soil erosion protection.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



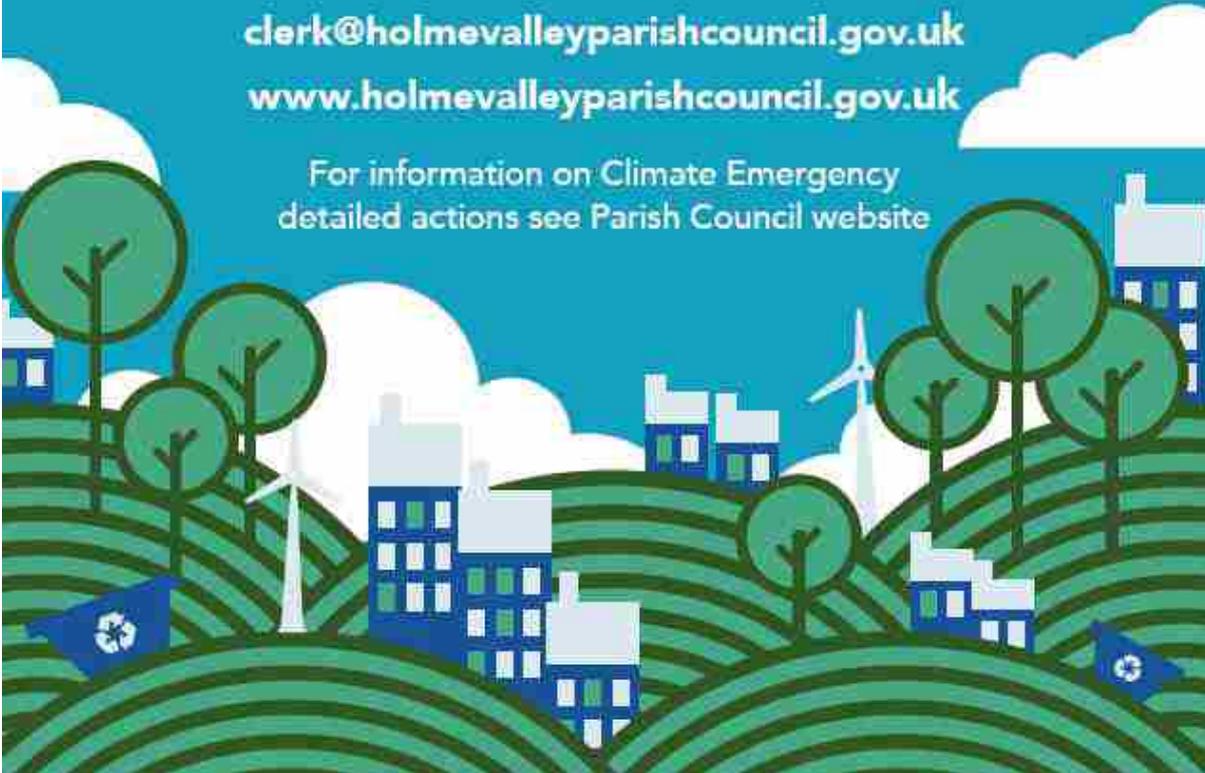
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For information on Climate Emergency detailed actions see Parish Council website



Holme Valley Parish Council

August 2021