

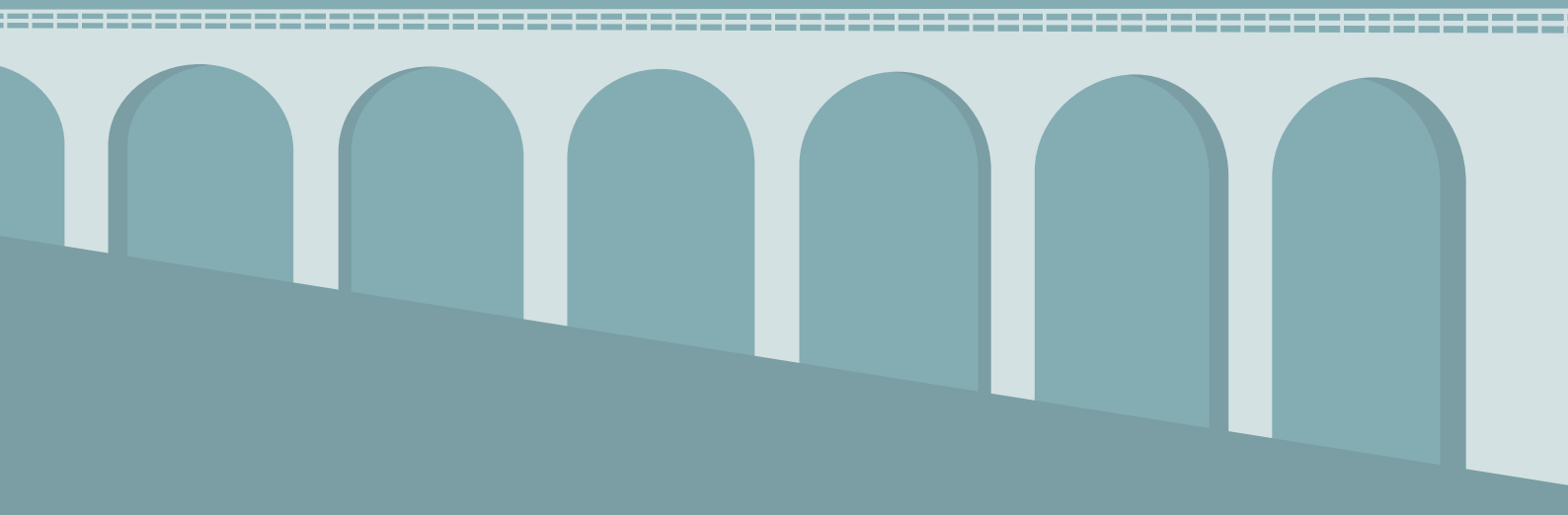


We spring into action!

OXSPRING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

CONSULTATION DRAFT
INDICATIVE POLICY AREAS & PROPOSALS

January 2015



OXSPRING'S MASTER PLAN

BMBC Local Plan Consultation Draft (2014) Proposed Site & Land Use allocations

- Green Belt (GB1)
- Employment (P2)
- Safeguarded Land (GB6)
- Existing Industrial & Employment sites

Land Use allocations proposed in the NP Policy Areas Document

- New school, multi-sports, leisure & recreational Hub (Site A)
- Village Centre-Biodiversity Nature Trail (Site B)
- "Interim Homes" for local people (Site C)
- New & improved access to the TPT & Riverside Nature Trail
- New road access

*"We talked, we heard,
we laughed, we cried, we listened,
we said, we learned & explained,
we stood & sat, we chatted
drinking tea with buns, we had
fun & despaired, we held hands &
said hello & said good bye
& hoped & wished... & this is
what we like & want ..."*





Neighbourhood Plan

www.oxspringplan.org.uk

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN & WHY DOES OXSPRING NEEDS ONE?

Neighbourhood Plans (NP) are a recent planning tool introduced by the Coalition Government in the Localism Act of 2011. The idea behind them is that communities such as ours in the Parish of Oxspring can come together and write our own land use plan. In this way we can directly influence where development can go and what shape it can take to best suit the needs of our community. NPs can be very ambitious or just pursue one single objective. The difference with a standard Parish Plan is that following a referendum and a positive result the NP is then "MADE" (adopted) by the Local Authority and it becomes a legal planning document for the area and used to determine, for example, future planning applications.

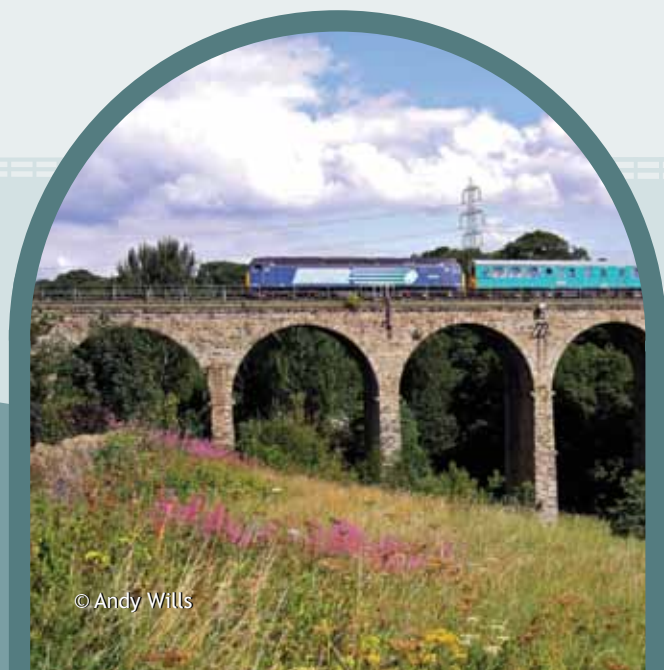
There are many reasons why a community such as Oxspring should get involved in writing a NP. We have already mentioned a key one above and besides, it seems to us that it is a more constructive way of dealing with change, influencing the right type of development in a proactive way. It is a more democratic approach; after all nobody has ever voted for a Local Plan in a referendum but residents of Oxspring will get to vote for or against their Neighbourhood Plan. Moreover, parishes with a NP will receive 25% of any Community Infrastructure Levy (106 agreement) arising from developments in their area compared to parishes without a NP.

WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS

The Parish Council by a majority vote chose to take the route of preparing a NP and in the spring of 2013 at a public meeting residents of Oxspring were asked to consider and vote for the designation of a Neighbourhood Plan Area. This was approved by BMBC in November of 2013. The Parish Council established a Neighbourhood Plan working group and secured the allocation of £6,970 funding put aside by DCLG for communities preparing neighbourhood plans.

In early March 2014, Oxspring's NP process was launched with a new website, and various community engagement events involving 'planning for real' sessions, training events, workshops with local children, question time discussion panel, a household survey and interviews with key stakeholders. Seventeen key issues were identified and are the foundation and inspiration for the NP Vision Statement, and this current 'Indicative Policy Areas and Proposals' document. At the Oxspring community Gala event in the summer of 2014 residents were asked to comment and signed up to the draft vision statement.

Over the summer months further work was completed to gather evidence which will back this vision and the evolving proposals and policies for the NP. Work has also involved ongoing discussions and consultation with local landowners, local businesses, and key stakeholders, including members of Oxspring School Governing body and service providers within the local authority.



WHAT COMES NEXT

Following this phase of consultation, a Draft Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared, taking into account comments from a wide range of local stakeholders and statutory consultees. The draft document will be published for an extended six week formal statutory consultation during the summer of 2015. Any necessary amendments will be made to the Draft NP, including further scrutiny and screening by the local authority.

The final NP will be submitted to Barnsley Council and an external examiner who will evaluate Oxspring NP against the four basic conditions set out in the Localism Act. Following the external examiner recommendations the NP will proceed to a local referendum and if 50% +1 of those that vote on the day are in favour of the plan, Barnsley Council will then 'MAKE' (adopt) the plan as the statutory planning document for the parish of Oxspring. This is earmarked to happen during early 2016.



Postcards from the future - examples of what the future might hold for Oxspring as set out in our NP vision (above right)

A VISION FOR OXSPRING'S FUTURE

Our NP will cover a period of nearly 20 years from 2015 to 2033. For this reason our plan needs to be aspirational and consider the needs of today's residents and local businesses and also future generations of Oxspring people. We need to think of what older citizens residing in Oxspring will need in the coming years, as well as young people living in our parish now and those that are yet to be born. This is a difficult challenge for all of us, as we need to accept that over the next 20 years change will happen in our Parish. With our NP we strive to make that transformation a positive one, without compromising the very essence of Oxspring's rural character, past and present and safeguarding a good quality of life for all of the Parish's inhabitants, including local wildlife.

"In 2033 Oxspring will provide a high quality living environment for residents of all ages, incomes and diverse backgrounds. It will encourage business growth, compatible with a rural economy, and it will meet the challenges of climate change by being self-sufficient in energy production"

OXSPRING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AMBITIONS

1. To strive for the Wellbeing of all members of our community by:

- Encouraging fair and accessible housing for local needs and local people.
- Fostering a new school at the community's heart.
- Promoting a new community leisure, sports and recreation hub.

2. To Nurture Local Businesses by:

- Improving connectivity for businesses and residents.
- Diversifying and growing the rural economy.
- Developing a new community sustainable green energy hub.

3. To Nurture the Rural Environment for future generations by:

- Protecting and enhancing Oxspring's biodiversity assets and amenity areas, namely: the river Don, the green belt, green open spaces, open farm land, our local gardens and community allotments.
- Creating new links and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, the Parish picnic area, local footpaths and bridle paths.
- Preparing for Climate Change- Flood and Energy Resilience.
- Protecting and enhancing the parish's built environment and rural heritage.



OXSPRING'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY & LAND USE PURPOSES

Once the Neighbourhood Plan has been 'MADE' (i.e. adopted) it will be the statutory planning document for our parish. It will have the same status as Barnsley's MBC Local Plan and therefore local planning applications will be made by reference to it. It is therefore essential that the final plan is written in the form of legally enforceable planning policies and proposals.

For the purpose of this 'Consultation on Policy Areas' however, and for ease of understanding, it is the policy and proposals intentions which are set out, together with some background and justification. The final policy wordings, together with full evidence and detail will be presented in the final Draft Neighbourhood Plan document.

In this document the policy and land use proposals are presented in three sections, respectively covering **"Community Wellbeing"**, **"Nurturing Local Businesses"** and **"Nurturing the Rural Environment"** of Oxspring.

POLICIES

REASONING AND PURPOSE OF WELLBEING POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

HOUSING

Over the last decade Oxspring has experienced a faster population growth than the averages in Barnsley and England. Such increase is particularly sharp for groups of people under 24 years and between the ages of 45 and 85 plus. Building upon our collective commitment to vulnerable groups and the young; over the next 20 years our parish needs to consider how best it can improve its provision to care for all residents including those with lower incomes and with special needs be they elderly, disabled or the infirm.

BMBC's Local Plan (Consultation Draft, 2014) sets out the level of housing for the entire borough. The parish of Oxspring is identified in the borough's Local Plan as an inherently unsustainable location for large housing developments because it lacks services and facilities and has limited transport accessibility. Therefore, Barnsley's Local Plan Consultation Draft does not allocate large housing developments within the Parish of Oxspring. However, the borough's Local Plan allows for development on unallocated land of under 0.4 hectares. This can include conversions or redevelopment of existing buildings and the creation of dwellings above shops within existing settlement boundaries e.g. Oxspring village centre. These unplanned developments are often referred to as 'Windfall Sites'.

The long term viability of the parish is also compromised by the lack of affordable housing as many local people with lower incomes, including young people, are being excluded from their own community. The average house price in Oxspring can be more than three times the average price in the rest of the borough (2008). Affordable housing levels are set out in the Local Plan which identifies the need to provide 25% of affordable homes in developments of 15 or more dwellings. Notwithstanding the above, both the Local Plan and NPPF advise that it is possible to set up an 'Intermediate Housing' model to respond to specific local housing needs.

The Housing Needs Advice paper produced by URS and commissioned on behalf of the Parish Council for the Oxspring NP highlights that local housing provision has to be 'fair and proportionate' to the local community needs. The findings set out in the document demonstrate that in the interest of providing suitable housing for local people, retaining young people, families and older people wanting to downsize and thus having a sustainable and balanced population, a small amount of housing growth is critical. When considered alongside the fairly low level of housing

that would be permissible within the Local Plan in the parish of Oxspring, it is important for future housing growth to cater for the needs of the local population first and foremost.

During local consultation events, undertaken as part of the NP preparation, support from local residents for any future housing growth was conditional. It reflected the above goals but with the proviso that there will be no large housing developments or proliferation of isolated developments during the plan period as this would have a negative impact on the special character and appearance of the rural landscape, the settlements in the parish and the limited support services available. Therefore, the scale of any future growth for the parish of Oxspring for the next twenty years should appear as natural or organic additions which might normally be expected to have occurred over time rather than as larger new streets or estates of housing.

POLICY CW/H1- Accessible Housing for Local People

This policy will require the development of residential dwellings in any future windfall sites, to focus on local people and to meet local needs. The policy will prioritise delivery of 'Intermediate Housing' to bridge the gap of provision for 'more affordable' housing, sitting below open market prices but above social housing. This will be part of a legal agreement set in the NP for all future housing developments.

POLICY CW/H2 - Windfall Housing Sites

This policy will identify the specific characteristics required for the development of any future 'windfall site' within the village centre and parish. Such requirements will include restrictions on the size and location to preserve the rural character and nature of Oxspring, including its fauna and flora, as well as a requirement to meet sustainable homes construction standards including zero carbon emissions, sustainable water management and provision of sustainable energy.

EDUCATION FACILITIES

Oxspring Primary School is a small village school which has been on the same site since 1890. The results of the household questionnaire survey identified the school as a most important and valued community infrastructure.

Future housing developments in Oxspring and the surrounding areas, particularly Penistone, will mean more demand for school places. BMBC allows for 20 places needed at Primary school for every 100 houses built. Oxspring School already takes a limited number of children from the surrounding area as both primary schools in Penistone are oversubscribed. This is without taking into account any new house building and there is already development taking place in Penistone and Oxspring.

The Borough's Local Plan recognises that it is important that everyone has access to a good education, and the Plan will support future education initiatives in order to achieve this.

POLICY CW/E1 - A New School at the Heart of the Community

This policy will be set out to promote the development of a new village school built in Oxspring which should help to relieve the pressure for school places across the wider Penistone area.

Key to this policy will be a requirement to meet national standards for safe playing fields and outdoor facilities for primary schools. The new school will come with adjacent sports fields which should provide for increased outdoor activity opportunities and benefit pupils' health and the community at large.

SPORT AND LEISURE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Living in the countryside could potentially offer numerous opportunities for young people to engage in sporting activities. The parish of Oxspring boasts open playing fields which are used by a number of junior football clubs and off-road running events attracting large numbers of participants to the village. Current Government policy suggests that the priority should be to "offer long-term pathways that help young people continue playing sport into adulthood". Moreover, current National strategy advocates that by "connecting sports clubs with schools and bringing sporting opportunities to people's doorsteps, we can convert the interest and excitement young people felt as a result of the London Olympics into a lifelong commitment to sport"

POLICY CW/SRC11 - Sport and Leisure Community Infrastructure

This policy will require the development of a range of good quality community, sport and leisure facilities available to everyone, from children to adults. It will achieve this by developing a playing fields strategy for the parish. This will ensure the following:

- A new primary school in Oxspring provided with high quality physical education facilities
- A viable football club with modern facilities to be enjoyed and used by the wider community
- New multi-sport playing fields and recreational spaces identified in the Neighbourhood Plan (Development Proposals- Site A)
- A range of leisure facilities that will help attract visitors to the Parish.
- A network of well-connected high quality open spaces and recreational areas across the Parish

However, the parish of Oxspring and its residents have long been concerned about the level and quality of provision available for formal and informal sport activities. In 2009 a charitable trust was set up to support the development of Oxspring Parish Sport and Community Centre. Planning Permission was granted in October 2008 and renewed in 2011; unfortunately at that stage funding from the National Lottery was not secured.

More recently (March 2014), the household questionnaire survey results supported the view that the village lacks sport facilities and recreational opportunities for young people between the ages of 11 to 17. The primary school has no changing or sporting facilities on its site and uses the village playing field weekly without toilet or changing facilities.

Also, the football club with 5 separate junior teams of different age ranges uses a dilapidated shed across the busy Sheffield Road for changing and without a required better level of on-site safe facilities they are unable to develop or enter higher leagues or offer ladies, girls and more young people opportunity to play football. Moreover the fields have no access to the TPT and the large housing development on Roughbirchworth Lane. As a result, much of the leisure and recreational activities enjoyed by younger people takes place elsewhere away from the Parish. The borough's Local Plan Consultation Draft sets out as a priority to protect community facilities "*as these are important if we are to create sustainable communities where people want to live. The opportunity to take part in community life can help to engender community pride and spirit.*"

REASONING AND PURPOSE FOR NURTURING LOCAL BUSINESSES POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

The National Planning Policy Framework and Barnsley's Local Plan seek to grow and promote the local economy. Residents and local businesses in the parish of Oxspring have also identified the need to protect and retain shops and community facilities and the need to diversify and grow the economy but, at the same time, retaining the very character and qualities that define this rural community.

The NP will seek to strengthen the local economy by promoting the improvement and protection of local services, provision of business space (including home working), and diversification of the rural economy (including the delivery of locally generated green energy for local businesses and residents). Without these, Oxspring is in danger of becoming an even less sustainable location, with polarised demographics. This is considered detrimental to the social and economic vitality of the parish.

CONNECTIVITY

Key to an attractive business location is enhanced connectivity by way of improved transport modes, and good internet and telecommunication services.

Broadband speeds across the Penistone areas, which includes the village of Oxspring, are generally very poor and can vary even within a short radius. Local councils have recently signed an agreement with BT to extend fast broadband coverage to 98% of South Yorkshire.

The NP policies will seek to secure and maximise the benefit of this agreement for local homes and businesses. Appropriate access to fast, reliable broadband will enable residents to benefit from online services, and for local businesses to compete both nationally and internationally.

POLICY NLB/C1 - Improve IT Connectivity Infrastructure

This policy will require any prospective developer to consider the connectivity needs at an early stage in the development process and take advantage of any technological advances in the sector. This will inform adjustments or investment decisions to ensure that the desired connectivity can be achieved in such a way as to contribute to a wider network for Oxspring. The policy will aim to achieve a transformation in the local broadband access, with domestic premises and business premises in the parish being able to access 'superfast broadband' and any future upgrades available within the earlier phases of the NP period.

The policy will also require any future work on infrastructure such as roads and utilities to contribute to the provision of IT and telecommunication connectivity.

Improved connectivity also involves better roads and better public transport to access and service local businesses. The borough wide Local Plan Consultation Draft sets out to "*reduce transport related greenhouse gas emissions*" and to "*reduce the need to travel, particularly by car.*"

POLICY NLB/C2 - Improve Transport Connectivity Infrastructure

This policy will require creation of an integrated safe and convenient road, footpath and cycleway layout that embraces the 'Walkable Neighbourhood' concept and encourages the use and provision of public and community based transport to serve the parish. This will include improved and new cycle routes and walkways in the parish. It will require any new developer to consider the transport connectivity needs of future proposal at an early stage, and to incorporate green transport measures and strategies as part of the development.

The policy will require the preparation of a car-share hub strategy available within the parish and for users of such a service to benefit from low cost community generated green energy.

POLICY NLB/RE1 - Developing a Sustainable Rural Economy (BMBC Local Plan Draft, Site Ref. P2)

This policy will require that the new employment site proposed within the Local Plan Consultation Draft (Ref P2) is prioritised for B1 uses (i.e. office based businesses or research and development of products or processes), as well as some A2 uses (i.e. professional services). Due to the restricted access for large vehicles and proximity to a residential area the site will not be considered appropriate for General Industrial use, nor would it be suitable as a large storage and distribution centre.

The policy will prioritise the development and use of sustainable infrastructure to support energy needs, sustainable water management, sustainable transport for employment uses within site P2 (Local Plan Reference).

The policy will require the inclusion of possible office space for a sustainable energy community hub and a dedicated site for smart-cars charging point and car-share hub.

Tourism is an important part of the U.K. economy and particularly for rural areas. The Government Strategic Framework for Tourism (2010 - 2020) indicates that local authorities are at the forefront of allowing development for tourism as it provides sustainable business rates income to enable front line services to be maintained.

Oxspring is ideally suited for day time visitors and short stay visitors. With the provision of facilities, visitors will be able to enjoy the picturesque scenery and good walking as the village is positioned at the junction of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT). It is here that the general east/ west route supports a southern link and the proximity of the Peak National Park.

The results of the NP household questionnaire survey shows that 31% of respondents believe that tourism in the area should be encouraged with 33% also looking at small retail and 21% at café/catering provision.

DIVERSIFYING AND GROWING THE RURAL ECONOMY

The borough's Local Plan Consultation Draft proposes to develop "*the Barnsley economy to meet local needs and to provide local job opportunities*". The Local Plan Consultation Draft, proposes a 3.27 hectare site (currently on green belt) and on the western boundary of the Parish with Penistone/Springvale, for employment (Reference Site P2).

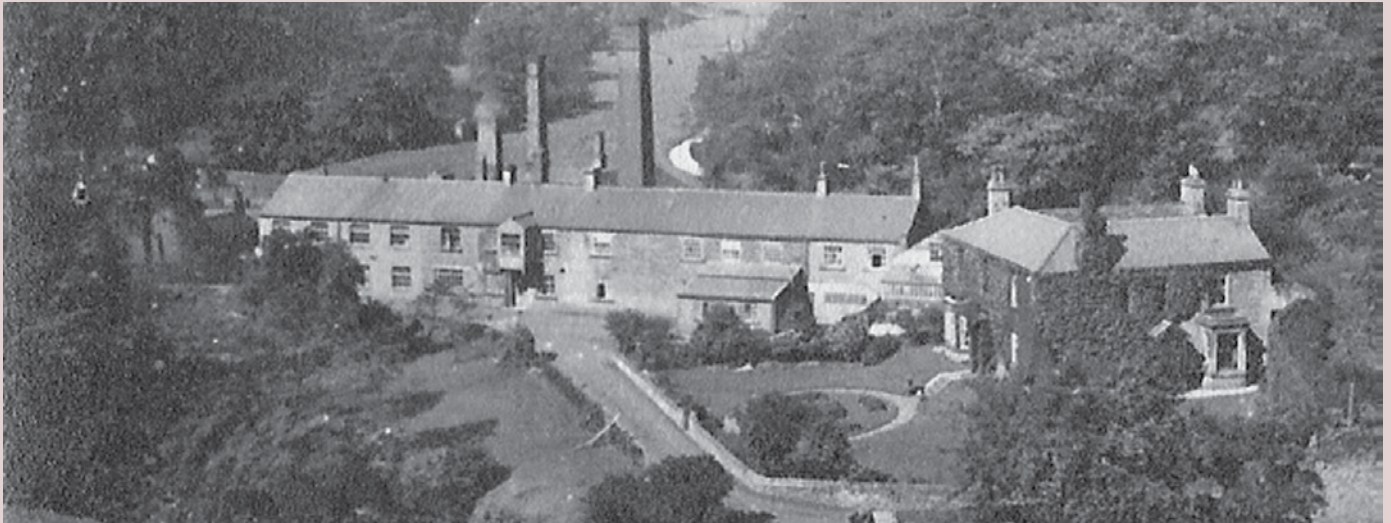
Local residents and businesses see the opportunity to grow the local economy in a way which adds value and improves the needs of rural settlements such as Oxspring. Additional local employment will help provide a viable and sustainable economy including jobs for younger residents and reduce the need to travel.

Other site specific employment opportunities are identified later on within this NP. Proposed employment activity in the parish relates to the borough's Local Plan Consultation Draft priority growth sectors, namely, the Visitor Economy and low Carbon industries.

POLICY NLB/RE2 - Developing a Sustainable Rural Visitor Economy

This policy will require the provision of facilities for overnight stay (or short stay). These could include removable temporary accommodation or conversion of farm buildings and cottages. The policy will also require the provision of facilities and infrastructure to accommodate local community events which bring visitors to the area, namely themed festivals, specialist markets and sporting activities.

Finally the policy will be required to promote the development of better access for wheelchairs, walkers, hikers, pedal cyclists and horse riders to the TPT and a new biodiversity Nature Trail on the riverside (See environment section for more information and Development Proposals- Site B).



COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE-ENERGY HUB

In January 2014, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) published a community energy strategy. This strategy sets out the government's vision for local communities like Oxspring to come together to take more control of the energy they use, help reduce energy bills, fuel poverty and lower carbon emissions.

The Government aims to increase output of energy produced by community energy schemes to 3GW by 2020; this represents an increase of 50% based on 2014 output figures. The Government also wants renewable energy to account for 15% of all energy produced in the UK by 2020.

Non-renewable energy is an expensive commodity both for local businesses and residential properties. Having a community energy plan could help identify suitable ways of producing low carbon renewable energy appropriate to the Oxspring area. It can reduce energy use and manage demand through energy saving and collective energy supply switching schemes. A recognised and workable scheme can also help deliver local economic regeneration, a stronger sense of community wellbeing, employment, improvement to public health and energy efficiency housing and businesses.

POLICY NLB/CSE- Developing Community Sustainable Energy

This policy will require the preparation of a sustainable energy strategy for the parish. Such a strategy can be based on various initiatives including:

- Generating Energy (This can be achieved through a range of suitable technologies)
- Reducing Energy Use (Green Deal and Eco schemes; shared energy reducing schemes for the household and local amenities; Share the use of Energy Display Monitors; and domestic and business premises energy audits)
- Managing Energy (e.g. Sensors on street lighting and community buildings)
- Purchase Energy collectively

REASONING AND PURPOSE FOR NURTURING THE ENVIRONMENT

This NP is following the guidance of the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework on "Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment". The NP seeks to establish policies which will improve and protect the unique qualities of the parish, including local habitats and natural areas, as well as manmade buildings and structures which together shape the rural character of the parish. The policies outlined in this section aim to protect these local natural environments for future generations of Oxspring people.

The NP also sets out to take positive action on climate change and policies will aim to encourage in particular community led initiatives to:

- Reduce energy use
- Secure more renewable and low carbon energy
- Secure and protect land for local food production and local food sourcing
- Increase sustainable transport use and local transport solutions
- Increase green infrastructure to manage local flood risk

The overall aim will be for Oxspring to stay an attractive, environmentally friendly and sustainable place to live and work.

POLICY NRE/PE - Protecting and Enhancing Natural Biodiversity Assets

This policy will seek to nurture the rural environment for future generations, enhancing Oxspring's green spaces by:

- Creating wild flower meadows/verges and nature reserve areas to encourage biodiversity (e.g. Ant Hills, the paddock, the riverside).
- Designating Local Green Spaces and new allotment sites for protection from inappropriate development.
- Encouraging wider field margins to create wildlife havens on farmland.
- Establishing new and maintaining existing wildlife corridors (e.g. as part of the landscape design of any newly developed sites).

FOOTPATHS AND NATURE TRAILS NETWORKS

A major factor in the degradation of the environment is pollution caused by vehicle exhaust gas emissions. In order to protect the environment people could be encouraged to use their cars less often and to walk or cycle more often. The TPT provides a safe and direct traffic free route into Penistone, Barnsley and Sheffield. Better access on to the TPT for residents and visitors to Oxspring should be provided. Additional walking routes through the village, linking different areas together, could be created. The riverside is not easily accessible currently but a riverside nature walk would help to link areas of the village together.

POLICY NRE/LC - Creating New Links & Connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the Riverside & within the Village

This policy will seek to link areas of the village together in the following ways:

- Improve access to the riverside and create a riverside nature walk. Working with current landowners and future developers of sites adjoining the river, a circular walk could be created using the current river crossing over Willow Bridge and a new access created at the western edge of the village. (See Site Specific Development Proposal -Site B)
- Improve access to the Trans Pennine Trail. Provide safe, level, ramped access onto the TPT for residents and visitors to Oxspring at:
 - i. The NP proposed new school , sport field and recreational hub site
 - ii. The Roughbitchworth Lane access point. The NP proposes the building of a new school on a different site freeing up the current site for redevelopment. Any new development would have to incorporate a new access to the TPT from this site.

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ASSESTS

Much of the land beyond the residential areas in the parish is farmland and green belt. There are several areas of green spaces within the village which are highly valued by residents for their aesthetic qualities, recreational value and their contribution to biodiversity. Opportunities exist to protect and enhance Oxspring's environmentally important green spaces in different ways.

PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

There is a critical duty within the UK and European legislation on plan-making to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The NPPF makes clear that climate change is a core planning principle. Some of the key climate change challenges relevant to our parish and to the NP will be to take full account of flood risk and secure a transition to a low carbon future.

Climate change effects can have devastating consequences, as seen in the floods in Somerset County and Sedgemoor District in 2014, in Cumbria in 2009, in Gloucestershire in 2007 and South Yorkshire (Oxspring) in 2007 and 2011. Planning for increased climate change resilience will reduce future costs both for local businesses and for local households. Moreover, the NP Climate Change management policies will help this community reap the rewards of green development.

POLICY NRE/CC - Preparing for Climate Change

This policy will seek to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and encourage the use of renewable resources, in the following ways:

- Developers will be asked to prepare a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Climate Change Mitigation Statement to include: flood risk management measures; potential components to improve ecological networks; river, local surface and ground water sources basin management plans; reuse of existing resources management plans (during construction and post construction phase); use of renewable energy; and waste management plans.
- New developments should introduce opportunities to reduce the need to travel, particularly by car, and to increase the share of trips made by sustainable travel.
- New developments should take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy consumption.
- New development should avoid and protect the margins of the river bank and flood plain areas and contribution to new or existing improvements on green infrastructure.

POLICY NRE/RH - Protecting the Rural Heritage

This policy will ensure that an analysis of the character and history of buildings, structures and landscapes is undertaken and is included in the “evidence base” documents.

The NP will identify “Rural Heritage Areas” which will be the subject of special protection and any new developments will need to recognise the local distinctiveness and importance of the “Rural Heritage Areas” in their location, scale, design and materials. Any proposals within or adjacent to the “Rural Heritage Areas” will be required to include a Heritage Impact Assessment. Developments may be restricted if they adversely affect the character or appearance of the Rural Heritage Areas identified in the NP.

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL HERITAGE

Oxspring’s unique natural assets have shaped the evolving built pattern of this settlement for many centuries. The parish’s woodlands and waterways are the background to: ancient Iron Age depressed earthwork; medieval fields, farmsteads and causeways; manors and lodges recorded in the Domesday Book; weirs and stone bridges from the industrial revolution; and Victorian viaducts and railway tracks. More recent expansion of the parish during the inter-wars period of the 20th century includes whitewashed town homes which reinforce the predominantly linear pattern of Oxspring.

Moreover, the parish’s unique position at the foothills of the Peak District National Park offers, at the highest point of 1000 feet above sea level at Throstle Nest, the most splendid views across natural and manmade landscapes.

In spite of such a wealth of heritage, there are only two structures within the parish which are currently statutorily protected and appear in BMBC’s “Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and Buildings of Local Interest”.

SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Three site-specific development proposals have been identified as part of the NP. These take into account the delivery of key policies set above and the aspirations of local people and local businesses.

OXSPRING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SITE A - A new Primary School at the Heart of the Community's Sports & Recreational Hub

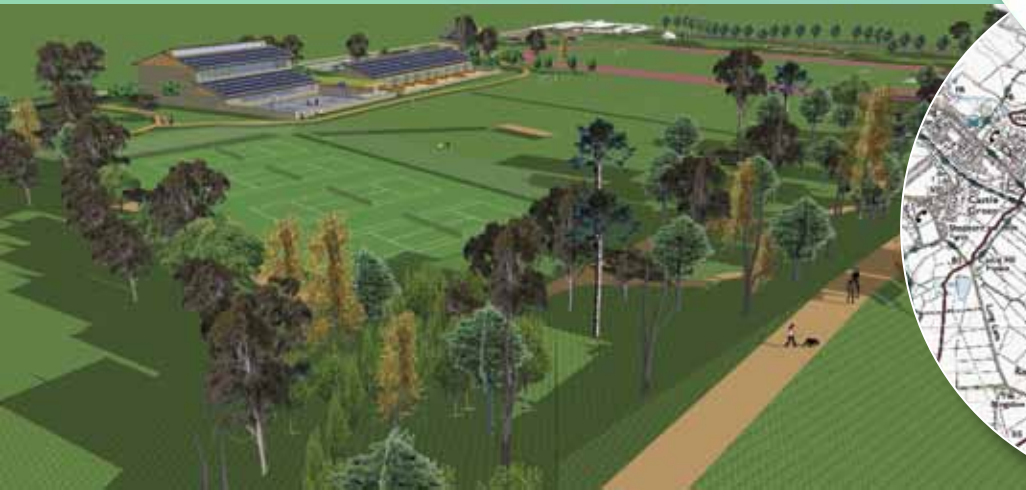
During 2014 Local people said they would like:

"An updated multi-sports playing fields/grounds with new & fully equipped changing rooms"

"Better facilities for the community to come together and celebrate special occasions & events"

"Better access to the TPT from the sport fields & linking it to the Riverside"

*"Prior to 1950 a new school was proposed (...)
Fighting for Oxspring improvements into the future means fighting for a new modern school which we really need"*



Images showing sketch design illustrating possible development layout for new school & community recreational hub

OXSPRING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SITE B - Oxspring's Riverside Biodiversity Nature Trail



In 2014 we said & asked for:

"Improved access to the river for all of us to enjoy" "Fishing access along the riverside"

"For forty or even fifty years we've had in our minds to create a walk from Oxspring to Penistone & beyond. It is a much nicer, more pleasant walk than the TPT"

".. . A bandstand for the picnic area & wildlife meadows"

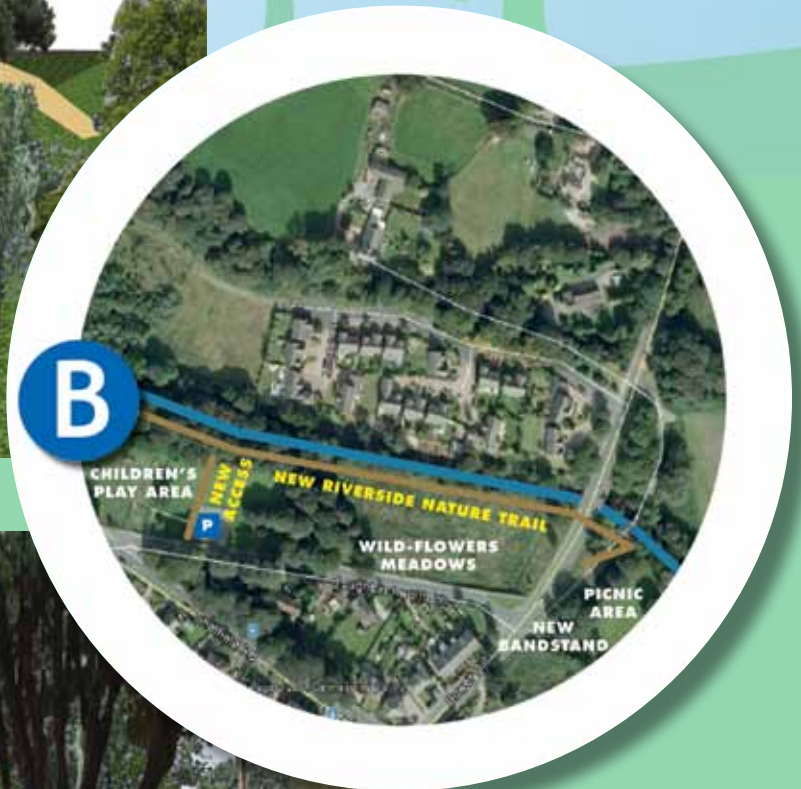


Image showing sketch design illustrating possible improvements for the riverside, including new links & wildlife nature viewing points

OXSPRING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SITE C- Accessible Homes for Oxspring

In 2014 we said & asked for:

“New housing in Oxspring should not be large scale development located within the Green Belt, farmland or in Green Spaces”

“It needs to be smaller houses for first time buyers, to keep the second generation within Oxspring. That’s what it needs to be...”

In the Future we could have...

- *The first development in Barnsley to be built to Code Level 6 (Zero Carbon homes). Where no longer we need to pay for utility bills, as the homes generate all our energy needs...”*
- *Starter homes for young local people to live in & for local older people to move in to...”*

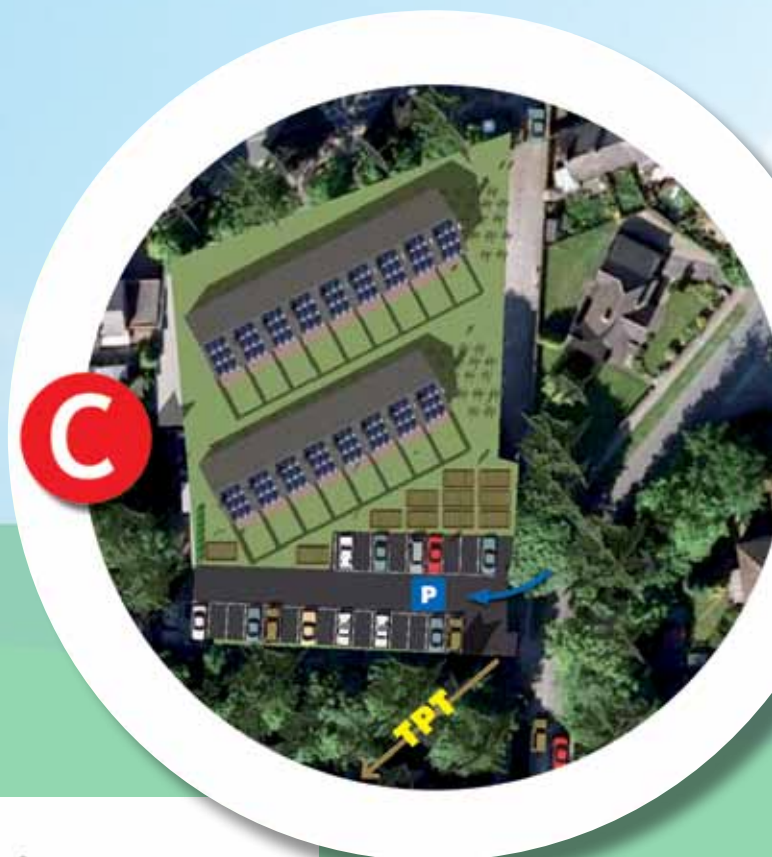



Image showing sketch design illustrating possible redevelopment of old school site with 'Interim' sustainable homes community scheme



We now need your views on the policy areas and priorities identified in this document.

Do you feel that they accurately represent the views of local people and local businesses?

Included in the centre of this document you will find a pull-out questionnaire which gives you the opportunity to comment, and will inform the next stage of which will be the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

The completed questionnaire can be returned to **St Aidan's Church; Oxspring School; Waggon and Horses Pub; Oxspring Post Office; Ann Walker, 9 Brookfield, Oxspring.** Questionnaires can be collected if necessary.

Any questions regarding Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan please contact Ruth Rovira-Wilde on 01226 379769 or email: ruthrovira@btinternet.com

Any problems contact Ann Walker on 01226 379895 or email: walker761@talktalk.net

Alternatively, an electronic version is available on www.oxspringplan.org.uk

All comments must be received by Sunday 15th February 2015.

"Oxspring Parish has a quiet, simple & hidden loveliness; not exuberant in its splendour yet surprisingly pleasant."

WITH THANKS TO



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PARISH COUNCIL



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www.oxspringplan.org.uk