

## **Further statement from David Smith (representor 114)**

**From:** D SMITH

**Sent:** 18 February 2015 17:15

**To:** Tony Blackburn

**Subject:** Re: RE: Bradford Core Strategy Examination - Heritage Assets and Setting

Thank you for your last email. My concern expressed in previous emails relates to the desirability of using the most recent population estimates and projections, and recent trends in household formation, to avoid over-estimating future housing needs in the Bradford area, particularly over-estimation in the longer term, beyond five years, because of the uncertainties involved.

In this email I want to emphasise my views on 'Heritage Assets' and 'Setting' as they relate to the Worth Valley area in Bradford CC. My email is prompted by a very interesting article in the Spring edition of 'The Historic House Association' magazine, pages 44/46, where there is article by Duncan McCallum, Policy Director of English Heritage called 'Setting Standards'.

The article refers to the two key issues of 'Heritage Assets' and 'Setting', how they relate and can be defined, citing a recent government decision on this at Lyveden New Bield in Northamptonshire. This decision has increased the protection for this particular site based on the need to protect the Setting of this important Heritage Asset, overturning a previous planning decision.

In relation to Bradford CC I think there will be general agreement that Haworth Parsonage, Haworth Village, the Bronte Moors and the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway are all internationally renowned 'Heritage Assets' of the Bradford area. The Setting for these Heritage Assets is vitally important to them. In my view, this Setting covers much of the Worth Valley and Bridgehouse Beck Valley southwards from Ingrow. I think, therefore, that Bradford CC needs to define the Rural Setting of Haworth and the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, including the whole area southwards from Ingrow Tunnel on the railway.

The Railway's Setting needs to be considered partly looking at the railway from surrounding fields, paths and roads (photos on the KWVR website provide a variety of views of the railway, some from quite distant locations), and partly as viewed by a passenger travelling on a train. The latter views are largely of adjoining fields (much currently designated as Green Belt because of their importance), small groupings of long-established housing as at Oakworth and Haworth, occasional mills and farm buildings. These all add hugely to the character of the Worth/Bridgehouse Beck Valleys. They need need to be protected in their entirety, nurtured and improved. Another key feature of the valley are the remaining mill ponds which also need to be maintained, improved, ideally reinstated.

The best way to define the rural setting of the railway is by travelling on the train and considering that areas within clear view from the railway should be regarded as

providing the vital historic setting for the railway, and that these are the areas needs to be given top priority for protection and improvement. In my view there should be no scope whatsoever for building new houses in green fields/Green Belt close to the railway for example.

Since 1968 the railway has carried around 6 million passengers, including passengers from across the World. Some want to enjoy the railway in its own right, others want to see the rural locations that have appeared in films such as 'The Railway Children' and others see and use the railway as an integral part of a visit to Haworth with its Bronte connections. Incidentally, filming continues to be an important part of the commercial success of the railway and the local area, and maintaining the rural environment around the railway has to be key to that too.

In conclusion I believe that there is a case for World Heritage Designation to be sought for Haworth, the Bronte Moors and the wider setting of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway in the future, and that any development that would hinder this designation should be resisted. A positive Plan that moves in the direction of achieving World Heritage Designation (as at Saltaire) should be considered.

Yours sincerely David Smith