

TRANSCRIPT

Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan Video

Discussion with NP team and BMBC officer Part 1

Those Present:-

Helen Willows (HW) - Planning Officer of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Ruth Rovira-Wilde (RRW) - Chair of Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

Cheryl Keller (CK) – Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan Committee member

Start:-

RRW – The reason we're here now is because, the current sport fields would, the people in the village would like to develop a sports, a better sports facility for its changing rooms, rather than the shed that they're occupying at the moment at the other side of the road and ancillary to that we would want to have some other recreational facilities at this particular site.

HW – We'll be looking at the historic development and form of Oxspring and how to support that and how to not change it, change the character so that it loses what's important about Oxspring.

RRW – Looking at the current demand through surveys of residents in the village, we know that some neighbourhood plans have looked at prioritising existing residents, the needs of existing residents in their own neighbourhoods and for example we're looking at the possibility of saying well if people in the village want to downsize or perhaps they have families, if they have members of families that want to stay in Oxspring is that the kind of housing that we need for Oxspring so that's one of the things that we're trying to really work, well trying to define in our plan.

HW – And you'll know that we've done, we're in the process of producing a report that does the same job for the whole Borough.

RRW – Yeah.

HW – The Strategic Housing Market Assessment

RRW – ah ah

HW – We're hoping that we're going to be able to make that publicly available soon and that will be able to give some detail about the type of housing that we want to see in Oxspring over the next 15 years. That's looking to support not only local needs housing but also to make a significant contribution to the council's economic aspirations, to make a significant contribution towards the provision of executive, low density housing to meet the aspirations of the economic strategy.

RRW – Right yes we appreciate that though as a community we think we can support the Local Authority but perhaps be more creative in trying to find a made to measure solution for Oxspring in so far as we know from what local people have told us so far that what we need is affordable housing or at least a mixture that would allow for starter up homes as well as maybe more executive homes and we feel that if we can try to encourage working from homes or businesses that use their home as a base and try to bring in you know starter up units in that respect in the village as well as I mentioned to you if there is a new sports facility that can have some ancillary businesses that are linked to recreation such as a bicycle hire and that its linked to the Trans Pennine trail that might help create jobs in a way that perhaps benefits our village and our parish.

HW – In general terms aspiration towards mixed community, mixed density housing in general terms I think is something that is very sustainable

RRW – Yes

HW – And meets lots of national and local policy aspirations

RRW – Yes

HW – I'd have to keep asserting the role of the Green Belt though it's a National Policy Designation and changing the green belt is not something that the council can do lightly, the test that we have is that we have to find exceptional circumstances to justifying changing the Green Belt. Now we believe we have those at the moment and the reason that we have exceptional circumstances is because of the economic growth needs in the borough we know that we need to find land for economic development but we're concentrating on Barnsley and the principle towns in the search for that land for economic development and we also...

RRW – We have some in Oxspring as well and the other side of Oxspring which you have identified for and it's adjacent to the business park, the Oxspring business park.

HW – But we also believe that we have a need to find land in the Green Belt for housing and we are developing an evidence base that will underpin the Local Plan. We are developing that evidence base at the moment. What we don't have is any evidence that would support your economic aspirations in relation to the TPT and your sports ground so I think that's something that would bear sort of a deeper conversation and perhaps more consideration about how you can justify that development in the Green Belt

RRW – OK

HW – You know there are things that you can use, there is policy guidance about essential facilities to support sport and recreation, my gut feeling is that you're going beyond that so you will need to develop a, sort of a more complex case.

RRW – well the example I've given you is just an example

HW – Yeah

RRW – It is really also to, as I said to you earlier, to make the new sports facility viable in a commercial sense

CK – yes I think people feel that any large scale development will be difficult for the Oxspring infrastructure to support in terms of schooling and all sorts of facilities that new residents would be looking for so I think smaller scale developments would certainly be more favourably received by residents than a large scale development such as the one proposed for the fields adjacent to this sports field.

HW – there's loads and loads of support at national level for self builds, small schemes, recognising that they can help just as much as the big sites that councils and developers perhaps sometimes assume that we would look to the big sites first but the government is very much pushing the smaller sites so you're at one with the government on that.

RRW – yes, yes (agreeing throughout with above comments)

End of Transcript