

Neighbourhood Plan

Application for designated area status

Proposal from Steering Group

1. At its meeting on 4th Nov 2013, the Parish Council agreed to begin work on putting together a Neighbourhood Plan covering all three wards in the Parish.
2. At its meeting on 6th Jan 2014, it approved a progress report from the Steering Group, including the first phase of a consultation process involving distribution of an explanatory leaflet to all households in the Parish and public meetings to be held in each of the three Village Halls ie Bolton by Bowland, Tosside and Sawley.
3. This first phase of consultation is now complete.
4. Meetings in all three locations were encouragingly well attended, with a presentation and open discussion lasting a couple of hours in each case.
5. At the end of each meeting, those present were invited on a show of hands to indicate whether they were in favour of their ward being part of the Parish plan.
6. The results were – Bolton by Bowland - 55 attended- all in favour

- Tosside – 18 attended – all in favour
5 non RVBC residents also attended.

- Sawley- 54 attended – 20 in favour, 30
against (inc 1 proxy vote) and 5 abstentions

Total – 93 in favour, 30 against and 5 abstentions.

7. It is important to note that the Village Hall meetings were consultative and not decision making forums.
It is for the Parish Council to make a decision taking account of the outcome of the consultation process.

Consultation is a 2-way process. It is for the consultors to put ideas forward and have them discussed. It is for the consultees to listen to

these ideas and give their comments/reactions which are then taken into account in the decision making process.

The use of a proxy vote is not really in keeping with such an approach, although we are content to add the one that was sought to be cast on this occasion.

8. We have been conscious from the beginning of the different character of the three separate wards and aware that different issues could well arise in each one. This was a main part of the reason for holding separate meetings in each location.

9. The Steering Group are still of the opinion that the best approach would be for the Parish as a whole to engage in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

This does not, however, seem a viable option in light of the majority view against this in the Sawley public meeting.

10. The Parish Council is therefore asked to agree to a proposal to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan covering the two wards of Bolton by Bowland and Tosside with Sawley ward not included. An appropriate application for submission to RVBC for designated area status is attached.

11. The Parish Council will remain as the body responsible for preparing the Plan.

We are advised that this is an acceptable way to proceed and that there is no minimum limit on the size of community which can be approved as a designated area for the production of a Plan.

12. Once this application is submitted it will be put out by RVBC for a 6 week period of public consultation.

It should be noted that, throughout this period, the application remains live and could be adjusted in the light of any representations made, either for or against.

When the 6 week period ends the proposal, amended if necessary, will be considered by RVBC Planning Committee.

If it is then approved, no further change can be made to the designated area which the Plan covers.

13. The Parish Council is asked to approve the attached draft for submission to RVBC.

