

CITY OF BRADFORD MDC
LOCAL PLAN FRAMEWORK

EXAMINATION OF THE
BRADFORD LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY

SCHEDULE OF MATTERS, ISSUES & QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION

Matter 6A Sub- Area Policy Holme Wood Urban Extension and Matter 7D - Environment Policies EN1-8

Statement by Tong Village Community Association

Our representations in respect of the matters listed at this session is set out in the form of submission sent electronically on 28 March 2014 (to ldf.consultation@bradford.gov.uk).

We do not wish to modify our grounds of objection in the light of documents subsequently posted by Bradford MDC ("BMDC"), but to draw attention to documents published subsequent to the end of the end of the six week Consultation process on the Publication Draft of the Core Strategy on 31 March 2014.

Questions 6.3 ii , 7.16 a and b, 7.17a, 7.18a, 7.19a, 7.20a, 7.23

1. We would draw attention to the two Reports of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC). Firstly, the report on " Well-being, Fifteenth Report of Session", published 5 June 2014 and the second entitled, " An environmental scorecard, Fifth Report of Session 2014-15", published 16 September 2014. The Summary section on page 3 of the "Well-being" Report and Section 2 "Natural Capital" and Section 3 "Well-being" is pertinent to the discussions surrounding the relationship and engagement with the landscape and the uses to which it is put. This document argues that well- being should be a central tenet when framing public policies which in all aspects of civil society. Chapter 2, 15 quotes the Natural Capital Committee's (NCC) report which identified three key messages for government and other interested parties as

Some assets are currently not being used sustainably. The benefits we derive from them are at risk, which has significant economic implications;

There are substantial economic benefits to be gained from maintaining and improving natural assets. The benefits will be maximised if their full value is incorporated into the decision-making process; and,

A long- term plan is necessary to maintain and improve natural capital, thereby delivering well-being and economic growth.

We would like to see the application of the environmental score card to Bradford's Core Plan. Furthermore, we feel that the establishment of a Country Park in the South East area of Bradford in the Tong Valley as set out in our *Comment Form 7 Final Recreation* chimes with the philosophy underpinning these two reports of *the EAC*. The re-imagining of the valley as a Country Park is what we would like to see included in the Core Strategy.

2. We would also draw attention to the recently published Natural England Commissioned Report NECR166 *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: a pilot for an indicator of visits to the natural environment by children interim findings for year1 (March 2013 to February 2014)* and the comments thereon by Professor Kevin Fenton, National Director of Health and Well-being, Public Health England, on the web pages of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. The Keep Britain Tidy page states the results of this survey shows between social inequalities and the opportunities that children have to experience the natural environment. It also highlights the importance of local green spaces to all children- especially those who visit green space less frequently. Professor Fenton is quoted as saying

Making it easier and encouraging more children to enjoy the natural environment is an important part of their physical, mental and emotional development.

Given the fact that Holme Wood is one of the most deprived areas of Bradford and that to build an Urban Extension on the Green Belt land next to the estate, is to deny yet another potential source of wellbeing to this most disadvantaged group of children. It is also to destroy a huge opportunity for appropriate recreational development in an attractive valley, enhanced by important and ancient heritage sites that have considerable potential for future recreational and tourism potential. The exceptional proximity of this land to the major cities of Leeds and Bradford and wider West Yorkshire conurbation offers a unique opportunity that is seriously threatened by the Urban Extension that is being proposed - and by consequent additional developments that are also indicated.

Finally we would draw your attention of the need to maintain the integrity of the landscape of the Tong Valley, that is currently shared in its jurisdiction between Leeds and Bradford MDCs. This is a classic case of the need for a common approach; Bradford having responsibility for land that penetrates deeply into Leeds MDC land in a triangle that has been maintained because of ancient manorial boundaries. It is vital that these two authorities work in partnership to ensure common vision and development. We are deeply concerned that plans for the Urban Extension have been created without any attempt to achieve such partnership.