

Bradford Local Plan – Core Strategy – Proposed Main Modifications

Preface to representations from Addingham Civic Society

Addingham Civic Society (ACS) wishes to make a number of representations on the proposed main modifications to the Core Strategy, as set out on the attached representation forms.

The Society's representations have a dual focus: they relate to the implications of the proposed modifications specifically for the settlement of Addingham, and also consider the wider effects on the Wharfe Valley, including the cumulative effects of proposals in the various Wharfedale settlements. By implication/extension the comments also cover potential impacts on the District as a whole.

In relation to the impacts on other Wharfedale settlements and the unique environmental, heritage and tourism qualities of the Wharfe valley, ACS shares and endorses the serious concerns set out in representations from other amenity/interest groups and organisations in Wharfedale including those in Ilkley, Burley-in-Wharfedale and Menston.

In formulating its representations, ACS considers that there is a fundamental underlying problem, and this relates to the overall District housing requirement. Despite a considerable body of evidence and local knowledge presented in previous consultation rounds and at the Public Inquiry in March 2014, demonstrating that the figure is significantly and unrealistically inflated, Bradford Council have not proposed any change to the housing requirement (despite other changes included in the proposed modifications which impact on it, making the Plan inconsistent and unsound).

Representations to the proposed modifications by local groups, including ACS, necessarily have to respond to the effects of this higher figure – particularly regarding settlement hierarchy, development allocations, green-belt deletions, and environmental/habitat and infrastructure pressures. A more realistic and justified housing requirement would avoid or reduce many of the negative impacts of the plan, and the need for several of the current representations.