



**Holme Valley
Neighbourhood
Development Plan
2016 – 2031**

**Draft Issues and Options
Discussion Document
May 2017**

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document represents the first stage in the production of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan will touch many aspects of life in the Valley over the coming years. It will allow us to influence new building and land use in our area as it will form part of the statutory planning framework for Kirklees, and the policies and proposals in it will be used when decisions are made on planning applications.

The Plan cannot contradict Kirklees' Local Plan or the National Planning Policy Framework: rather it adds detail and will make sure that new buildings reflect the characteristics of the area.

The Holme Valley Parish Council has been given the responsibility for producing the Plan in a way that allows local people to have a say about what matters now and for the future and to define the important characteristics of the area.

Thus, making sure the Plan reflects local interests as well as fitting with the other planning documents is critical if it is to be relevant but this is complex and takes time. We also want to obtain the views of many people as we can during the production of the Plan to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible and acceptable to most. This takes time as well.

Consultation on the Plan consist of several stages:

This first stage will check if the Steering Group, set up by the Parish Council, is heading in the right direction. It will look at the proposed Vision of the Valley and Objectives, explore the issues facing the Valley and propose ways of addressing them through planning policies. The Plan cannot deal with all the things that local people care about but it can do a lot to ensure the Valley remains a good place to live, work and play in and to visit.

This consultation stage will run until 14 July 2017. After that, the process will be:

1. Policy options, based on the feedback received during the first stage, will be developed and people's views on these will be sought, probably through an on-line questionnaire before the end of the year.
2. Following this the draft Plan will be sent out for the formal six-week consultation period.
3. Following further revisions, the Plan will go to Kirklees Council for checking and Kirklees will run another six weeks' consultation stage.
4. When the final version is completed, the Plan will go to the Government's Planning Inspector who will test it and the way in which it has been produced in a public examination. The Plan will not be approved if it does not comply with the national requirements or if it does not fit with Kirklees' Local Plan.
5. Further revisions may be made after the examination.
6. Finally, the Plan will be put to a Referendum in the Holme Valley. If there is a majority of people voting Yes (50% of turnout + 1), the Plan will form part of Kirklees Council's Local Plan and will be used with Kirklees' and national planning policies when planning applications are decided.

2 YOU CAN COMMENT ON THIS DOCUMENT BY:

- Coming to an open event and talking directly to a member of the Steering Group
- These will be held between 1pm and 9pm on:
 - June 7th at Hade Edge Band Room, HD9 2DF
 - June 9th at Holmfirth Civic Hall, HD9 3AS
 - June 13th at St David's Parish Hall, HD9 2NE
 - June 15th at Hepworth Village Hall, HD9 1TE
 - June 19th at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Honley, HD9 6AH
 - June 23rd at Wooldale Community Centre, HD9 1XZ
- Reading it on our website ([click here](#)) and sending your comments by email to insert or by post to

Holme Valley Parish Council,
Council Offices,
Civic Hall
Huddersfield Road,
Holmfirth,
HD9 3JP

- Reading printed copies at one of the above locations and sending your comments by email or post as above.

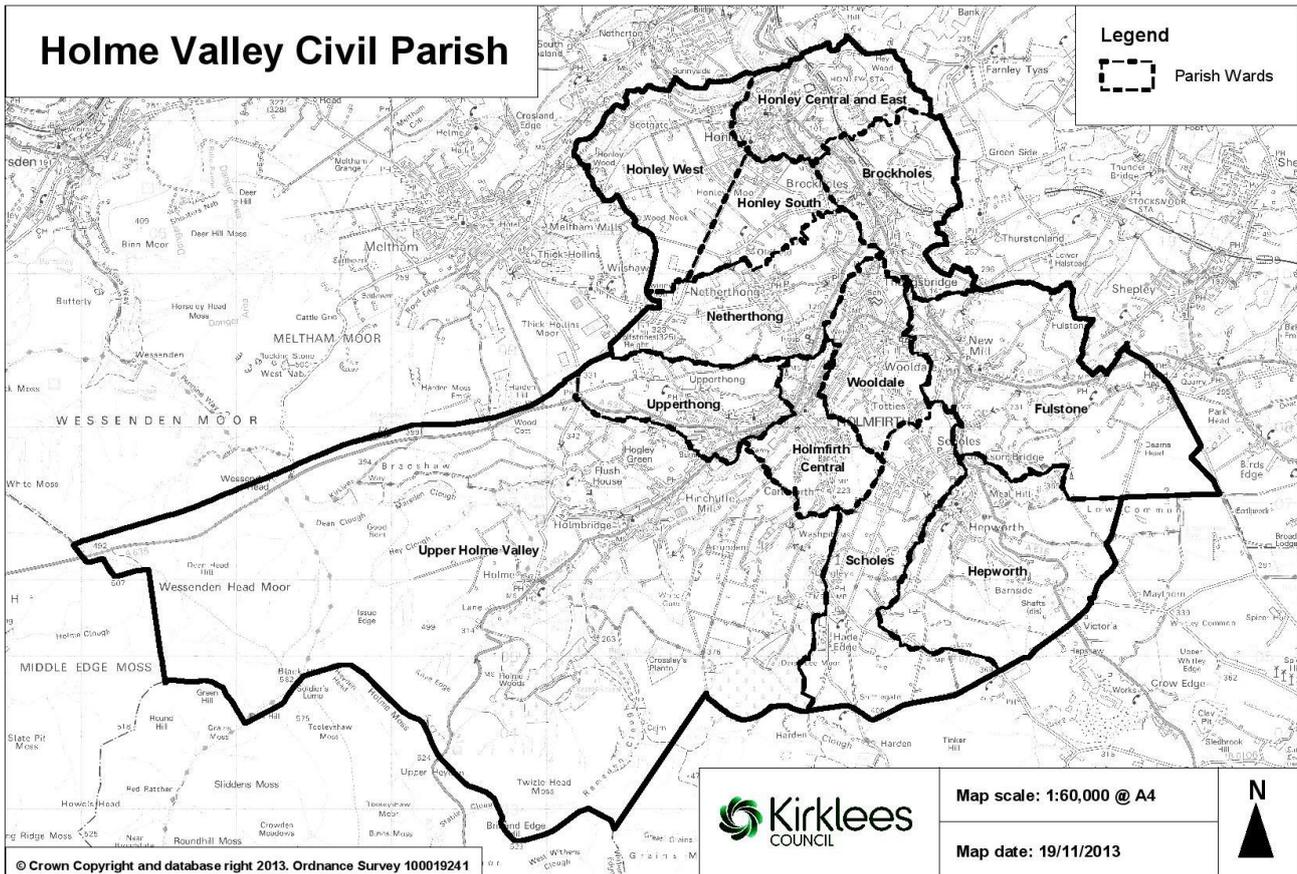
YOUR COMMENTS ARE NEEDED BY 14 JULY 2017

The Steering Group will read everyone's comments carefully and they will be used to produce the next version of the Plan.

We appreciate that commenting on documents like this takes time and would like to thank you for your contribution and for caring about the future of the Valley.

3 THE HOLME VALLEY

Holme Valley is a large civil parish in the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees in West Yorkshire, England. It 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 Austonley, Brockholes, Cinderhills, Hade Edge, Hepworth, Hinchcliffe Mill, Holmbridge, Holme, Honley, Jackson Bridge, Netherthong, New Mill, Scholes, Thongsbridge, Upperrthong and Wooldale.



Map 1 Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area showing Parish Wards

There are areas within the Parish that are urban and areas that are very rural, with 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 distinctive in terms of the widespread use of traditional local materials, and the scale and form of rural buildings.

The age distribution of people living in the Valley is skewed towards adults. The chart below shows the percentage of people in broad age groups as estimated by the Office of National statistics in 2015 and compared to Kirklees and England.



4 BACKGROUND TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Holme Valley Parish Council is the first tier of local government covering the administrative area of the Holme Valley. The Council's main aim is to improve the quality of life of the residents of the Holme Valley. It works in partnership with many organisations to promote the Valley to make it a thriving place to live, work and play in, as well as an attractive area to visit.

The Parish council's responsibilities include:

- Representing and consulting the residents of the Holme Valley on developments in the Valley including the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan and the district authority's Local Plan
- Supporting and encouraging local events and community organisations through providing financial grants and assistance
- Managing and sustaining community facilities, including the minibus service, the public toilets in the centre of Holmfirth, libraries and information points, public seats and stone bus shelters, a closed churchyard and allotments.

In 2014, the Parish Council decided to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the Holme Valley (the designated area) and applied to become a designated neighbourhood planning body. This was approved by Kirklees Council and Peak District National Park Authority in February 2015.

A Steering Group made up of Parish Councillors and representatives from local community groups was set up and Planning Consultants, Kirkwells, were appointed in summer 2016 to provide professional town planning consultancy support.

This following document has been prepared by the Steering Group drawing on their knowledge and understanding of the local area, feedback from the groups of which they are members and the many consultation exercises that have taken place in the Valley in recent years. The Heritage and Character Assessment study undertaken by consultants, Aecom, in 2016 has also provided valuable information. This document can be found on the Parish Council's web site (<https://www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/np/>)

5 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

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 next 15 – 20 years.

The objectives break the Vision down into sections to help structure our thinking about how we could address the issues facing the Valley and what options are available to us.

VISION FOR THE VALLEY

To sustain the distinctive and characteristic identity of the Holme Valley, whilst enabling all to access the latest services and facilities for modern life.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: To preserve and promote the distinctive characteristics of the Holme Valley.

This will be achieved by:

- Protecting views from any point in the Valley, by limiting the size and nature of all development.
- Balancing the number of new houses with the needs of the Valley and what development it can accommodate to prevent the merger of settlements and an unacceptable increase in traffic load.
- Use of traditional building materials and design styles.
- Appraising Conservation Areas, particularly Holmfirth and Honley, to assist planning decisions.
- Increasing understanding and awareness of the importance, value and protection of the historic features and archaeology.
- Encouraging the Local Planning Authority to comply with legislation which covers the preservation of listed and heritage buildings and enforce legislation when necessary to preserve these buildings.

How do we deal with the contradictions our policies may create? For example the use of locally quarried stone may conflict with concerns about the development of new and large quarries.

Objective 2: To protect open spaces and the landscape of the Holme Valley.

This will be achieved by:

- Requiring the use of brownfield sites in preference to greenfield land for development.
- Protecting uninterrupted views of sweeping uplands, naturally weathered scars and cliffs and the plateau and valley scenery.
- Caring and providing for the two SSSIs, i.e. Honley station cutting and the South Pennine Moors.

- Caring and providing for the three Regionally Important Geological /Geomorphological Sites (RIGS), i.e.
- Brockholes and Round Wood, Brockholes
- Digley Quarries, Holmbridge
- Scar Hole Quarry, Jackson Bridge
- Protecting wildlife habitats.
- Maintaining the distinctive features, e.g. dry stone walls (field boundaries), stone gateposts, stiles, stone steps, flagged footpaths, greenways.
- Planting greenways with native species suited to the acidic soil conditions, i.e. oak, holly, hazel, elder and hawthorn.

Objective 3: To promote appropriate design and building standards in all development.

This will be achieved by:

- Requiring off street parking to be included in the design of developments.
- Requiring new housing development to be varied and in keeping with the character of the towns and villages, with no unsustainable ‘estates’.
- Encouraging a higher percentage of affordable housing and mixed developments with small, medium and large houses, and other types of dwelling with employment sites intermixed.
- Encouraging the use of local stone and local products in construction from existing quarries to ensure development is in keeping with existing buildings and to preserve the local economy.
- Encouraging preservation of historic window and door styles in Conservation Areas.
- Encouraging the use of natural stone and wood products in preference to uPVC for new or replacement windows and doors in Conservation Areas.
- Encouraging neighbourliness through the design of new developments that facilitate people meeting and talking to each other and that avoid creating areas which lead to conflict, such as restricted access.

Objective 4: To promote growth of the economy, employment and tourism in the Holme Valley.

This will be achieved by:

- Encouraging mixed developments of industrial units and appropriate housing (including affordable housing) to attract businesses which are “light”, environmentally friendly and which provide a variety of employment and career progression for all.
- Encouraging tourism and the visitor economy.
- Requiring developments to include provision for the services and facilities that meet the needs of the surrounding residents and the provision of employment

opportunities.

- Encouraging continued use of community buildings by public subscription where necessary

Objective 5: To promote education.

This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring easy access to good quality education for children and adults
- Encouraging life-long learning by encouraging opportunities for active citizenship, volunteering and participation in the community
- Increasing the appreciation and understanding of the environment, the arts and the Valley's cultural and industrial heritage

Objective 6: To promote the health and well-being of residents.

This will be achieved by:

- Encouraging people to reduce their use of cars by providing more local employment opportunities
- Encouraging the provision of facilities which support the activity and recreation of people of all ages and abilities
- Encouraging walking, cycling, horse riding, the use of open space and children's play through design features and by managing traffic volumes and speed through street design
- Providing open spaces for sporting, recreation and leisure use (including dog walking)
- Ensuring that planting is in keeping with the flora of the specific location and provision is made for wild life
- Requiring the provision of smaller and mixed types of residential property close to services and facilities so the needs of the older Valley residents are met

Objective 7: To improve accessibility.

This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring access means accessible to all regardless of age, ability and cultural background, and eliminating unnecessary barriers
- Encouraging walking and other forms of transport such as cycling and horse-riding by refurbishing (where necessary), maintaining and using existing footpaths, green lanes and bridleways
- Using natural conduits such as the River Holme, to develop pathways for safer cycling and walking, subject to landowner permissions for access.
- Ensuring that new housing and industrial developments do not exacerbate existing congestion areas, including the centres of New Mill and Holmfirth, and at Honley Bridge.

- Ensuring that any employment or industrial activity is supported by sufficient parking.
- Working with the Local Authority to separate heavy traffic from residential and town centre areas, e.g. use of weight limits or specified unloading timeslots.
- Improving public transport routes and being more imaginative about reducing use of cars, e.g. car sharing etc.
- Improving or constructing new stone pavements, particularly on school routes.

Objective 8: To improve infrastructure and movement around the Valley.

This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring no overloading of infrastructure to the detriment of existing residents, e.g. New Mill Square
- Ensuring 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
- Having a more proactive view to managing traffic in the Valley, e.g. improving traffic flow and diverting traffic where possible from the centre of towns
- Reducing street furniture and signage and ensuring what remains is in a style which reflects the Valley's characteristics
- Requiring the provision of footways, cycle ways and bridle ways that reflect the historical style of the Valley
- Providing the equipment and resources to support modern communication method
- Working with infrastructure providers to improve connectivity and access to reliable, high-capacity and faster internet connections.

Objective 9: To promote sustainability and reduce impact on climate change.

This will be achieved by:

- Making use of and enforcing tree preservation orders and encouraging tree planting where appropriate
- Requiring new build to include sustainable energy sources, e.g. ground source heat pumps, solar panels and small wind turbines
- Encouraging sustainable energy installations in new build and existing houses. (Encouraging reduced use of fossil fuels, providing more recycling facilities and by encouraging home owners to be more energy conscious with power in the home}
- Encouraging allocation of home produce growing areas, e.g. allotments and gardens
- Increasing awareness of a sustainable way of living

- More modern thinking about traffic, but also about design of properties, e.g. encouraging use of electric cars and installation of electric points
- Encouraging the use of energy conservation and carbon reduction measures
- Minimising the demand on drainage systems by reducing the amount of surface water runoff from developments by the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Mitigating damage from flooding
- Providing easier access to the river landscape
- Requiring tree planting and creation of wild life habitats where appropriate
- Preserving the distinctive farming landscape and outlying settlements
- Encouraging the sympathetic use of the countryside for economic purposes including agriculture and leisure activities.

Your views please

The vision and objectives are not set in concrete. We would like to know:

- Does the Vision describe the place you want to live in?
- Do you think achieving the objectives will achieve the Vision?
- Has anything been missed out?
- Has anything been included that should not be there?

6 PROTECTING OUR BUILT AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The Steering Group suggests that, if action was taken on the issues affecting the built and natural heritage as suggested below, the following objectives would be achieved:

Objective 1 To preserve and promote the distinctive characteristics of the Holme Valley.

Objective 2: To protect open spaces and the landscape of the Holme Valley.

Objective 3: To promote appropriate design and building standards in all development.

HOLME VALLEY CHARACTERISTICS

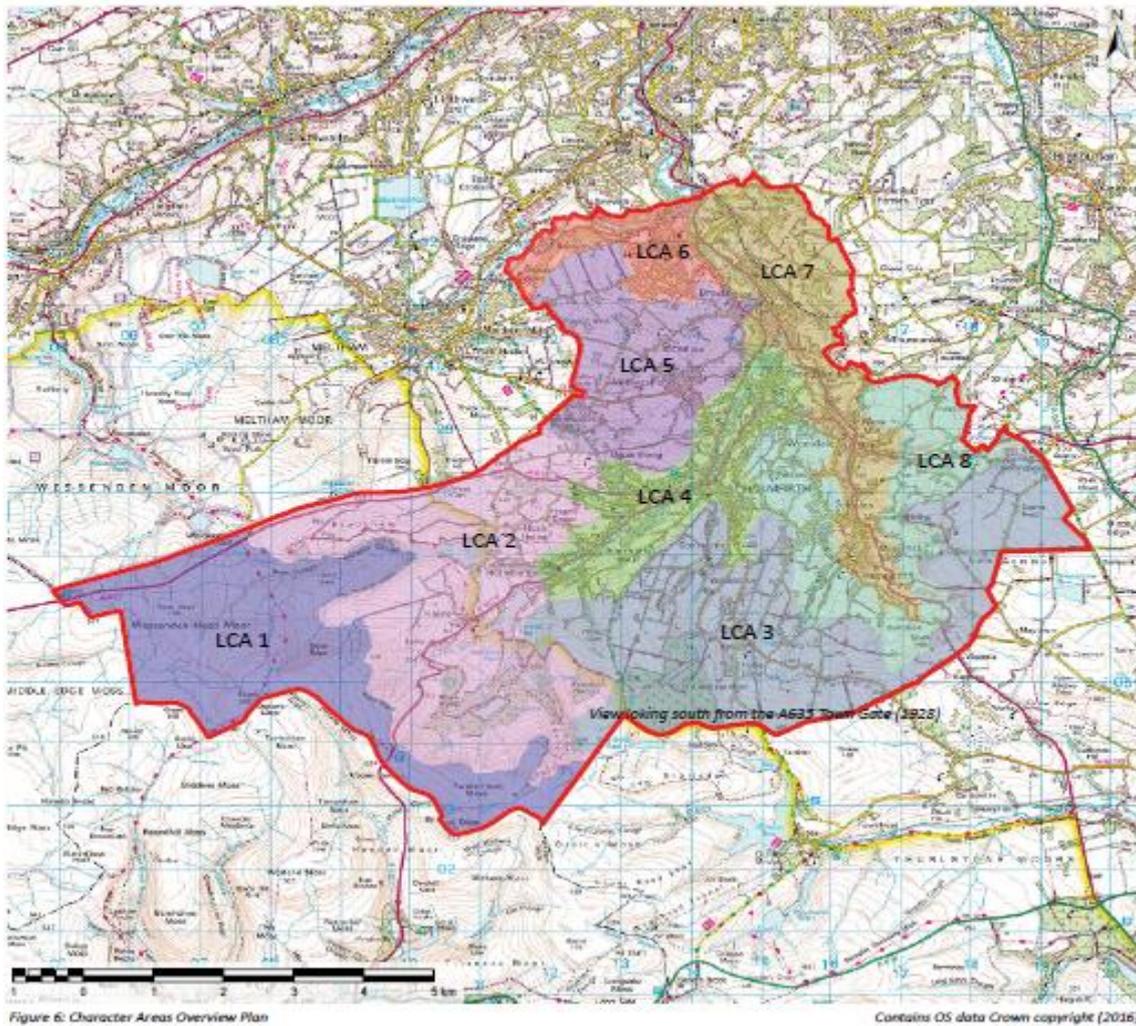
The Holme Valley's built heritage and distinctive character are clearly valued locally, nationally and internationally as positive assets. Built heritage assets in the Valley include the 13 conservation areas: Holmfirth, Honley, Hepworth, Netherthong, Oldfield, Upperthong, Fulstone, Hinchliffe Mill, Underbank, Wooldale, Scholes, Totties and Holme. There are also 451 listed buildings and 3 Scheduled Monuments. These are all detailed in Kirklees' Planning Policy Assessment.

Kirklees Council has published conservation area appraisals for Oldfield and Holme conservation areas and the Holmfirth Conservation Group has carried out an appraisal of the Holmfirth Conservation Area. These documents complement the Aecom Heritage and Character Assessment and will inform the development of the built heritage policies.

Kirklees Council has also saved policies from its previous planning documents and the Local Plan aims to protect the historic environment.

The Neighbourhood Plan can contain policies in addition to Kirklees' to protect the special local qualities and the distinctive characteristics of the Valley as a whole. These would promote high quality design in new development and alterations, encouraging developers and property owners to respond positively to the local character and context.

Holme Valley Heritage and Character Assessment carried out by Aecom produced profiles of eight areas defined on the map below:



Map 2 Local Character Areas

The profiles identify the key characteristics of each area:

LCA 1: Wessenden Moors

- Undulating gritstone plateau with an extensive area of high moorland which forms a continuation of character from the Peak District National Park
- Lack of settlement with a strong sense of remoteness and desolation
- Open landscape largely devoid of tree cover with expansive views
- Land use dominated by rough sheep grazing with boundaries formed by a combination of post and wire fencing and millstone grit walling
- Transport routes limited to the trans-Pennine routes of the A635 Greenfield Road and A6024 Woodhead Road which cross the open moorland
- Impoverished soils with thick deposits of blanket peat
- Holme Moss Transmitting Station forms a visually prominent local landmark on

the skyline. It also offers elevated north-easterly views towards Emley Moor Transmitting Station

LCA 2: Holme Moorland Fringe

- Steep slopes and cloughs rising towards the moorland plateau above, creating incursions in the broad pastoral terrace
- Distinctive vernacular architecture dominated by millstone grit building stone
- Agricultural fields enclosed by millstone grit walls which form an immediate fringe to the Peak District National Park
- Prevalence of water catchment land use with the presence of several valley reservoirs and associated geometric blocks of coniferous plantation
- Deciduous tree cover limited to wooded cloughs, watercourse trees and field boundary treatments
- Settlement comprised of the small rural isolated settlement of Holme village as well as millstone grit farmsteads scattered across the pastoral land use
- Transport links dominated by the routes of the A6024 Woodhead Road and the A635 Greenfield Road with a network of minor roads and lanes cross the wider landscape
- High number of recreational resources in the form of upland reservoirs and long distance walking routes
- Overall sense of exposure and isolation as a result of the surrounding moorland.

LCA 3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures

- Dispersed settlement pattern within a rural landscape
- Division of landscape into recti linear pastoral fields enclosed by millstone grit walling
- Sparsely wooded landscape with tree cover limited to shelterbelts within the agricultural landscape
- Availability of framed views towards the settled corridor of the River Holme
- Views of open water bodies such as Boshaw Whams and Holme Styes Reservoirs
- Mixture of individual and small clusters of farm dwellings typical of the local vernacular
- Rectilinear network of minor roads
- Large scale farm complexes in varied condition / state of repair
- Evidence of diversification of the rural economy
- Views of single domestic wind turbines on the rising valley sides of the area with long distance views available to the Spicer Hill and Royd Moor Wind Farms in Barnsley District.

LCA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor

- Strong pattern of ribbon development with settlements such as Holmbridge, Hinchliffe Mill and Holmfirth located on the lower valley topography
- Main transport routes of the A635 Greenfield Road and the A6024 Huddersfield Road accommodated within the valley floor
- Vegetation associated with the River Holme which drains west to east and divides the area
- Availability of views towards rising rural backdrops and steep incised valley sides within the wider study area
- Presence of mill ponds and mill buildings as a reminder of the industrial heritage of the area
- Boundary treatments comprised largely of millstone grit walling and decorative iron railings which divide individual properties and form the street facing elevation
- Popularity of Holmfirth as a tourist attraction on coupled with cultural references associated with the town as a setting for the BBC's Last of the Summer Wine
- Narrow winding streets which climb steeply from the valley floor
- Narrow alleys with distinct changes in level, often retained with stone sett surfacing.

LCA 5: Netherthong Rural Fringe

- Transition to a gently undulating farmland plateau
- Network of minor roads which traverse and climb the valley slopes from Holmfirth in the valley floor
- Medium scale irregular shaped agricultural fields dominated by improved pastures
- Development pattern of tight settlement clusters in contrast with the open elevated agricultural landscape
- Unified local vernacular provided by prevalence of millstone grit dwellings and stone wall field boundary treatments
- Elevated landscape provides a rural backdrop to the village of Honley and the settled valley floor below
- Vegetated corridors of Dean Brook and Mark Bottoms Dike which drain the valley sides
- Availability of views to the north east towards Victoria Tower on Castle Hill, a local landmark
- Evidence of urban fringe land use.

LCA 6: Honley Village Centre

- Densely settled landscape dominated by the settlement of Honley, located on

the valley sides of the River Holme

- High proportion of traditional vernacular buildings within the historic and commercial core of Honley
- Strong inter-visibility with the rural fringe landscape to the south-west
- Large tracts of woodland cover associated with Mag Brook which meanders and forms a green corridor to the north
- Expansion of housing to the south of the historic core of Honley, defined by largely 20th century developments
- Disused quarries indicate the historical importance of the area for the extraction of coal and stone
- Historic mill buildings and ponds located on Mag Brook prior to its confluence with the River Holme form local heritage features.

LCA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley

- Densely settled landscape with ribbon development prevalent along the valley floor
- The transport corridor of the A616 Huddersfield Road and the Huddersfield to Sheffield Rail Line run broadly north-west to south-east through the valley
- Industrial heritage features such as weirs and mill buildings form common features along the river corridor
- Linear street pattern with a high proportion of traditional vernacular buildings facing the main road and extending up the valley sides
- Evidence of coal mining in the upland areas, including artificial mounds and hollows within the landscape
- Evidence of rural fringe land use in the upper valley sides.

LCA 8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley.

- Variation in topography ranging from undulating valley slopes to the steeply sided topography evident to the south-east around Jackson Bridge
- Settled slopes of the River Holme, characterised by small villages and hamlets as well as scattered farm dwellings
- Availability of extensive views due to the open nature of landscape setting
- Single lane rural roads criss-cross the open rural setting, often bounded by millstone grit walls
- Sloping grassland pastures enclosed by a combination of millstone grit walls and hedgerow boundaries
- Unified local vernacular linked to the use of millstone grit for buildings and field boundaries.

Issues to be addressed in the AECOM assessment

- Alterations to buildings through development which is unsympathetic to existing buildings and not in keeping with the character of the local area
- Construction of developments, including infill, which do not respect historic village or town layouts.
- Potential for settlements joining up, especially on the Valley floor
- High levels of traffic and on street parking which deters access and creates barriers for pedestrians and cyclists and restricts traffic flow
- Decline in stone walls resulting in the loss of the distinctive field pattern and the introduction of inappropriate boundaries.

Sensitivity to change

There are also some elements which are particularly sensitive to change. These relate to:

- The sense of remoteness with a lack of development or human influence
- Topography and availability of open views
- The nature of building materials and design details, including surviving millstone grit boundary walls
- The number of buildings and conservation areas
- Distinctive settlements which follow the Valley topography
- Defined building line with building frontages sitting at the back of pavements
- The presence of industrial heritage features on the Valley floor.

The following policies would help to achieve our above objectives:

1 Protecting local distinctiveness and character of the Holme Valley

For new development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they will protect and enhance local distinctiveness and character. Consideration should be given to the characteristic identity of the area, and new development should respond positively to these key characteristics.

Designs should include use of traditional local building materials (such as millstone grit for walls and stone flag roofs) wherever possible. Schemes should be of a scale, height and layout which are sensitive to the historic building patterns and form of existing settlements.

Buildings should be sited and designed to respond positively to the local topography of steep valley sides and narrow valley floors. Buildings should be sited to sit at the back of pavements to respect the strong local building line. Developments should sit within the frame of the hillside and valleys or slopes and should not break the skyline to protect the views of the undeveloped hill tops.

Stone walls and traditional stone troughs should be protected and new stone walls are encouraged as part of boundary treatments.

2 Protecting local distinctiveness and character of each area and their settlements

A series of policies will protect the unique characteristics of the different settlements and will consider the built heritage assets and landscape character of the different areas and settlements within them. For example

L CA 1: Wessenden Moors

- Development will be very limited in this Character Area. However, if schemes do come forward any built form should be sited and designed sensitively to protect the sense of remoteness within the landscape
- Opportunities should be taken to protect and restore millstone grit walling wherever possible as part of boundary treatment.

CA 2: Holme Moorland Fringe

- Where planning permission is required, modifications or extensions to buildings should be in keeping the character of the local vernacular
- Use of traditional timber windows and lime mortar is encouraged in new development.

CA 3: Hade Edge Upland Pastures

- Where planning permission is required, conversion of rural farming dwellings should incorporate materials which reflect the local vernacular
- Existing stone walls should be retained and incorporated into boundary treatment to retain traditional field patterns
- Large scale modern agricultural buildings should use traditional materials such as stone and timber wherever possible. Large roof spans should be broken up by introducing varying heights to reduce the visual impact.

CA 4: River Holme Settled Valley Floor

- Where planning permission is required, modifications or extensions to buildings should be in keeping with the character of the local vernacular.
- Domestic porches on former agricultural buildings are not encouraged
- Use of traditional building materials within new development is encouraged
- Distinctive architectural detailing to buildings and boundaries should be retained wherever possible
- In-fill development and incremental expansion of settlements which do not conform with the existing layout of town and village centres, will be discouraged, to help protect against coalescence of villages along the valley floor.

CA 5: Netherthong Rural Fringe

- Use of traditional timber windows is encouraged

- Suitable parking provision should be provided on site to avoid further on street parking and congestion, but parking areas should not dominate the street scene
- Millstone grit walling should be retained and incorporated into schemes to help protect distinctive field patterns.

CA 6: Honley Village Centre

- Schemes should provide suitable parking provision to avoid additional pressures and congestion at peak times on narrow roads
- Distinctive architectural detailing to buildings and boundaries should be retained wherever possible in redevelopment schemes and alterations to existing buildings
- Further outward expansion of settlement encroaching into the rural landscape to the south-west is discouraged.

CA 7: River Holme Wooded Valley

- Where planning permission is required, extensions and alterations should be sympathetic to the local vernacular. The introduction of porches to former agricultural buildings is discouraged
- Traditional features such as stone mullions should be retained wherever possible in redevelopment schemes
- New development is encouraged to use locally appropriate traditional materials in schemes wherever possible, including in boundary treatments
- The historic settlement form should be protected. Residential development in small villages should not contribute towards settlement coalescence.

CA 8: Settled Slopes of the Holme Valley

- Use of traditional timber windows is encouraged
- Developments around the edge of the conservation area should be designed to protect the setting of the heritage assets.

3 Protecting the Conservation Areas and their settings

Proposals for new development and alterations to existing buildings will be required to demonstrate careful consideration of any potential impact on the conservation area and other nearby heritage assets above or underground.

All development should seek to protect and, where possible enhance, both designated and non-designated heritage assets and historic landscape character, and put in place measures to avoid or minimise impact or mitigate damage.

Proposals will be required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. They also should protect, conserve, and where possible enhance heritage assets and their settings in a manner appropriate to their significance.

Overall, development must reflect the scale, mass, height and form of existing locally

characteristic buildings, and design details and materials should be chosen to be harmonious with neighbouring properties.

Contemporary designs will be acceptable where they are of exceptional quality and where they clearly demonstrate that they are appropriate to their context.

4 Conserving and enhancing local heritage assets

There may be buildings within the area which do not benefit from the protection of Statutory Listing, but are of local heritage value. Therefore, the policy will ensure that such local heritage assets will be identified, conserved and enhanced.

Development proposals affecting these assets will be supported when they conserve and enhance them. Development that would result in the loss of or have a detrimental impact on these assets will only be supported in the following circumstances:

1. Where renovation or alteration of non-designated heritage assets require planning permission, such changes will need to be designed sensitively, with careful regard to the heritage asset's historical and architectural value, and pay appropriate regard to the asset's setting

or

2. Where a proposal would result in the loss of or substantial harm to a locally non-designated heritage asset, the development will only be permitted when its public benefit outweighs the loss of or harm to the asset and its setting. Where development is permitted, this will be conditioned to ensure the development takes place after the loss, or harm has occurred and that appropriate recording of the heritage takes place prior to any loss or harm.

The following actions could also be taken to help protect our local heritage:

- Encourage any changes to reservoir designs (walls, spillways etc.) to be done in sympathetic way to local environment and with permission.
- Prepare a design handbook with specification of acceptable styles which merge with the local style. Include examples of what is NOT acceptable. e.g. out of proportion, window layout etc.
- Support community purchases and development where a heritage asset becomes structurally unsafe for use and encourage community ownership of locally important buildings.
- Encourage creation and implementation of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management plans
- Provide workshops and or advice to owners of heritage assets (possibly through community groups)
- Encourage and support the adoption of community assets and any redevelopment in sympathetic and financially viable ways.
- Implement enforcement of illegal alterations and signage within Conservation Areas.
- Encourage improvements to shopfronts through provision of design guidelines

and annual awards.

- Achieve improvements through the implementation of Article 4 Directions.
- Ensure the proper maintenance of listed buildings and structures including those for which Kirklees Council are responsible.

5 Encouraging High Quality Design in New Development

There is also an opportunity to promote high quality, perhaps contemporary, designs for new buildings outside the Conservation Area and in the rural areas of the Valley.

Kirklees' Local Plan promotes high quality design generally within the district. The Neighbourhood Plan can add local advice about high quality design in the context of the Holme Valley and encourage developers and property and land owners to adopt modern architectural approaches which promote sustainable, energy efficient design and are in keeping with the characteristics of the area. These would protect its distinctiveness and preserve the sense of place, in contrast to the very generic house designs often promoted by housebuilders across the country.

Therefore:

- New development must be of a scale, mass and built form which responds to the characteristics of the site and its surroundings. Care must be taken to ensure that building(s) height, scale, and form, including the roofline, do not disrupt the visual amenities of the street scene and impact on any significant wider landscape views.
- Proposals must not feature designs specific to a generic scheme and must explain how they take account of the locally distinctive character of the area in which they are to be sited within design and access statements.
- Extensions must be small in scale and subordinate in scale to the original building.
- New buildings must follow a consistent design approach in the use of materials, to windows and other openings and the building's roofline. Materials must be chosen to complement the design of the development and add to the quality or character of the surrounding environment.
- Sustainable, energy efficient designs are strongly encouraged. Reclaimed materials from sustainable sources should be used where possible.
- Proposals must minimise the impact on general amenity and give careful consideration to noise, odour and light. Light pollution must be minimised wherever possible and security lighting must be appropriate, unobtrusive and energy efficient.
- In the rural areas, redevelopment, alteration or extension of historic farmsteads and agricultural buildings should be sensitive to their distinctive character, materials and form.
- New development should be of a high quality design. To assess development proposals, the following design principles will be used:

1. Setting

All development should have regard to its visual impact on approaches to the villages and views across the Valley must be considered, including which areas of the site can be seen, and from where. Key views should be protected. Where appropriate, proposals should pay particular regard to any visual impact at key gateways and along key through routes.

2. Public Spaces

New development should make a positive contribution to publicly accessible spaces. In particular, this should include:

- a) a clear distinction between streets and other publicly accessible spaces and areas that are intended for private use
- b) a designed sequence of spaces that connects with and relates to the pattern of spaces already present in the area
- c) where appropriate, the “greening” of public spaces by using trees and other suitable planting
- d) a full hard and soft landscaping scheme is to be submitted with all planning applications and applications for listed building consent.

3. Accessibility

All development proposals should, where appropriate, include safe and legible access to local streets, footpaths, and publicly accessible spaces for all users.

Layouts should be imaginative and adopt approaches that downplay the uninspiring, standard highway engineered standard by incorporating traffic calmed streets and nodal points, with frequent changes of direction, and introduce a sense of enclosure to reflect the traditional design and layout found in the Valley.

New vehicle and pedestrian route networks should be designed to link with routes and facilities adjacent to the site. A hierarchy of routes should be established.

Public transport, pedestrian and cycle routes should be incorporated in the layout wherever possible, 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.

4. Materials

Site boundaries formed of local stone, cast iron or hedge planting should be retained and repaired. Work to existing boundaries must use reclaimed or accurately matching materials. Any proposed openings in existing boundaries should be kept to a minimum and salvageable materials used elsewhere on site. Entry points should be clearly defined and achieve good sight lines, dependent upon vehicle speeds and setting.

All trees, internal boundaries, water courses, structures and other features on the site should be identified and wherever possible, incorporated in the new design.

The aspect of the site should be considered and the ways in which the site contours and the remaining features are likely to produce areas of extensive shade or shelter. Advantage

should be taken of sunny slopes in orientation of gardens and or main elevations. Exposed areas should be protected from wind, noise or intrusive views. Development of individual and groups of buildings should utilise site characteristics to improve energy efficiency and maximise use of renewable technologies.

Open spaces should be designed and located to satisfy their intended, specific function, such as toddler's play, older children's activities, sitting out, or visual amenity.

Mixed uses should be considered. Provision of small workspaces can be both in association with some house types and/or grouped in courts. New shops and services will need to be visible from public routes, beyond the proposed development, if they are to be viable.

Locations at risk of crime should be identified and design solutions incorporated to reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour.

5. Innovation and responding to local context

The use of traditional approaches to building and materials should inform new designs, particularly in residential and infill developments.

Up-to-date or contemporary details, for example in window and door designs, or the use of robust, modern materials are supported in new buildings. Height, scale and massing should respond to the local context and site layout should respect the existing grain of development of the surrounding area. High quality design should not only be visually attractive but should last and be capable of adaptation to meet future needs and circumstances.

Commercial, industrial, community, sports and leisure proposals present an opportunity for innovative design, using modern materials and building techniques that will achieve flexibly planned, sustainable and energy efficient buildings.

Proposals will be encouraged to demonstrate thermal efficiency, use of renewable and sustainable energy sources and reduction of carbon emissions over and above standards in force at the time.

6. Building Form and Materials

Roofs

The traditional roof form, evident in the older parts of the neighbourhood plan area, is encouraged.

Walls

Traditional materials will be encouraged in new residential development, including use of local stone (millstone grit) in elevations and stone flag roofs.

Openings

Window frames and doors should be of wood wherever possible.

Openings should include stone sills and lintels.

Whilst uPVC windows and doors may have some merit in maintenance terms, they are less acceptable when their design attempts to mimic historic window patterns and glazing bars and their use will be discouraged.

If non-timber windows and doors are proposed, they should be of a simple shape without false glazing bars.

Porches

Porches can provide space for bin storage, parcel deliveries and protection against the weather. Their use can also break up the facade of semi-detached houses and terraces. However, porches are not encouraged in conversions of traditional agricultural, traditional or terraced buildings.

7. Scale and Proportion

Scale, height and massing of development should not be an “off the shelf” solution but should be demonstrably purpose designed to reflect the setting and location of each individual site. In doing this, development should fit in and neither dominate nor have a detrimental impact on its surroundings and neighbouring properties. Architectural skill in design is recognisable and this will be expected in proposals.

8. Amenity, Privacy and Space Standards

Housing developments should be designed so that individual dwellings have reasonable distances between and around them so that users can enjoy privacy in which to enjoy their amenity space.

Planning policy requires minimum distances between dwellings. If new housing development proposals fail to achieve these dimensions, unless they are of special design such as single aspect dwellings, then it will be concluded that privacy and amenity standards will be inadequate.

Access routes should be assessed in terms of their impact on neighbouring properties to ensure they do not conflict with existing rights of way or access.

9. Parking Standards

These will be in accordance with those set in strategic planning policy. New car parking should be sited entirely within the curtilage of private dwellings in walled and screened courtyards or drives softened by suitable planting.

Extra and new shared and communal parking is encouraged to reduce the current level of car parking on unsuitable roads.

Where communal parking is required for flat and apartment development it should be conveniently located close to the dwellings it is intended to serve and care should be taken to ensure it is of good design.

10. Planting

Planting proposals should be designed to be an integral part of all new development and use native plant species. Proposals will only be supported when it is clear that careful consideration has been given to the creation of a strong landscape structure throughout the site.

Planting will include an appropriate mix of trees, hedgerows and, where space allows, new woodland areas, wildflower verges and meadows in areas where such planting is appropriate. Sustainable urban drainage schemes using porous materials should be integrated within the planting scheme. The planting scheme should not be used simply to fill space which is not occupied by the proposed buildings. Planting should be seen as an

integral part of the overall master plan, used to define spaces, frame views, and provide screening and shelter. Native species should be used to enrich the natural habitat, and increase biodiversity. Corridors for wildlife movement should be provided on sites next to or in green fields, hedgerows and tree belts these are particularly valuable when they incorporate existing natural features such as ponds and watercourses.

6 PROTECTING THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE

The landscape character around Holme Valley is described in detail in the Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment carried out in July 2015. Kirklees, in producing its Local Plan, proposed that development should take account of and seek to enhance the landscape considering in particular:

- views in and out of the Peak District National Park and views from surrounding viewpoints
- the setting of settlements and buildings within the landscape
- the patterns of woodland, trees and field boundaries
- the appearance of rivers, canals, reservoirs and other water features within the landscape.

The Holme Valley also has a number of features which have significant local biodiversity. 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 area.

The Steering Group proposes a policy designed to protect and enhance local landscape character, by requiring that:

- New development should be designed and sited to conserve the open, rural character of the landscape. Isolated new buildings on the open hillside and hill tops will be discouraged and rural development should adjoin the existing built form of settlements and farmsteads.
- New agricultural and commercial buildings should be sited and designed sensitively, on sites where they do not break the skyline, and have appropriate screening and landscaping using local native species. Larger buildings should be “broken up” using a change in materials or colour or a break in the roof span.
- Local biodiversity and heritage assets, such as drystone walls and areas of woodland, should be preserved and enhanced.
- Where development is located near to existing woodland and wetland habitats, opportunities should be realised for habitat creation.
- New development should use traditional materials such as local Millstone grit and stone flags wherever possible.
- Development should take account of the following aspects of the local landscape and protect and enhance them:

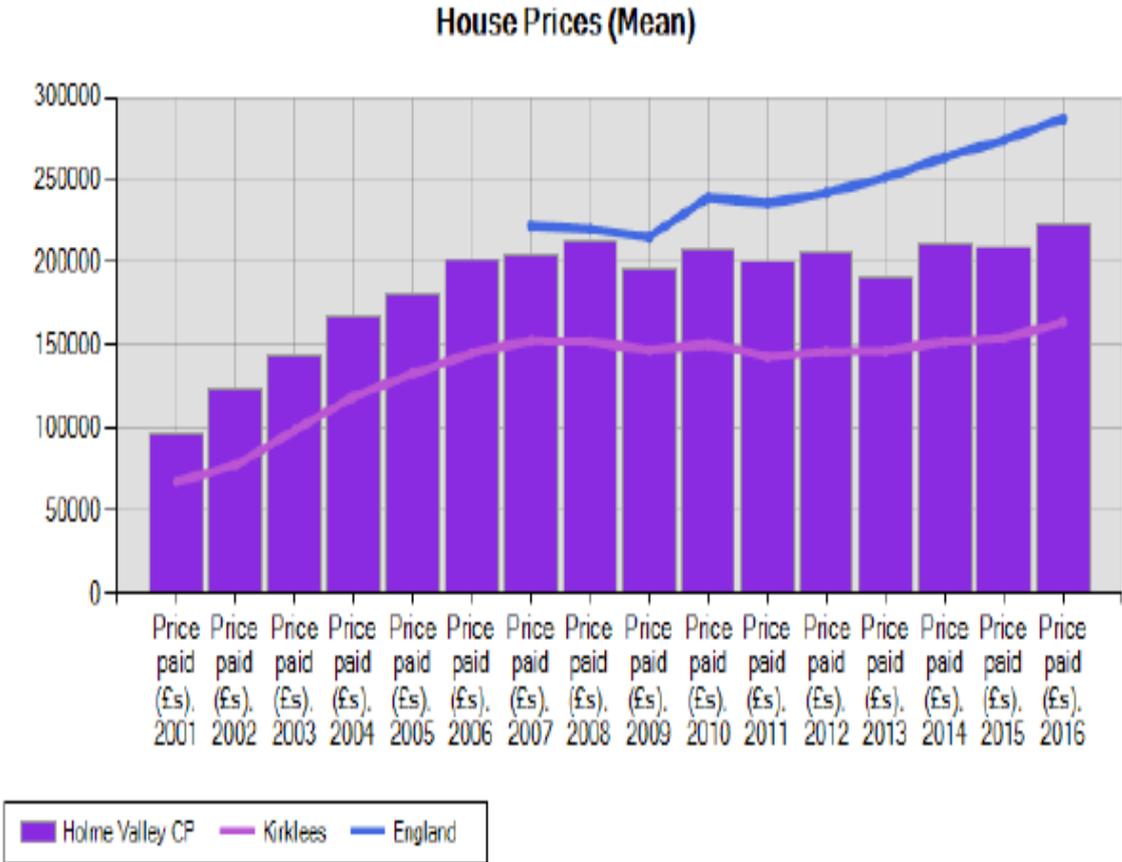
- Views across the Holme Valley from significant vantage points
 - Mature and established trees in the built-up area
 - Ancient and veteran trees in the wider landscape and the fauna and flora that depend upon them
 - Fallen and decayed ancient and mature trees
 - The historic features in the countryside including the buried archaeology and later examples of land use and industry.
- Landscaping schemes will be required to use traditional and appropriate species to support and enhance biodiversity. The species should be take account of the location, height, density and need for on-going management.
 - Residential property boundaries should make use of native tree species. Existing hedgerows should be retained (except where they restrict the achievement of the aims of this Plan) and the establishment of new native hedgerows is encouraged to support and protect wildlife.
 - New developments will be required to design and deliver high quality green infrastructure, complementing and enhancing Kirklees' Local Plan's Strategic Green Infrastructure. Links to villages and settlements should aim at creating ecological and recreational networks and with opportunities for residents and visitors to have direct contact with the nature environment and the Holme Valley's heritage.

7 HOUSING FOR THE FUTURE

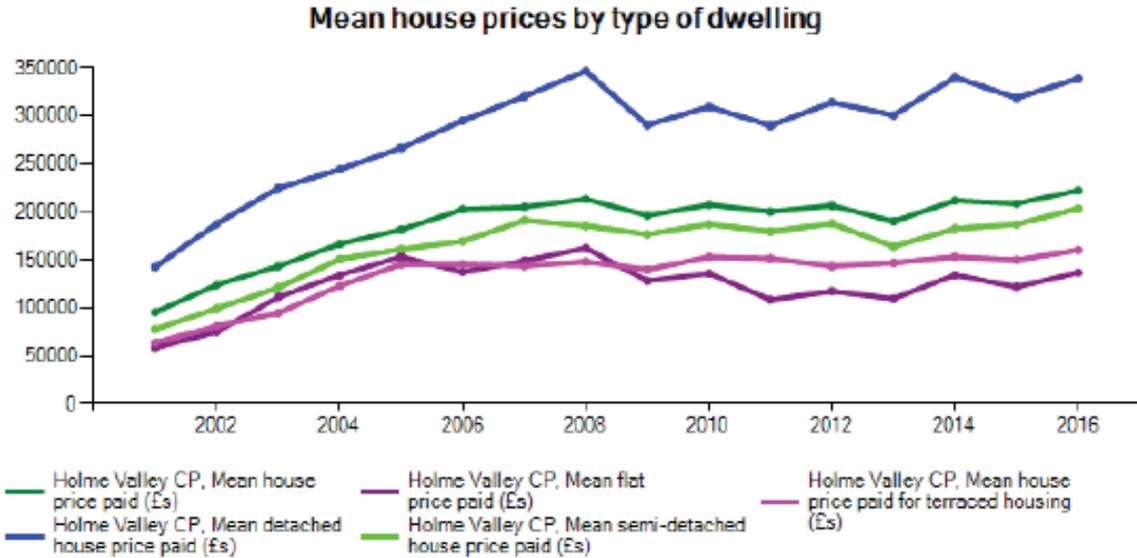
Housing is a contentious topic in the Holme Valley. Many people accept that more housing is needed, particularly smaller properties to allow people to get started in their own homes or to down-size but the nature of new developments and their location can be at odds with other things people think are important, such as views, and the impact on small communities and traffic.

The 2011 census shows that there were 12,039 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.

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:



The type of property has a considerable impact on price:



Kirklees’ Local Plan estimates that 21,324 new homes will be needed by 2031. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot reduce the amount of development from that contained in Kirklees’ Local Plan or try to undermine its strategic policies. However, it can influence the inclusion or exclusion of sites allocated for development.

There is considerable concern locally about the impact the number of new dwellings and the associated increase in population will have on the nature of life in the Valley. There is local recognition of the need for smaller and affordable homes and considerable support for the brownfield first policy. There is also a strong wish to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions and the reliance on cars and to achieve greater recognition of the importance of protecting the environmental characteristics and heritage of the Valley.

The Neighbourhood Plan can identify the sites, in addition to or instead of the sites allocated in the Local Plan and included in it. It can also define the boundaries of settlements which will be important in preventing them from merging. It cannot change Green Belt boundaries. Only Kirklees Council is able to do this. It 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.

The Local Plan has now been sent to the Planning Inspector who will examine it in public sometime in the early Autumn. This will provide those bodies who have already sent comments to the Council to let the Planning Inspector know what they think of the Local Plan’s contents. The Planning Inspector may make changes but then the Local Plan will be approved and will govern the decisions made on subsequent planning applications.

The detail regarding site allocation will be provided in the draft of the Neighbourhood Plan

but in the meantime, the Steering Group is seeking your views on:

- The type of houses to be build – should developers be encouraged to build smaller dwellings e.g. terraced houses and flats?
- Where should the properties be located – should developers be encouraged to make use of empty plots between existing buildings or should they be encouraged to build on the edges of existing settlements?
- Recycling existing sites and buildings – should developers be encouraged to make use of brownfield sites and convert buildings that previously had different uses?

If the Neighbourhood Plan is to achieve its first and third objectives:

Objective 1: To preserve and promote the distinctive characteristics of the Holme Valley.

Objective 3: To promote appropriate design and building standards in all development.

the Plan will need to balance different interests. For example encouraging in-fill building could appear to contradict the policy on preventing the merger of settlements. In-fill is defined as:

- Development which fills a restricted gap in the continuity of existing buildings where the site has existing building curtilages, normally residential, adjoining on at least two sides
- Development within the settlement which does not involve outward extension of that area
- Development of the site is a complete scheme and not the first stage of a larger development.

The Steering Group proposes the following polices to achieve the objectives and ensure appropriate types of property are developed:

- Brownfield sites development and the conversions of former mill buildings and other suitable buildings for residential use is strongly encouraged provided the development adjoins the existing built up area, is suitable in terms of design, house size, tenure etc. and does not lead to ribbon development which joins up existing settlements and villages
- Adequate parking for residents and visitors should be provided. This should relate to the size of the properties
- Developments should be linked to public transport routes and encourage walking and cycling.
- Development in small in-fill sites and extensions to existing built up areas will need to be balanced with protecting the character and distinctiveness of an area
- New housing schemes will be supported where they include an appropriate mix of house types, sizes and tenures.
- Developments should include a suitable proportion of smaller one, two and

three bedroom properties for sale and rent

- Schemes should include a suitable proportion of housing designed to meet the needs of older people and properties for first time buyers.
- Schemes of eleven or more units will be required to provide a suitable proportion of affordable housing in line with the recommendations in the Kirklees Local Plan.

8 HELPING THE LOCAL ECONOMY PROSPER

Without economic activity, the Valley is in danger of becoming a dormitory belt, with very little local employment. There are currently around 1,000 registered companies and a considerable number of people are either self-employed or work from home. The type of businesses range 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. Many of the local businesses are single person, micro and small organisations with only a handful employing more than one hundred staff.

As a visitor location, 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. Indeed, the very reason for the series to be based here was due to 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 events; attractions such as the Picturedrome; and being a focal point for the 'Tour de' cycle races have provided more contemporary visitor draws.

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 is contributed by the Holme Valley but it has the assets and potential to increase these figures.

The Steering Group has suggested the following objectives:

Objective 4: To promote growth of the economy, employment and tourism in the Holme Valley.

Objective 6: To promote the health and well-being of residents.

The Neighbourhood Plan can encourage more business activity, promote the visitor economy and support existing businesses. The main questions are:

- Should the Plan help to grow the tourism industry by encouraging more bed and breakfast, and camping and caravan accommodation, or diversification by local farmers, and the development of more visitor attractions?
- Should the Plan attract more new businesses, for example in the creative, green and IT sectors?
- Should the Plan contribute to the improvement of broadband and mobile phone connectivity to support businesses and enable more people to work from home or from small business units?
- Is there a wish for houses to be located close to business properties so people can walk or cycle to work or should they be separated?

Your views are much appreciated.

Possible policies could include:

- The protection of existing industrial and business sites for employment purposes only

- Encourage the use of brownfield sites where they are no longer suitable for business use for mixed development comprising houses and business premises
- Allocation of sites for business uses that fit with the changes the nature of economic activity, population changes and employment patterns: for example ensuring broadband access and facilitating a growth in the care sector to meet the needs of the ageing population
- Where sites are allocated for business use they should include co-ordinated signage, appropriate lighting and boundary treatments that are in accordance with the design policies of the Plan, sufficient car parking for employees and visitors and adequate improvements that encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking.
- Mixed use sites should be compatible with other aspects of the Plan, ensure environmental benefits are gained and not reduce the amount of employment allocations overall
- Positive support should be given during the planning application process to the growth of locally based and home grown small businesses such as IT, media and creative industries which develop the Holme Valley and contribute to its creative and artistic businesses.
- The various aspects of the Visitor Economy should be recognised and positive approaches taken to applications that support its growth, such as farm diversification, increase in over-night accommodation, land use for events and festivals etc. Development of other visitor attractions such as the use of the outdoors, for example walking, cycling, horse riding, angling, photography and astronomy, bird-watching and country and adventure sports will be encouraged, as will the use of the countryside for filming and visual representation.
- The Valley's rich heritage will be seen as a valuable economic asset as well having its cultural and social importance, so proposals that re-use, conserve and enhance assets of heritage value will be supported.
- New small scale business development and conversion of existing buildings to provide start up premises for new businesses, such as those linked to technology, media and creative industries ,will be encouraged providing they:
 - Do not lead to the loss of open space or green infrastructure
 - Do not result in the merger of settlements
 - Are located close to existing highways and do not have an unacceptable impact on traffic
- The development of isolated large scale industrial and agricultural buildings and new, large quarries will be resisted
- Positive support to the protection and development of town and village centres as locations for retail and service outlets by resisting inappropriate in-centre and out of centre proposals

Proposals will only be supported if:

- They do not conflict with other policies of this Plan
- They are physically well related to an existing main settlement or village or to an existing group of buildings, except where the proposed facilities are required in conjunction with a particular countryside attraction and there are no suitable existing buildings or developed sites available
- They do not undermine the character, quality or visual amenities of the area by virtue of their scale, siting, materials or design
- They are connected to the existing highway and transport network and will not generate additional traffic movements of a scale and type likely to cause undue problems or disturbance.
- The site is large enough to accommodate the necessary car parking, service areas and appropriate landscaped areas.
- They take account of the impact on the natural environment and overall wish to reduce carbon emissions.
- They are of a high standard of design and, by taking account of existing buildings and land use, are appropriate to the area in which it is to be located.
- They do not introduce buildings and structures into an area largely devoid of such constructions unless they are directly related to agriculture or forestry uses or are completely hidden from view

All proposals should contribute to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape. They will also be required to be in keeping with the character of the landscape and should reflect the local architecture in terms of scale, style, features and building materials.

9 COMMUNITY, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Neighbourhood Plan can also influence the provision of services that affect the well-being of local residents and the quality of their lives. The Steering Group suggests that, if action was taken on the issues affecting such services, the following objectives would be achieved:

Objective 5: To promote education.

Objective 6: To promote the health and well-being of residents.

Suggestions have been made above about reducing traffic volumes and carbon emissions by locating new developments carefully and being aware of negative impacts they might have.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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.

There is also 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.

As well as protecting existing facilities, the Plan could support investment and development of new facilities in areas of housing growth.

There is also a number of disused or underused buildings which have the potential for their re-use for purposes that would have benefits for local people.

Policy proposals could also include:

- Support to improvements to education, health and wellbeing services to help meet the changing needs of the population by working with providers of these services by creating a supportive planning framework.
- Encouragement of development which contributes towards the improvement of existing, or provision of new recreational, community, educational and health facilities will be encouraged.
- Support for a change in use of existing facilities to other uses will not be given unless:
 - the proposal includes alternative provision, on a site within the locality, of equivalent or enhanced facilities, and is accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and has adequate car parking
 - there is no longer a demonstrable need for the facility

LOCAL GREEN SPACE

A neighbourhood plan 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. The plan has to set out clearly the justification for such areas if we want protect them. The National Planning Policy Framework states:

77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves*
- where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife and*
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

So, for a site to be included as a Local Green Space, the Plan will need to identify and justify each one in accordance with the above criteria.

We are therefore asking local people to say which sites fall into this definition and should be included in the Plan.

10 IMPROVING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

Traffic in the Valley is seen as a problem. Local businesses see it as a major inhibitor and local people see it as an inconvenience but as there are few alternatives for many, traffic and related problems such as car parking on the sides of narrow roads get worse. More houses will add to the volume of cars on the road, increase pollution and risk and do nothing to reduce carbon emissions.

The Steering Group has proposed the following objective in the hope of mitigating the difficulties caused by car usage:

Objective 7: To improve accessibility.

Objective 8: To improve infrastructure and movement around the Valley.

The following questions are central to achieving these objectives:

- How can we ensure new development supports improvements in local infrastructure?
- How can we improve accessibility for all to and from any new development and the wider area?

The following policies may provide answers:

- Proposals that include improved linkages and accessibility within the area and beyond will be supported.
- All new proposals should include the following enhancements to maximise accessibility to residents and to support local biodiversity:
 - enhanced public access and appropriate signage from residential areas
 - new footpaths and cycle routes linking to existing and new networks
 - linkages to wildlife corridors and provision of landscaping and planting along routes to safeguard local biodiversity by for example including providing new woodland and orchards, new hedgerows, grassland and wetland habitats.
- Contributions from developers through Section 106 and the Community Investment Levy and other sources of funding (New Homes Bonus etc.) will be required to enable improvements to be made to existing public transport links to local towns and facilities and to improve local routes and networks for walking and cycling.

(Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides a mechanism which makes a development proposal acceptable if it includes specific mitigation of the impact of development. The Community Infrastructure Levy requires a developer to make contributions towards open space, transport links, affordable housing etc.)

- Consideration will also be given to addressing the traffic problems and to find ways of improving traffic flow around the Valley, particularly the town and village centres and junctions onto the main roads by:

- Greater use of warning signs such as dangerous junctions, roads impassable to heavy vehicles or appropriate weight limits
- Speed limits and traffic calming measures in town and village centres and around schools and homes of vulnerable people
- Management of traffic at peak times, particularly around schools and places of employment
- Development of shared parking area and introduction of parking restrictions where the number of parked cars causes a hazard to safe driving and walking
- Consideration of restrictions to HGV access on particular routes and discouragement use of Holmfirth as a diversion for HGVs off other trunk roads
- Support initiatives by the Penistone Line Users Group and others to encourage and enable the greater use of rail travel, to improve the route between Huddersfield, Sheffield and further afield and support strategic actions to improve parking and facilities at Honley and Brockholes stations
- Encourage public transport linkages between main population hubs and the above railway stations to reduce reliance on private transport
- Limit road widening and the provision of new footways only when the utility of their provision is evidenced to avoid conflict with other objectives regarding the preservation of the Valley's distinctive characteristics

The Parish Council will also 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.

11 SUSTAINABILITY

The Valley has an active Transition Town group which has raised awareness of the need to reduce carbon emissions and promotes actions that ensure that the Holme Valley is not adversely affected by climate change. Kirklees' Local Plan also contains policies to achieve similar aims.

The steering Group has proposed the following objective for the Neighbourhood Plan:

Objective 9: To promote sustainability and reduce impact on climate change.

Achieving this objective begs the following questions:

- How can we encourage developers to build more energy efficient and sustainable homes?
- Should we support local (e.g. community-led) sustainable energy schemes?

The Neighbourhood Plan cannot prescribe standards for sustainable design and energy efficiency as these are dealt with under building regulations. However, it can include policies such as:

- New developments should make use of solar, geothermal and other renewable technologies as an integral part of the building design not as bolt on additions.
- Such technology should be retro-fitted as existing properties are changed if this can be done sympathetically to fit into their existing building style and the reduction in fossil fuels achieved
- Buildings should be designed to cope with high and low temperatures.
- The BREEAM sustainability assessment method should be carried out by all developers if their proposals fall within its remit.
- Flood mitigation measures should be included in all proposals, including those not in flood risk zones
- Drainage schemes should be sustainable, improve existing provision and be future proofed
- Proposals should ensure that surface water is retained on the development and the risk of run-off minimised by the inclusions of water attenuation facilities such as lagoons, ponds and swales
- Sustainable design of buildings such as use of “green” or “living” roofs and “blue roofs” and the storage of rain water which contribute to rain and grey water harvesting will be supported
- The use of wind and solar energy will be encouraged as a principle and proposals supported subject to sensitive siting, landscaping and design and the minimisation of noise and lighting impacts on local residents.

13 QUESTIONS

The Steering Group would like you to respond to the questions given below.

- What do you like most about living in the Holme Valley?
- What would you change about the Valley and how would you make the change?
- What facilities do you think are missing in the Valley?
- What sort of additional housing is needed in the Holme Valley?
- Should additional housing be concentrated in large sites or spread around the Valley?
- Should new building on brownfield sites take priority over greenfield sites?
- How can we require developers to build more energy efficient and sustainable homes?
- How can we ensure new housing and economic development are sensitive to the Valley's character?
- Should the Neighbourhood Plan enable more people to work in the Holme Valley? If so, what sort of work opportunities are desirable?
- What infrastructure changes are needed to support new building in the Valley?
- How easy do you find it to move around the Holme Valley and further afield?
- What features of the Holme Valley are important to you and should be protected?
- Which parks and green spaces are important to you?
- Is there anything else you would like to comment on?

Please complete on line [<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HVNHPInitialConsultation>]

or return to:

Holme Valley Parish Council,
Council Offices,
Civic Hall
Huddersfield Road,
Holmfirth,
HD9 3JP

By 14 July 2017

Your help in producing the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan is much appreciated. Thank you.