

2nd Phase of Consultation Issues Workshops Synopsis

Question What are the issues which we want our Neighbourhood Plan to address?

Format 4 workshops were held in April/May.

A ‘pilot’ was held on 15th April to test the workshop design. Those who had expressed interest at the first series of workshops and provided contact details so they could be kept in touch were invited and asked to extend the invitation to any others who were interested in making a contribution.

34 people attended. Response was positive and there was support for rolling out the same model at a further series of workshops. These were held in May

13 th May	Bolton by Bowland	16 attended
20 th May	Bolton by Bowland	12 attended
23 rd May	Tosside	18 attended

All the workshops were lively and constructive suggestions were made in them all across a range of issues.

Overall Aim

Several groups were happy with the wording as suggested and most endorsed the twin ideas of growth and preservation, although improvements in wording were put forward.

The importance of ‘sustainability’ came up in several suggestions.

Taking account of these, the proposed overall aim definition is

‘ The purpose of our Neighbourhood Plan is to provide for sustainable growth which enhances the traditional character and lifestyle of our communities’

‘Miracle Box’
and

What is good/not good and Actions Required

The outcomes from these sections were recorded and have been circulated to those attending. The following is a synopsis of the main points.

1 Population/Housing

Current Situation Comments were made in all workshops on the sustainability of the community and preservation/extension of amenities into the future. It was felt that the age balance in the population profile would need to be addressed in that there is an aging profile and a relative lack of younger people

Suggested Actions

- **Selective new housing and especially an investigation into affordable housing in the right places and on the right conditions, perhaps specifically for younger people.**
- **Encouragement of conversion of barns/existing buildings for housing provision in the countryside.**
- **Sheltered housing or housing for older residents.**

2 Community Facilities

Current Situation All workshops emphasised the value of a strong sense of community, friendly people and active involvement in community activities.

The importance of the existing village amenities was stressed and there was concern that some of these had been lost or were under threat, and so needed supporting and extending.

Suggested Actions

- **Support and encourage existing amenities ie churches and chapels, school, village halls, pubs, shop.**
- **Encourage greater involvement in existing organisations by a wider cross section, and especially greater participation by younger people.**
- **The main additional amenity suggested was playground/sports area/park/picnic area (in both Bolton by Bowland and Tosside)**
- **Other suggestions were for allotments and bowling green.**

3 Environment

Current Situation A lot of emphasis was placed on the attractive and unspoilt natural beauty of our environment, not only in terms of scenery and wildlife but also the traditional and historical, and yet diverse character of our villages. The importance of our AONB location was recognised as well as access to the countryside for walking and cycling, or just good fresh air.

Suggested Actions

- Need to include plan to preserve the natural beauty of the area
- Strict planning constraints to ensure any development preserves the traditional character of the environment, including landscape

4 Transport/Roads

Current Situation General accessibility and relatively quiet roads are valued but widespread concern was expressed about deterioration in a number of areas

Suggested Actions

Action needs to be considered and options identified to address

- Poor bus services in Tosside and non existent in Bolton by Bowland
- Negative impact of increased traffic volume, size and speeds
- Inadequate car parking provision in villages
- Lack of roadside footpaths in villages and roads generally not pedestrian friendly

5 Services

Current Situation

Suggested Actions

All workshops looked for improvements in electronic communications/broadband.

Improvements were also identified as needed in gas and water services.

6 Business/Employment

Current Situation

Suggested Actions

There was support for promoting tourism and developing local businesses, including through conversion of old or unused buildings in appropriate ways.

Action in other areas such as improving public transport, better electronic communications and sustaining pubs and shops would also encourage business development.