

## Issues consultation - November 2012

### Summary document



We are beginning the process of rewriting our planning policies.

Once adopted, these will replace the existing Local Plan adopted in 2006 and will guide future planning decisions about where, when, and how development will take place in the National Park over the next 15 years.

We are starting by asking you what you think the Local Plan should contain. We will then draft a more specific set of options, proposals and policies and will consult you again.

At this stage we want to hear your views about what the big issues are and what you think about the detail.



## The ‘big issues’

These are the key issues that will influence the direction of the Local Plan. It includes the following elements:

- a **vision** for the future of the National Park. We have suggested the one below and would like to hear what you think:

“

Through their passion for this special place, local people and businesses will make the Yorkshire Dales National Park a thriving area. Its unique cultural landscape will be treasured for its stunning wildlife, scenery and heritage and will inspire people to visit and find out more.

By 2040, it will be:

- \* Home to the finest variety of wildlife in England.
  - \* A distinctive, living, working cultural landscape that tells the story of generations of human interaction with nature.
  - \* Resilient to the impacts of climate change, storing more carbon each year than it produces.
  - \* A friendly, open and welcoming place with lots of opportunities to enjoy its special qualities.
  - \* Providing an outstanding range of benefits for the nation based on its natural resources, and these will be the bedrock of a flourishing local economy.
- ”
- \* Home to strong, independent communities.

- we need to identify some **strategic priorities** – we’d like your suggestions for what the most pressing development issues are
- we need to decide what the **spatial approach to development** will be – where should development be focused? Are there any key sites we need to allocate? should we take a different approach to development, say in the north of the National Park to the south?

## The detail

We have identified some detailed themes to comment upon and provided some context about:

- what the Government requires us to do
- some of the key facts, figures, trends and influences
- what we're currently doing under our existing planning policies
- what we think the issues are for the future, including where changes could be made.

The themes are:

### ***Community facilities***

- how should we plan for a changing population, specifically accommodating the elderly while trying to retain families and younger people?
- how can we ensure suitable facilities and infrastructure for communities (for example, health care, elderly care, broadband and mobile phone coverage)?
- which community buildings and land should be protected against development (for example, schools, pubs, shops, meeting places, important recreational and green space)?

### ***Business and employment***

- how can planning policies be used to support viable businesses in challenging economic times?
- should we allocate land specifically for employment development and how can we ensure it is delivered?
- should we use policy to control the mix and range of business uses permitted in particular areas (for example, to maintain town centre viability)?
- are there particular sectors, premises types or individual employers that should be encouraged to develop (for example, live-work units, start-up business units)?

### ***Environmental protection***

- how can the planning system help reduce or mitigate against flood risk from rivers, surface water, and reduce runoff downstream?
- are there particular issues caused by the lack of mains services that might threaten the delivery of new development?
- are there any areas that should be protected for their tranquility?
- are there areas of unstable or contaminated land that need to be identified ?
- how can the planning system help to make the National Park more resilient to the impacts of climate change?

### ***Farming and estates***

- how do we ensure that modern agricultural buildings and infrastructure don't harm the landscape?
- how can we encourage more farm diversification activity without compromising the main business of farming?
- how can the repair and maintenance of traditional farm buildings be supported?
- are there other types of land-based rural business that we should be making special provision for?
- how should development in the open uplands, typically for grouse shooting, be managed so as to enable the estates to thrive without compromising special qualities in the National Park?

### ***Historic and built environment***

- what should be the approach to allowing the conversion of traditional farm buildings? What uses and locations should be considered suitable, and is there some way that a conversion policy could be used to conserve other buildings that aren't suitable for conversion?
- how can we ensure that some of our most 'at risk' buildings are conserved through re-use?

- are there historic features and structures that should be given some protection, even if they aren't formally designated?
- what should be our approach to the design of new development – is there scope for contemporary design and materials?
- are there important spaces within and surrounding settlements that should be protected against development?

### ***Minerals***

- Should permission be granted for additional working in existing quarries, and if so, what should be the tests that additional quarrying operations need to satisfy?
- Should quarry products be transported by rail rather than by road?
- How can disused quarries be best managed? Is nature conservation the best after use or are there more intensive uses that might be permitted?
- Should there be scope to re-use, or open new small scale walling and roofing stone quarries?

### ***Waste***

- is there a need for new/improved recycling sites in the National Park?
- should the disposal of inert waste (for example, building rubble) be permitted in the National Park?
- is there scope to process other types of waste produced in the National Park (for example, producing energy from farm waste)?

### ***Natural environment***

- how can planning policies ensure priority species and habitats are not just protected, but potentially enhanced by development proposals?
- Is there a case for a policy that explicitly requires enhancement of biodiversity, as a part of new development ?

- how should our policies relating to moorland sport and management ensure that valuable upland habitats and species are protected?
- what is the best approach to protecting trees for their ecological and visual benefits?

### ***Sport and recreation***

- is there a need for additional community recreational facilities anywhere in the National Park (for example, sports pitches, playgrounds)? Are there particular sites that would be suitable?
- do we need to ensure better protection against loss of existing sport and recreation facilities?
- should larger new developments ensure they incorporate their own sport and recreation facilities?

### ***Transport and access***

- how can the Local Plan encourage the use of public transport, community transport, car sharing/pooling and so on?
- what infrastructure is required to ensure more environmentally friendly transport (for example, electric car charging points, electric bike networks, enhanced rights of way)?
- what should be the standards for car parking and vehicular access serving new developments?
- what should be the approach to disused railway routes, such as the Wensleydale Railway from Redmire to Garsdale?
- what should be our approach to proposals for new or improved car parks and roads in the National Park?

### ***Utilities and infrastructure***

- what infrastructure is lacking in the National Park where new development might help support its delivery?
- should we charge a levy on new development to help fund new infrastructure required to support that development?
- are there types of infrastructure we should be protecting?

- what sorts of renewable energy technologies should planning policies support?

### **Visitor facilities**

- are there any forms of low cost visitor accommodation that should be promoted to enable the broadest possible range of people to visit and stay in the National Park (for example, campsites, pods)?
- should we try to prevent the loss of visitor accommodation to other uses if we think this will undermine the ability of people to visit and stay in the National Park in future?
- should we allow more self-catering holiday accommodation through conversion or new build?
- how can we better support existing and new tourism businesses to extend their season and increase overnight stays?

You can view the detailed issues consultation paper at [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/telluswhatyouthink](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/telluswhatyouthink) together with the draft new National Park Management Plan which is under consultation at the same time.

## **How to respond**

We want you to tell us your views. We will be raising awareness of the Local Plan issues in a number of ways:

### **Focused discussions with key delivery partners and interest groups**

We will hold meetings with adjoining local authorities, government bodies and local interest groups to get a detailed understanding of the issues they would like to see the Local Plan cover.

### **Parish councils**

We will be holding two parish forums on 19 November in Grassington and 26 November in Bainbridge to inform parish council representatives about the consultation. We will also offer to meet separately with parish councils if they wish.

### **Drop-in events**

We will be holding five drop-in events to give residents the opportunity to talk informally to planning officers about the policy issues.

- Monday 3 December - Bainbridge  
National Park Authority offices, Yoredale, 3-7pm
- Tuesday 4 December – Grassington  
Octagon Room, Town Hall, 3-7pm
- Thursday 6 December – Reeth  
Memorial Hall,
- Monday 10 December – Langcliffe  
Village Institute, 2.30-6.30pm
- Tuesday 11 December – Sedbergh  
Peoples Hall, 3-7pm

### **Press releases, local notices and *Dales* newspaper.**

We will publicise the issues consultation through articles in the local press and in our twice-yearly newspaper for residents of the National Park.

You can let us know your thoughts either in person at one of the drop in events, or in writing

by post to...

Local Plan Issues Consultation,  
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority,  
Yoredale,  
Bainbridge,  
Leyburn,  
North Yorkshire DL8 3EL

or by emailing...

[localplan@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:localplan@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

Please let us have your responses by **noon** on  
**Friday 11 January 2012.**