

Department of Place

Planning, Transportation & Highways
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Mr. Andrew Freeman
Examiner
Oxenhope Neighbourhood Plan
Intelligent Plans & Examinations (IPE) Ltd

[REDACTED]

Via E-mail

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: 9th November 2021

Dear Mr. Freeman,

OXENHOPE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – EXAMINATION – INITIAL QUESTIONS

I am in receipt of your letter and initial questions regarding the Oxenhope Neighbourhood Plan (date 8th November 2021). As requested these have been placed on the Oxenhope Neighbourhood Plan section of the Bradford Council website: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-areas/?Folder=Oxenhope\OxenhopeReg17>. The Council's response to your initial question is set out below.

As part of its duty to support neighbourhood planning within its area, Bradford Council have collaborated with Oxenhope Village Council and their planning consultant at all stages in the plan's development. Where appropriate, the Council have provided feedback on the contents on the plan, in particular prior to the publication of the Regulation 14 version. It is noted that this feedback was subsequently taken on board and the draft plan amended as appropriate. These have been carried through into the Regulation 16 version.

It is noted that a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published by the Government on 20 July 2021 alongside a final version of the National Model Design Code (NMDC) since the submission of the Oxenhope Neighbourhood Plan to the Council.

The updated NPPF and new NMDC put greater emphasis on well-designed, beautiful places, tree-lined streets and the use of local design guides and codes as key to achieving sustainable development. It is considered that the Oxenhope NDP, as submitted, is already broadly consistent with this. High quality, locally distinctive design is a key objective of the plan, as set out in the first policy GP1, and it includes a local design guide which provides advice on how to achieve this. It is a design guide (rather than a more detailed and stringent design code) but the NPPF and NMDC allow flexibility for local areas to decide what the best type of document.

Furthermore, whilst the draft NDP does not specifically reflect the new requirement in the updated NPPF that all new streets should be tree lined it is based (and supported by the design guide) on a wider objective of introducing planting and green infrastructure into developments and improving local green networks.

Therefore, on balance the Council do not consider the need for any modifications to the plan as a result of the revised NPPF or new National Model Design Code other than minor modifications to referencing.

If you require any further assistance or information, please do not hesitate to contact either Iain Cunningham (E-mail: [REDACTED]) or Emma Higgins [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Iain Cunningham
Senior Planning Officer – Local Plans

Emma Higgins
Planning Officer – Local Plans