



WILSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hall,
Wilsden,
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www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Seminar – Wednesday 24 September 2014

Briefing Note for Facilitators

The purpose of the session is to assist in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Wilsden. Through earlier discussions and consultation, 6 'key themes' have been identified, which will be the focus of discussions. These are:

- **Housing and the built environment**
- **Economy and employment**
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- **Natural environment and open spaces**
- **Local Services**
- **Transport**

People attending the seminar will be divided into groups. These groups can vary in size, but 6 – 8 is a good average to aim at. A facilitator will be identified for each Group who will lead and coordinate the discussions.

Each Group will also need to identify a 'note-taker' to record in bullet point form the main points raised by the Group. We have identified a number of volunteers for this task but we may not have sufficient for each Group.

Each Group is asked to consider all of the identified key themes. Approximately an hour has been allocated for this exercise. This equates to 10 minutes a theme, but there is some flexibility here, and groups can determine to spend more time on one issue than others. Groups can also deal with the key issues in any order they determine.

The focus of the discussion is to identify key issues and any emerging solutions to these. There are no wrong or right answers, and everyone should be encouraged to contribute.

To facilitate discussion, a series of sample questions have been identified below by theme. These are issues that earlier discussions have been identified as being important. We would stress that these are by way of a prompt and each Group can deal with any issue they consider to be important.

The facilitators task will be try to keep the discussion on the theme that is being considered and to ensure nobody dominates the discussion. At the end of the session key points on each theme will be summarised on flip charts and the facilitator will present these to everyone.

Housing and the built environment

Do we want more executive homes with large gardens? This will increase land requirements? Would we prefer smaller houses that are more affordable? Do we need detached houses, semis or terraced houses? Do we need special accommodation to meet the needs of older people?

If 150-200 houses are to be built in Wilsden in the next 15 years would you prefer that these are small number of larger developments like Crack Lane (82) or Low Wood (94) or in smaller developments of 35-40 houses

What do we think of lower cost affordable housing built from materials that would be less expensive than traditional stone? Do we want a new building to blend in with the conservation area, through the design and choice of materials?

Should we consider the containment of development by building a tower block- vertical rather than horizontal sprawl?

Economy and employment

Should we seek to attract more employment to the parish council area? If so, how might this be achieved? Do we have a view on the type of employment we wish to attract?

Do we value the local shops: are we concerned by a 'use it or lose it' warning? Does Wilsden need to retain its own shopping facilities in an age of increasing online shopping? How important is mix of shop types locally, fresh food shops or hot food takeaways?

Is our vision for Wilsden a vibrant, sustainable community or are we content to become a dormitory suburb of Leeds and Bradford?

A number of businesses in our area involve people working from home. Are the local facilities such as high speed broadband sufficient to support their activities?

Natural environment and open spaces

Are there areas of Wilsden that we particularly value and wish to see preserved for the future?

What do we think of retaining open spaces, such as the recreation field?

Green Belt deletions are probably inevitable: are there parts of the Green Belt that we feel should be given priority for protection?

Local Services

Are we concerned that the Primary School in Wilsden may become oversubscribed in the event of extensive house building and that primary children may have to receive their education elsewhere in Bradford, as secondary schoolchildren do?

How will more homes affect the ability of the Health Centre to meet the village's needs in the future?

Transport

An increase in the number of houses will increase traffic volumes, particularly if 4-5 bedroom houses are constructed. What improvements will need to be made to Wilsden's roads and junctions to assure road safety for motorists and pedestrians?

As the population ages there may be increased reliance on public transport. What improvements need to be made to routes, frequency and ticketing arrangements?

Do we wish to see better connectivity with rail transport?

Should we seek better facilities for cyclists?