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02 February 2018

AN OPEN LETTER TO RESIDENTS OF OXSPRING:

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & THE OXSPRING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We have again, carefully reviewed the Draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan of March 2016 (a full copy of which is enclosed with this letter for ease of reference) and we believe that the Oxspring Fields development proposals both support and align with many of the main policies contained within the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

It is a legal requirement that the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with strategic policies set out within the Local Plan. In Barnsley, the Local Plan is currently under examination by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State. Paragraph 184 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out that Neighbourhood Plans should not promote less development than is set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.

In July 2016 Oxspring Parish Council resolved to halt the production of the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan until such time as the Barnsley Local Plan is adopted; recognising that adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan prior to the adoption of the Local Plan would likely necessitate a review of the Neighbourhood Plan, incurring unnecessary additional expenditure and an early review of the document.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) informed Oxspring Parish Council, during the early stages of the Local Plan preparation process, that no housing allocations would be identified in any of the western villages (including Oxspring) and the draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan was therefore prepared on this basis. However and importantly, following Stages 1 & 2 of the Barnsley Local Plan Examination Hearings, which took place in May and July 2017, the Local Plan Inspector published an Interim Findings Report on 15 August 2017 which, amongst other matters, identified her view that if the Local plan is to be found sound it should have a more positive approach to the future of the Borough's villages.

At the Local Plan Inspector's request, BMBC subsequently undertook to produce a Sustainability Assessment for each of the villages in the Borough and this assessment

Identifies Oxspring as one of the most sustainable western villages. Consequently, in conformity with the Inspectors Interim Findings, BMBC have identified land which they believe is suitable to meet the housing needs in Oxspring. This will involve the removal of land to the north of Sheffield Road, Oxspring from the Green Belt to meet both immediate and longer term housing needs of the village. This land is shown on the attached plan with references EC6 & EC7.

BMBC also intends to allocate a small parcel of existing safeguarded land (land not within the Green Belt) for development, which is shown on the attached plan with reference EC8. However, it is worthy to note that the largest proportion of site EC8 consists of an existing homestead, garden and outbuildings and lies within the existing urban fabric of Oxspring, where development is acceptable in principle.

The Barnsley Metropolitan Borough is recognised as a Green Belt authority, with 77% of land in the Borough identified as Green Belt and the majority of this being in the west of the Borough. BMBC have therefore recognised that they cannot meet housing needs in Oxspring without utilising land which is currently in the Green Belt and the correct and only procedure for Local Authorities to remove land from the Green Belt is through the Local Plan process, which is currently underway.

What is **most important to recognise** is that simply objecting to BMBC's proposals to remove sites EC6 & EC7 from the Green Belt for housing development will not change BMBC's decision. This is because (as stated above) BMBC has to find land suitable to meet Oxspring's housing needs, following the Local Plan Inspector's Interim Findings Report. If you believe that sites EC6 & EC7 are not suitable housing sites, then it is imperative that an alternative site is identified.

Green Belt land will have to be released in Oxspring by BMBC to satisfy the requirement to identify housing allocations in the village. Therefore, simply objecting to development per se is no longer an option.

Considering that Oxspring Parish Council has set in motion the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan process, it is important that the Parish Council, on behalf of residents, has its say on where development would be best suited to meet the village's housing needs and how new housing development can best contribute towards meeting the Draft Neighbourhood Plan objectives.

At the outset of the Local Plan process, Yorkshire Land Limited identified a parcel of land to the east of the village which is situated between the Parish Sports field, the former Blackmoor works site, the Trans Pennine Trail and Sheffield Road. This parcel of land is promoted as 'Oxspring Fields' and the proposals were originally borne out approximately 5 years ago, following an indirect approach from members of Oxspring Parish Council, as an alternative to the site which was then proposed to the North and South of Roughbitchworth Lane for a development of 111 homes.

The Oxspring Fields site is situated within 150 metres of the Waggon and Horses public

house which forms the Historical Centre of the village.

We believe that the Oxspring Fields site represents a superior and most suitable alternative development site to sites EC6 & EC7 put forward by BMBC.

Importantly, the development of sites EC6 and EC7 would contravene the historical pattern of development in Oxspring. As identified in paragraph 4.2 on page 14 of the Draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan “**the main village settlement is largely linear in form and lies between Sheffield Road (B6462) and the route of the Trans Pennine Trail**” This is demonstrated by the plan shown on page 27 of the Draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan, in which the Trans Pennine Trail is shaded Pink and the Sheffield Road is shaded Brown. In comparison, development of the Oxspring Fields site to the east of the Parish Sports field (which is identified as G2 on the plan shown at page 27 of the Draft Oxspring Neighbourhood plan) maintains the linear pattern of development in Oxspring.

Furthermore, development of the Oxspring Fields site as an alternative to sites EC6 & EC7 would ensure that the River Don Green Corridor is kept open and free from significant new housing development, thereby protecting Oxspring’s biodiversity assets in and around the River Don and the landscape character in the location of the ancient packhorse trail and the Grade 2 listed Willow Bridge.

The photograph on page 33 of the draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan shows a view of the viaduct on Sheffield Road opposite Eddyfield, under the heading ‘Protecting Landscape Character’. Draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan Policy OEN4 at page 35 sets out in point 6 that ‘**views to existing landmark buildings such as Oxspring Viaduct are protected**’. Significantly, development of sites EC6 & EC7 (to the North of Sheffield Road) would contravene the Policy set out within the Draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan.

In the round, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to support:

- The provision of fair and accessible housing for local needs and local people;
- The provision of improved community leisure, sports and recreation facilities through the delivery of a Sports and Community Building;
- Improved accessibility to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, local footpaths and bridle paths; and
- To diversify and grow the rural economy through the provision of small scale new visitor and tourist facilities which provide cafe and catering facilities.

The Oxspring Fields development proposals complement all of these aspirations and will ensure their delivery, whilst fulfilling the requirement of BMBC to deliver new housing development in the village.

The Oxspring Fields scheme would also provide much needed affordable housing in conformity with the development policies contained within the Barnsley Local Plan, which dictate that 30% of housing schemes in excess of 15 dwellings within the western part of the Borough (up from 25% within the previous development plan) must be set aside as affordable housing. For example, 150 homes delivered on the Oxspring Fields site would

provide 45 affordable homes for local needs. The Oxspring Fields development will also seek to provide homes suitable for those wishing to scale down.

We hope you will concur with us, that when accepting new housing development will take place in Oxspring, it is better to support a development scheme which will also deliver new and beneficial facilities for the village alongside new housing development, as opposed to a scheme which will simply deliver new homes. This is the choice with which you are now faced.

Embracing the Oxspring Fields proposals as being the best solution for Oxspring, will ensure that the work undertaken in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan to date will not have been abortive, and it will be possible for the Parish Council to progress the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan to adoption quickly (following the adoption of the Barnsley Local Plan) securing the best option for the delivery of housing and community benefits for the parish.

In summary, BMBC has had no choice but to identify Housing allocations in Oxspring and has proposed sites EC6, EC7 and EC8 as the location for new housing development.

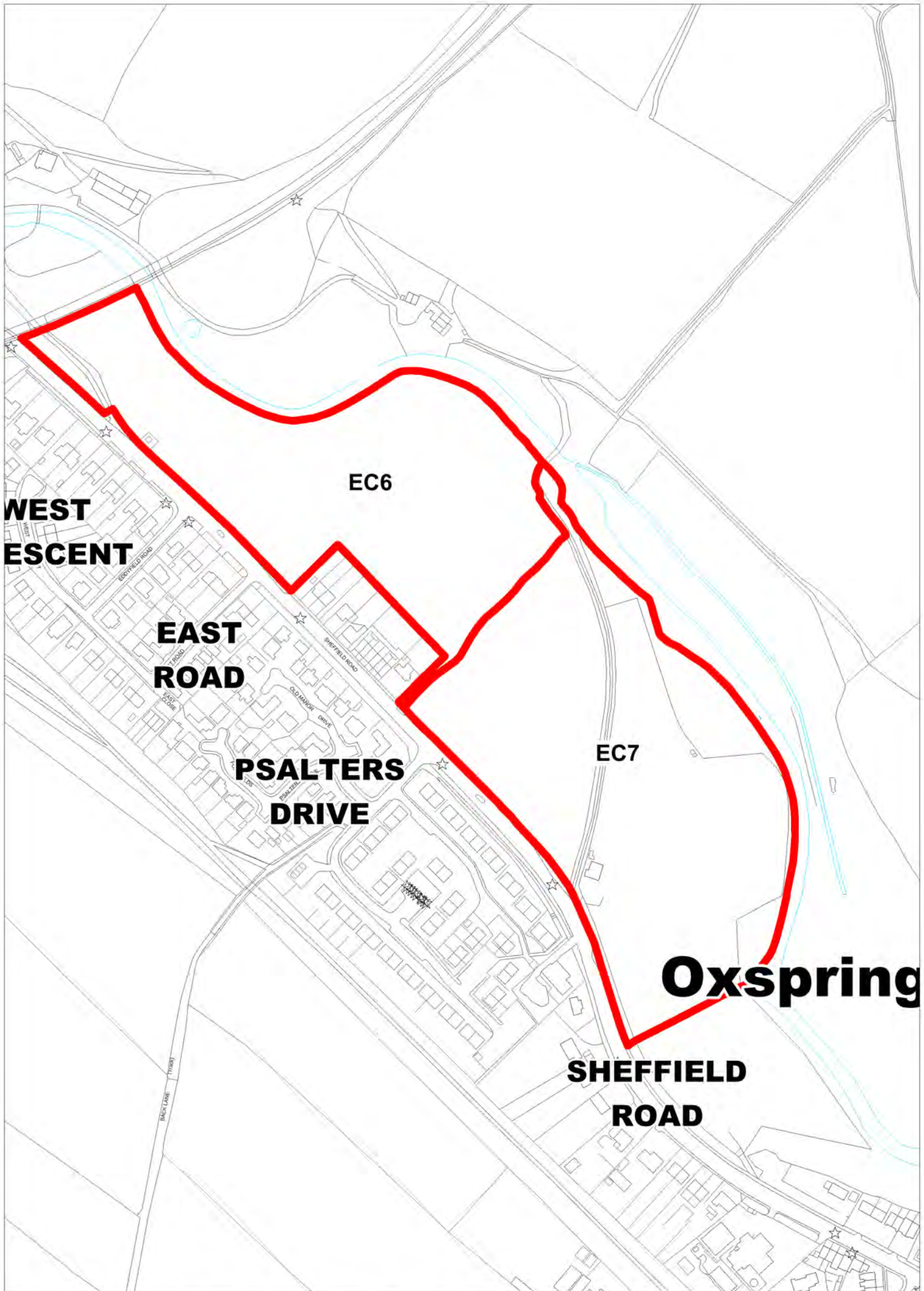
Failure to make your views known to both BMBC and the Parish Council or simply objecting to the development of sites EC6 & EC7 without identifying and supporting an alternative site **will not change the Council's decision** to identify sites EC6 & EC7 for housing development in the Local Plan.

ACTION

We believe that the Oxspring Fields proposals represent the best development scheme for the village. However, in order to secure the allocation of the Oxspring Fields site, as an alternative to sites EC6 & EC7, you will need to make your views known to your Parish Councillors, who are elected to represent you. Once the Parish Council is fully aware of residents' views and is able to form a consensus of which is the most preferred site for the new housing development, it can then inform BMBC so that it can act upon this information.

The Barnsley Local Plan Examination Consultation 2018 is currently underway and open to representations for a period of six weeks until 10am on Monday, 12 March 2018. In addition to contacting your Parish Councillors, it is important that you also make representations directly to BMBC; this matter **requires your urgent attention**.

Yours sincerely
YORKSHIRE LAND Limited



EC7

Oxspri

SHEFFIELD ROAD

EC8

ROUGHBIRCHWORT LANE

TOLLBAR CLOSE

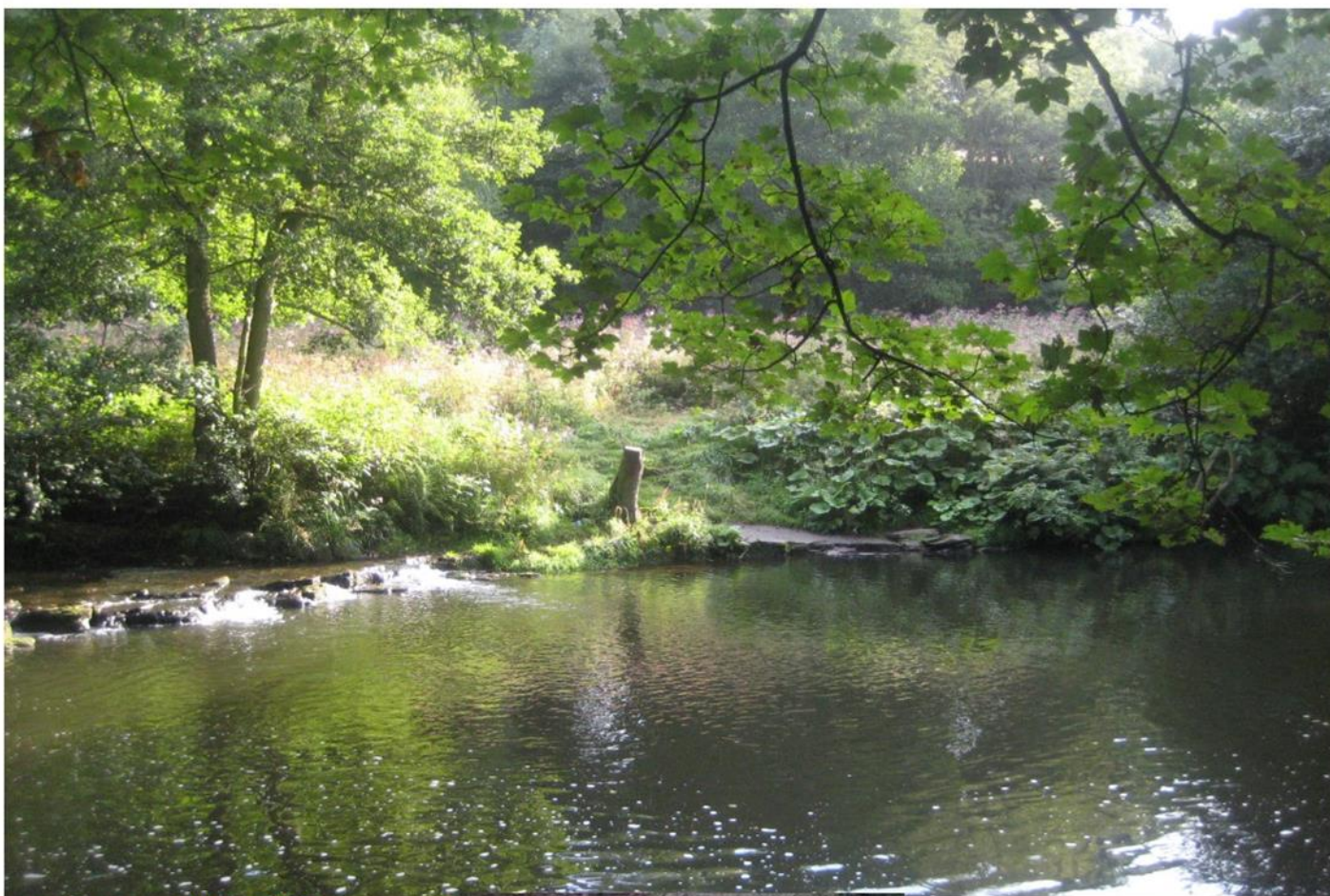
FIELDS END

Oxspring

Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan

2014 - 2033

Oxspring Parish Council
March 2016



OXSPRING

Neighbourhood Plan

www.oxspringplan.org.uk



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Parish Council would like to thank all the residents and businesses of Oxspring, and in particular the following individuals and organisations, for their hard work and support in the preparation of this Neighbourhood Development Plan:

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION

This is a consultation document.

This Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for Oxspring Parish has been published for public consultation under Regulation 14 Town and Country Planning, England, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and comments are invited for **6 weeks from 21st March 2016 to 5pm 2nd May 2016.**

Hard copies of the document are available for viewing at Penistone Library, High Street, Penistone, Sheffield, S36 6BR. Hard copies and Representation Forms can also be requested from:

The Clerk to the Council, Stephanie Tolson: Tel: 01226 792657 or 01226 379895
email: OPC@tolson818.fsnet.co.uk.

The Draft Plan, Representation Forms and other background documents are also available for viewing and downloading from the Neighbourhood Plan website:

<http://www.oxspringplan.org.uk/>

A Representation Form is provided for comments, but the Parish Council also welcomes comments by email or in writing. Please return completed forms and other comments in writing to:

The Clerk to the Council, Stephanie Tolson, 43 Nether Royd View, Silkstone Common, Barnsley, S75 4QQ.

Tel: 01226 792657

email: OPC@tolson818.fsnet.co.uk

Following the public consultation process on the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Plan will be amended and submitted to Barnsley Council together with supporting documentation, including a Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Statement setting out who has been consulted, how the consultation has been undertaken and how the representations received have informed the Plan.

Barnsley Council will then re-consult, before the Plan is subjected to an Examination by an Independent Examiner. Once any further amendments have been made the Plan will be subjected to a local Referendum, and then "Made" by Barnsley Council and used to determine planning applications in Oxspring Parish.

If you require any further information please contact the Parish Clerk at the address provided above.

Thank you for your time and interest.

1.0 Vision and Objectives



Wildflowers along the River Don

Draft Vision

To maintain the character of a rural village whilst moving forwards with an infrastructure that will support 21st century living.

This Vision will enable us to keep a foothold in the past whilst moving the village forward.

Draft Objectives

- 1. To strive for the wellbeing of all members of our community by:**
 - **Supporting the provision of fair and accessible housing for local needs and local people**
 - **Supporting the provision of improved community leisure, sports and recreation facilities.**

- 2. To nurture the rural environment for future generations by:**

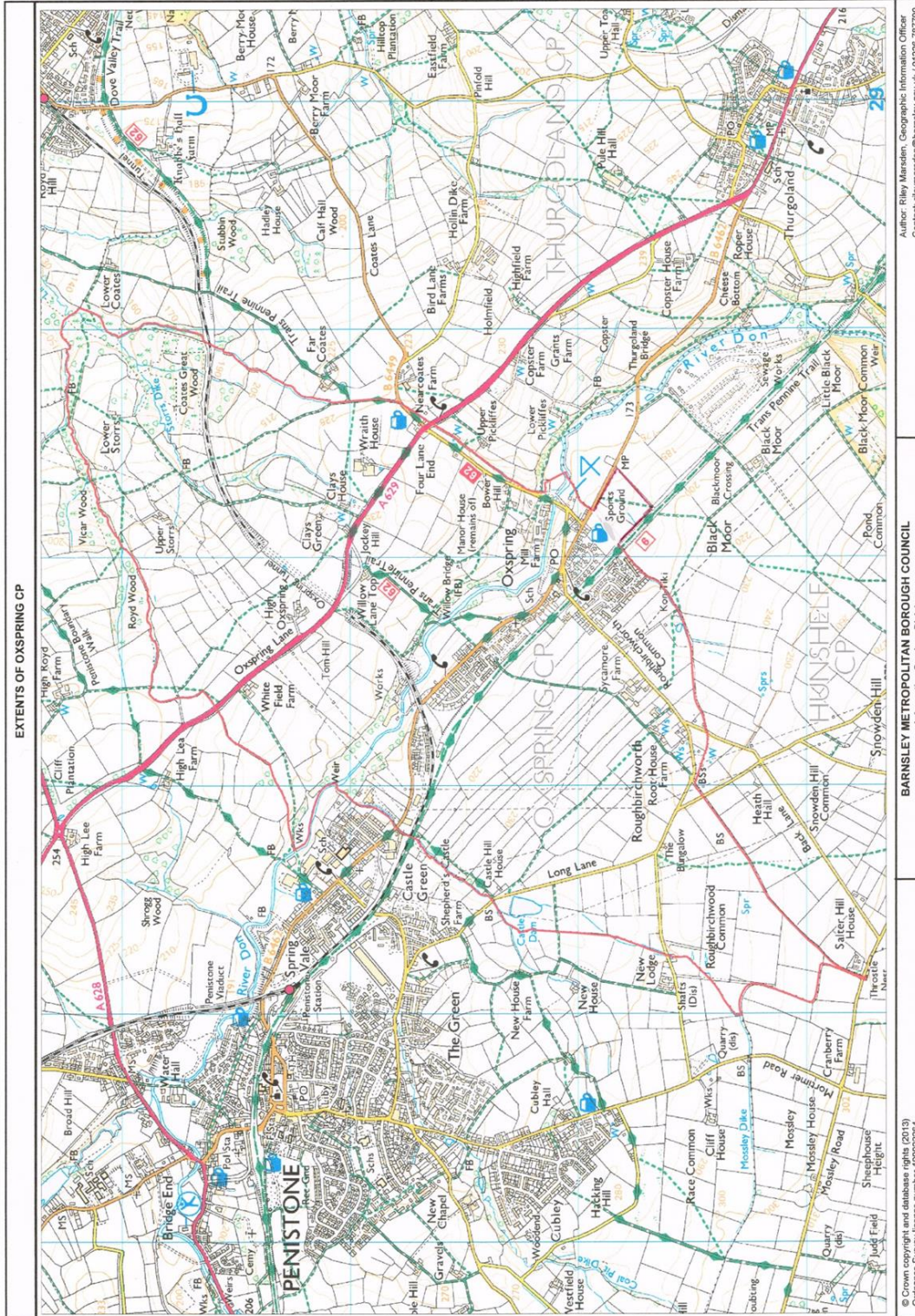
- **Protecting and enhancing Oxspring's biodiversity assets and amenity areas, namely; the River Don, the green belt, green open spaces, open farm land, and community allotments**
- **Improving accessibility and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, local footpaths and bridle paths**
- **Promoting sustainable development**
- **Protecting and enhancing the Parish's built environment and rural heritage.**

3. To nurture local businesses by:

- **Diversifying and growing the rural economy**
- **Supporting the provision of community sustainable green energy.**

2.0 Introduction and Background

Map 1 Oxspring Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area
Oxspring Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849



- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 gives Parish Councils and other relevant bodies new powers to prepare statutory Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) to help guide development in their local areas. Through Neighbourhood Plans, local people now have the opportunity to shape new development as planning applications are developed in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan and the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan once made (i.e. adopted or formally approved) will be part of the statutory development plan for the area. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a material consideration in any planning application determinations. The steps in preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan are set out in Figure 1 below.

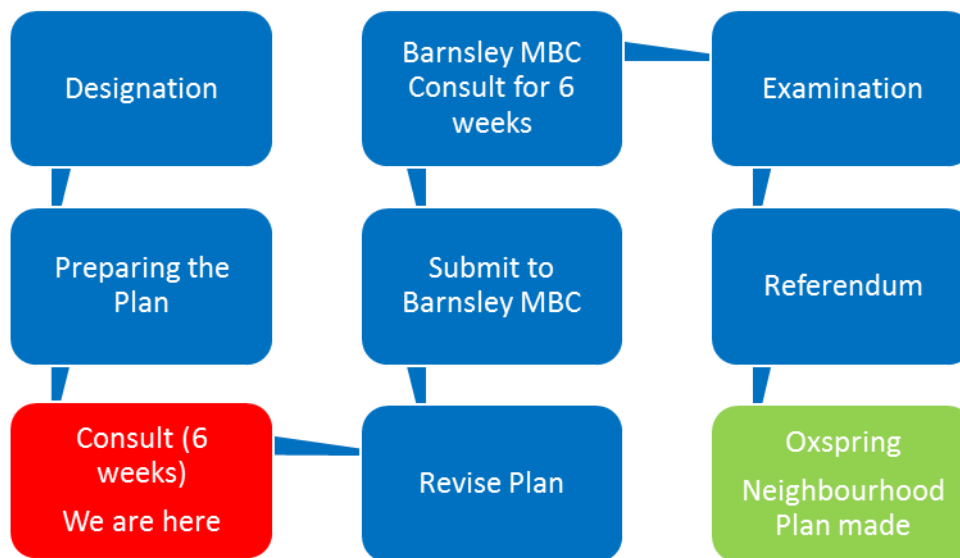


Figure 1 Neighbourhood Plan Process

- 2.2 Oxspring Parish Council decided to prepare a NDP for the Parish in Spring 2013. Two initial open consultation events were held for local residents on 13 April 2013 at St Aidan’s Church, Oxspring and on 17 April 2013 at the Wagon and Horses public house, Oxspring. Both events were well attended and a list of residents interested in working on the NDP was drawn up. Planning Aid England facilitated a further public event at St Aidan’s Church on 8 May 2013 at which, residents were asked to consider and vote for the designation of a Neighbourhood Plan area. As part of the Oxspring playing fields falls within the boundary of Hunshelf Parish Council, their permission was sought, and received, to include that part of their parish in Oxspring’s designated area for the purposes of the NDP. This neighbourhood area was approved by Barnsley MBC in November 2013. The Parish Council established a Neighbourhood Plan working group from interested residents. This group met on 20 June 2013 to agree the constituent members of a steering group and three sub committees. Funding was secured from the Government to support the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.3 In early February 2014 Oxspring’s NDP process was launched with a new website <http://www.oxspringplan.org.uk> and workshops at Oxspring Primary School to design a logo. On 1 March 2014 an all-day community engagement event was held at St Aidan’s Church.

Local residents, business people, farmers and land owners were invited to attend a drop-in session in the morning and in the afternoon a “Question Time” style panel, including Angela Smith MP, participated in a question and answer session. Over the next few months various community engagement, events including a household survey, interviews with key stakeholders, “planning for real” sessions, training events and workshops were held. Seventeen key issues were identified and these were used to inform the NDP Vision Statement, and then later, the Draft Indicative Policy Areas and Proposals Document which was published for consultation in January 2015.

- 2.4 To date thirteen public events have taken place at which almost two hundred residents have attended. Two household surveys have taken place. The first survey in 2014 had 151 out of 497 households responding and the second survey in 2015 had 108 out of 497 households responding.
- 2.5 In December 2014 the Parish Council applied to Barnsley MBC to amend the designated neighbourhood area to accommodate a field which lies adjacent to the community’s sports field. This was because the emerging NDP supported the development of ancillary sports facilities in this area. *It was also hoped to improve access to the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) from this site, thereby better connecting the primary school to the local sport /recreational facilities.* The amended designated neighbourhood area for the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan was approved on 20 May 2015. This is shown in Map 1.
- 2.6 In 2014 the Parish Council, through PAE (Planning Aid England), asked consultants URS for specialist advice in relation to housing needs and capacity. Two advice notes were produced during the months of July, August and September. A summary of Housing Needs & Capacity Assessment Advice notes for Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan is published on the Neighbourhood Plan website as a background paper. *The initial estimates from URS were published prior to Barnsley MBC reviewing (downwards) their housing need figures for the entire Borough, and, in their emerging Local Plan, removing development sites from the Borough’s villages.* Housing need will, therefore, be met predominantly in Penistone; only small infill and windfall sites will come forward in Oxspring. This is because Penistone is considered to be a more sustainable settlement with a range of services and facilities.
- 2.7 In January 2015 a questionnaire and copy of the document Consultation Draft – Indicative Policy Areas and Proposals was delivered to local households in Oxspring. Out of 500 questionnaires sent out 108 responses were received. There were 87 paper questionnaires returned and 21 responses on line. The overall response to the draft policy proposals was very positive with the vast majority of responses supporting the NDP. The results of the questionnaire are published on the Neighbourhood Plan website and have been used to inform the Draft NDP.
- 2.8 A more detailed Chronological Order of Events for the preparation of the Draft Plan is provided in Appendix I.
- 2.9 Following the public consultation on the Indicative Policy Areas and Proposals Document, the steering group considered the responses very carefully, and decided that the Draft Plan should focus on the key planning issues which were currently most relevant to the Parish. For example, proposals for a new school and riverside access paths were considered to be highly aspirational, and following discussions with the local education authority and footpaths officer, were probably undeliverable. The first, working Draft Plan set out the proposed vision, objectives and key themes for the Neighbourhood Plan and included some early, emerging

draft policies. This first Draft Plan was published for informal public consultation for several weeks in December 2015 and a number of representations were submitted during and after this period, providing a range of comments about the emerging vision, objectives and draft planning policies. These comments have been carefully considered and are available for viewing on the Neighbourhood Plan website, together with the Parish Council's consideration of each point and details of any wording changes to the Plan arising from the consultation process.

- 2.10 The Draft Plan is published for 6 weeks formal consultation from 21st March to 2nd May 2016. Following this all representations will be considered very carefully before the Plan is amended and submitted to Barnsley MBC. Barnsley MBC will then publish the plan for a further 6 weeks before it is subjected to an Examination and then Referendum. If there is a yes vote at the Referendum, then the plan will be "Made" (i.e. adopted or formally approved) by the Borough Council and used to determine planning applications alongside the Barnsley MBC Local Plan and other material considerations including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.11 In line with European legislation, there is a requirement for the Plan to be subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Process which will determine whether a full Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. This process is iterative and, therefore, may lead to amendments in the Plan as it is prepared, to help ensure that any adverse environmental effects resulting from policies and proposals in the Plan are minimised. The Screening Assessment was undertaken at an early stage on the emerging Draft Plan and reviewed after the Draft Plan was amended following the informal public consultation in December 2015. Consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England showed that there was agreement with the Screening determination that a full SEA is not required. At the same time, the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was assessed in order to determine whether it required a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. A HRA is required when it is deemed likely that there will be significant adverse effects on protected European Sites as a result of the implementation of a plan. Again, consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England showed that there was agreement with the Screening opinion that no further work was required in order to comply with the Habitats Regulations.

Review

- 2.12 The NDP is being prepared slightly ahead of the emerging new Local Plan for Barnsley. It is therefore proposed that the NDP will be reviewed once the new Local Plan is adopted by Barnsley MBC to ensure that the policies in the Oxspring NDP remain up to date. The Parish Council is therefore committed to reviewing the Oxspring NDP within three years of the Adoption of the Barnsley Local Plan (likely to be in 2017).

3.0 Planning Policy Context



View across the village looking from fields above and beyond Millstones

- 3.1 The current local planning policy framework for the Neighbourhood Plan area comprises the Barnsley Core Strategy, 2011, the Barnsley Education Sites Development Plan Document (DPD) 2009, the Joint Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Waste Plan 2012 and the remaining ‘saved’ policies of the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan 2000.
- 3.2 Barnsley Council is currently preparing a Local Plan which will set out new planning policies for the district. When adopted, it will, together with the Joint Waste Plan adopted in 2012, replace the Barnsley Core Strategy and the ‘saved’ policies of the Unitary Development Plan. The Local Plan Consultation Draft was published for consultation from 10 November 2014 to 11 January 2015.
- 3.3 National planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ published in 2012. This sets out in paragraphs 6 and 7 that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and that the planning system has to perform an economic role, a social role and an environmental role.
- 3.4 Neighbourhood planning is addressed in paragraphs 183-185:
- 183. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. Parishes and neighbourhood forums can use neighbourhood planning to:*
- *set planning policies through neighbourhood plans to determine decisions on planning applications; and*
 - *grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.*
- 184. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community. The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the*

¹

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Local Plan. To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area and ensure that an up-to-date Local Plan is in place as quickly as possible. Neighbourhood Plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood Plans and orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.

185. Outside these strategic elements, Neighbourhood Plans will be able to shape and direct sustainable development in their area. Once a Neighbourhood Plan has demonstrated its general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and is brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood, where they are in conflict. Local planning authorities should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a Neighbourhood Plan is in preparation.

- 3.5 Neighbourhood plans have to be in “general conformity” with national and strategic local planning policies, and it is therefore important that as the plan is prepared, the emerging draft policies reflect this higher level planning framework. A summary document Planning Policy Background and Evidence Base Review has been prepared as a background document to the NDP. This notes the relevant national and local planning policies (adopted and emerging) and has been used to inform the draft policies in the Oxspring NDP.

4.0 A Portrait of Oxspring Parish



The River Don from Willow Bridge

- 4.1 Oxspring is a small village community nestling in the eastern foothills of the Pennines, about 1.5 miles east of Penistone and 7 miles south west of Barnsley. Sheffield, Wakefield, Leeds and Manchester are all within a 30 miles radius. The 2011 Census information (Neighbourhood Statistics²) indicates that the Parish had 497 households and a population of 1225 in 2011 and extends over 484 hectares.
- 4.2 The Parish includes the village of Oxspring along with the hamlets of Clays-Green, Roughbitchworth and Storrs. It is bisected by the River Don, and the Huddersfield-Sheffield rail line and Trans-Pennine Trail pass through the Parish. The main village settlement is largely linear in form and lies between Sheffield Road (B6462) and the route of the Trans Pennine Trail, with a small residential estate to the south of the rail line around Tollbar Close. There is a small industrial estate close to the western boundary; Marrtree Business Park at Longley Ings.
- 4.3 The village has a limited range of public services, and facilities, including a primary school (Oxspring Primary School), St Aidan's Church which also serves as a village hall, two public houses and a post office / shop. The village has reasonable accessibility to public transport. There are direct local bus services to Penistone, Barnsley and Sheffield running on an hourly or two hourly basis. The nearest railway station is two miles away at Penistone, with direct, hourly services to Huddersfield, Barnsley, Meadowhall and Sheffield.
- 4.4 To the north of the village, the River Don meanders through wooded areas, flowing north west to south east. The wider Parish has a rural character, with smaller fields, wooded areas and clustered farms to the north and larger, more open, arable fields and farm buildings to the south. There are numerous opportunities for walking and cycling and enjoying the

²

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

countryside on the doorstep, including a number of identified walks in the Parish promoted in a published booklet and on information boards.

- 4.5 This is a relatively affluent area. 41.1% of residents aged 16-74 years were in full time employment in Oxspring in 2011, compared to 36.9% in Barnsley and 38.6% in England. A higher proportion were self-employed with 12.7% of Oxspring residents in this category compared to only 7.7% in Barnsley and 9.8% in England. In terms of occupations, 14.6% of Oxspring residents of working age were managers, directors and senior officials compared to 9.0% in Barnsley and 10.9% in England and 20.1% were in professional occupations compared to 12.4% in Barnsley and 17.5% in England.
- 4.6 The 2011 Census indicated that Oxspring residents enjoy comparatively good health, with 55.2% of residents rating their health as very good compared to 41.6% in Barnsley Borough and 47.2% in England. Only 3.3% had bad health, compared to 6.6% in Barnsley and 4.2% in England.
- 4.7 In terms of housing, of the 497 households, the majority (200) had 3 bedrooms in 2011, 136 had 4 bedrooms and 110 had 2 bedrooms. Only 3 had a single bedroom and 47 had 5+ bedrooms. 174 properties were owned outright, 221 were owned with a mortgage or loan, 47 were social rented and 48 privately rented.
- 4.8 The Plan area includes a range of local businesses providing employment opportunities, including 17 farms, the Post Office, The Waggon and Horses and The Travellers public houses, Wintwire Ltd, DR Baling Ltd and 6 industrial units at Marttree Business Park.
- 4.9 Built heritage assets include 2 listed buildings in the Parish (Oxspring Bridge and Willow Bridge, both Grade II) and natural heritage assets include a Local Wildlife Site at Royd, Vicar, Lindley and Coates Great Wood and an Ancient Woodland at Spring Vale Wood.

5.0 Key Planning Issues



5.1 Housing

- 5.1.1 Oxspring is identified as a village in the Settlement Hierarchy of the Adopted Core Strategy (2011). *“The Core Strategy Policy CSP8 does not envisage any significant development in these villages and development will only be allowed if it is consistent with the Green Belt policy set out at CSP34 or necessary for the viability of the settlement and to meet local needs. Policy CSP16 seeks to provide affordable housing in rural settlements, CSP21 encourages a viable rural economy and sustainable diversification and CSP22 protects shops and services in villages.”*(para 7.85)
- 5.1.2 The Consultation Draft Local Plan (2014), advises that *“this Local Plan does not promote significant development in these villages. Development will be supported where it is necessary for the viability of the settlement and to meet local needs.”* (para 5.61). The village of Oxspring is inset within the Green Belt, and includes an area of proposed safeguarded land (SAF 18 North and South of Roughbirchworth Lane, Oxspring - 5.10ha).
- 5.1.3 In terms of housing development therefore, Oxspring NDP will be required to support small scale infill housing within the village to meet local needs, appropriate extensions to existing properties, and sensitive conversion and re-use of agricultural buildings in the wider rural area, in line with paragraph 89 of the NPPF.
- 5.1.4 Policies in the NDP should address the need for a greater number of smaller homes suitable for people wishing to downsize, the elderly and first time buyers as identified in the Summary of Housing Needs & Capacity Assessment Advice Notes for Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan (2014)³ and in response to changing trends nationally related to the ageing population.
- 5.1.5 The results of the questionnaire in early 2015 demonstrated overall support from local residents for emerging policies on accessible housing for local people (81.48% of paper copy

³ <http://www.oxspringplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Housing-Needs-Housing-Capacity-Summary-15-Oct-14.pdf>

respondents agreed with this policy and 76.19% of online respondents) and windfall housing sites (82.72% of paper copy respondents supported this and 90.48% of online respondents).

5.2 Environment / Energy

- 5.2.1 Oxspring has a very attractive local environment with the benefit of many natural and built heritage assets. The NDP has a role in helping to protect the local environment in terms of its own intrinsic value, and for the benefit of existing and future residents and visitors.
- 5.2.2 Strategic policies in the Adopted Core Strategy and emerging Local Plan provide protection for natural and built heritage assets, but the NDP has a role in identifying assets of local value and providing locally distinct planning policies to protect them.
- 5.2.3 The results of the questionnaire in early 2015 demonstrated overall support from residents for emerging policies to protect and enhance the natural environment. 93.98% of paper copy responses and 90.48% of online survey responses agreed with emerging policy NRE/PE Protecting and Enhancing Natural Biodiversity Assets. In addition 93.9% of paper copy responses and 95.00% of online responses agreed with the emerging policy NRE/RH Protecting the Rural Heritage.
- 5.2.4 The NPPF sets out in paras 76 to 78 how NDPs can protect identified local green spaces from development, where such green spaces meet certain criteria. The Draft NDP identifies a number of local green spaces for protection, which are of significant local value.
- 5.2.5 There are opportunities for Oxspring NDP to support community led renewable energy schemes, as part of wider objectives to address climate change. The Draft NDP has a role in supporting such schemes where appropriate, with a focus on the identified employment site as a possible “Green Energy Hub”.
- 5.2.6 The results of the 2015 questionnaire demonstrated overall support for developing community sustainable energy schemes with 81.93% of paper copy respondents agreeing with emerging policy NLB/CSE Developing Community Sustainable Energy and 80.00% of online responses agreeing with the policy.
- 5.2.7 The types of renewable energy schemes considered suitable in terms of landscape impact are likely to be solar energy schemes and water powered schemes using the River Don. Such schemes would be required to be supported by detailed feasibility studies and ecological, landscape and visual assessments.

5.3 Employment

- 5.3.1 Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan area includes an allocated employment site in the emerging Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014. Site P2 Land North of Sheffield Road is identified under Penistone but falls within the NDP boundary. The emerging policy sets out that *development will be expected to:-*
- *Retain the mature trees present on the site’s North-Eastern boundary.*
 - *Provide a buffer strip along the entire edge of the North-Eastern boundary to prevent the site from being developed right up to the woodland edge.*
- 5.3.2 Policy E5 Uses on employment land sets out that *on allocated Employment Sites, or land currently or last used for employment purposes, we will allow the following uses:*

1. *Research and development, and light industry*

2. *General industrial*

3. *Storage or distribution*

Ancillary uses will be allowed where appropriate in scale. Other uses may be considered on their merits, particularly their contribution to the borough's economic offer and job density.

- 5.3.3 The responses to the questionnaire in 2015 demonstrated support for emerging policy NLB/RE1 Developing a Sustainable Rural Economy which proposed a stronger emphasis on business, research type and professional uses for the site. 81.93% of paper copy responses and 70.00% of online responses supported the draft policy.
- 5.3.4 The NDP supports the employment use of the proposed site, but requires that development responds positively to the local landscape character by protecting areas of ecological value and ancient woodland and supporting the restoration of the drystone wall on the boundary.

5.4 Sports and Leisure

- 5.4.1 Oxspring has an existing site with a football pitch and a poor quality basketball court at Sheffield Road Playing Field, on land to the south east of the village. However existing changing facilities are considered to be poor, and there is a need for the NDP to support possible future investment in the facilities.
- 5.4.2 The Outdoor Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy, Barnsley MBC , 2010 identified that in the South West area, which includes Oxspring, there were significant deficiencies in quality of football pitches across the area with less than 1 in 5 pitches rated positively. It is recommended that *“more detailed feasibility work is undertaken to provide changing rooms on some of the multi pitch sites where it is currently not provided.”* Oxspring Recreation Ground is noted as a multi-pitch facility without changing provision (p85). The Strategy is currently being reviewed and the updated version will be taken on board in the NDP once it is published by Barnsley MBC.
- 5.4.3 The response to the 2015 questionnaire demonstrated general support for emerging policy CW/SRC11 Sport and Leisure Community infrastructure with 69.77% of paper responses supporting the policy and 80.95% of online responses agreeing. However the draft policy included proposals for a new school on the same site, and this proposal has not been taken forward into the Draft Plan, due to viability issues and lack of support from the Borough Council.

5.5 Movement

- 5.5.1 The route of the Trans Pennine Trail runs through the middle of Oxspring Parish, along a disused railway line to the south of much of the built up area. There are two main access points in the Parish; one has ramped access and the other is via very steep steps. Access is difficult, particularly for those with limited mobility, those with pushchairs and wheelchair users and cyclists.
- 5.5.2 A walking guide, “Walks in the Parish of Oxspring” published by Oxspring Heritage Group provides details of six recommended routes around the Parish. These are: Oxspring Village Walk, Back Lane and Berrywell, Storrs Lane and Blacker Green Lane, High Oxspring and Royd Wood, and Oxspring Boundary Walks Parts I and II. Back Lane and Willow Lane form part of an ancient Packhorse route.

- 5.5.3 The responses to the 2015 questionnaire showed support for proposals to create new links and connections to support opportunities for walking and cycling in the area. 86.75% of paper copy responses and 71.43% of online survey responses agreed with emerging policy NRE/LC Creating new Links and Connections. Further consideration has been given to the proposed riverside walk in the Draft NDP, in the light of viability issues and further information relating to possible landowner support. The revised policy provides a greater focus for supporting accessibility improvements for the Trans Pennine Trail and other existing public rights of way (PROW).
- 5.5.4 The NDP includes policies supporting investment in ramped access where development sites adjoin publicly accessible walking and cycling routes.

6.0 Neighbourhood Plan Policies

- 6.0.1 This section sets out the planning policies of the Draft Oxspring Neighbourhood Development Plan. These will be used to help determine planning applications in the Parish and so shape the future of the Parish as a place to live and work in, and to visit. The Draft Policies have been prepared by the working group on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 6.0.2 Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with national and local planning policies. The Draft Policies have been prepared taking account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴ and local planning policies including the saved policies in the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan 2000, Barnsley Core Strategy 2011 and the emerging new Barnsley Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014.
- 6.0.3 Further information about the relevant aspects of these policies in relation to Oxspring Draft Neighbourhood Plan can be found in the published background document Planning Policy Assessment and Evidence Base Review provided on the Neighbourhood Plan website.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

6.1 Housing



New housing on Fields End

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

- **Supporting the provision of fair and accessible housing for local needs and local people**

6.1.1 Over the last decade Oxspring has experienced a faster population growth than the average in Barnsley. The Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) which includes Oxspring and Green Moor experienced a growth of 13.3% in population over the period 2003 to 2014, whilst over the same period of time, Barnsley MBC's population increased by 8.0%. Barnsley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Update 2014⁵ indicated that median house prices across the Barnsley area have increased by around 150% over the period 2000 to 2012. Further information provided by the Council advised that prices have increased in Oxspring Parish from £138,995 in 2000 to £179,500 in 2014, an increase of 29%. Prices peaked in 2007 at £214,500. There are variations in house prices and values across the local authority area, with relatively higher prices in areas including Penistone East wards. This increase is particularly great for groups of people under 24 years and between the ages of 45 and 85 years and over. There will be a considerable 'demographic shift' with both the number and proportion of older people increasing; overall across Barnsley the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 64% (or by 26,800) by 2037; and the number of residents aged 85 and over is expected to increase by 157.1% (or by 7,700 by 2037. There is a need to consider how best Oxspring can improve its housing provision to meet the needs of all residents, including those with lower incomes and with special needs be they elderly, disabled or the infirm.

6.1.2 The Barnsley Core Strategy 2011 sets out in Policy CSP 8 - The Location of Growth that Development will only be allowed in villages if it is consistent with Green Belt policy or is necessary for the viability of the settlement and to meet local needs. Policy CSP 15, Affordable Housing, sets out that Housing developments of 15 or more dwellings will be expected to

⁵ https://www2.barnsley.gov.uk/media/3553720/barnsley_shma_2014_update_final_report.pdf

provide affordable housing. Policy 16 Affordable Housing Rural Exception Policy, allows affordable housing in the Green Belt in, or on the edge of, the rural settlements including Oxspring provided that there is a proven local need for affordable housing, and it is necessary to provide affordable housing within the specific settlement identified. Barnsley Unitary Development Plan 2000 – ‘Saved’ Policies identifies a housing site in Oxspring under Policy WR2 at WR2/7 Bower Hill 1.4 hectares 20 dwellings and this has now been developed and is known as Millstones.

- 6.1.3 Barnsley MBC’s emerging Local Plan Consultation Draft, 2014 sets out the level of housing growth for the Borough. The Parish of Oxspring is identified in the Borough’s Local Plan as a village, inset within the Green Belt. It is considered to be an unsustainable location for large housing developments because it lacks services and facilities, and has limited transport accessibility. Policy LG2 Location of Growth sets out that *development will be allowed in villages if it is consistent with Green Belt policy and is necessary for the viability of the settlement and to meet local needs*. Local Plan Policy H5 Residential Development on Small Non-allocated Sites supports *proposals for residential development on sites below 0.4 hectares (including conversions of existing buildings and creating dwellings above shops) where the site is within a settlement boundary and where the proposal complies with other relevant policies in the Plan*.
- 6.1.4 The long term viability of the Parish is compromised by the lack of affordable housing as many local people on lower incomes, including young people, find it difficult to afford housing within their own community where there are existing informal support networks linked to family and friends. 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 (Local Plan Policy H8), which may be feasible on sites of 0.4ha.
- 6.1.5 The Housing Needs Advice paper produced by URS⁶ and commissioned on behalf of the Parish Council for the Oxspring NDP highlights that local housing provision has to be ‘fair and proportionate’ to the local community’s 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 acceptable in planning policy terms in the Parish of Oxspring, it is clear that future housing growth should cater for the needs of the local population first and foremost.

Draft Policy OH1 Meeting Local Housing Needs

New housing developments in Oxspring on sites of 0.4ha or less and for between two and nine houses, will be supported where house types, sizes and tenures meet identified local needs.

In such schemes, there should be a mix of house sizes, including of one, two and three bedrooms, in order to provide suitable accommodation for first time buyers, young families and older people wishing to downsize to smaller properties.

⁶ <http://www.oxspringplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Housing-Needs-Housing-Capacity-Summary-15-Oct-14.pdf>

Affordable housing⁷ will be provided in schemes of 15 units or more and must be fully integrated (i.e. “pepper potted”) with market housing. Affordable housing will be allocated in the first instance to those with a local connection and affordable housing for rent will be let in accordance with Barnsley Council’s Lettings Policy for Local Connections⁸.

- 6.1.6 During local consultation events undertaken as part of the NDP 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.

Draft Policy OH2 Windfall Housing and Residential Conversion of Agricultural Buildings

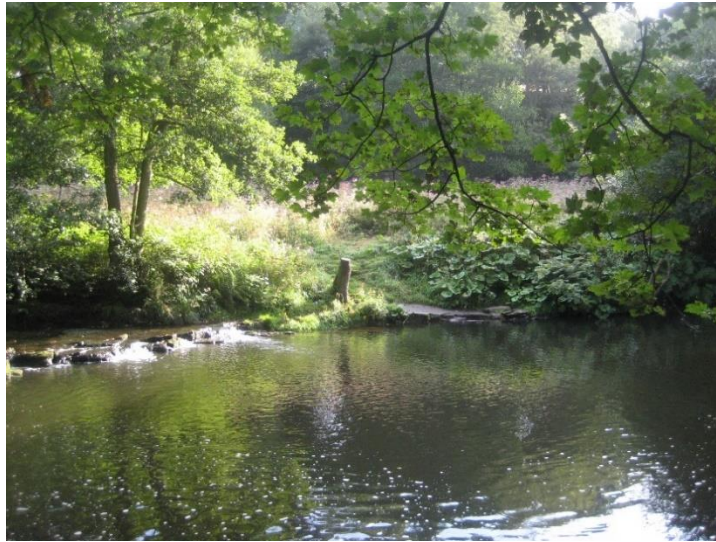
New housing development will be supported on small windfall sites (of 0.4ha or less) within the identified settlement boundary of Oxspring village in accordance with national and local planning policies.

Where planning permission is required, proposals for the sensitive conversion and re-use of former agricultural buildings to new residential uses in the wider countryside and Green Belt will be supported, where buildings are of permanent and substantial construction. Proposals will be required to preserve the openness of the Green Belt and not conflict with the purposes of including land in Green Belt.

⁷ Affordable housing is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework to mean a specific category of housing. See Appendix 3 for a full definition from the NPPF.

⁸ See Barnsley Council (Berneslai Homes) Lettings Policy - ‘Local Connection’ (7a(ii) page 12 see Appendix II <http://www.berneslaihomes.co.uk/media/Publication/Policies%20and%20Strategies/Lettings%20Policy%202014.pdf>

6.2 Protecting the Local Environment and Promoting Sustainable Energy



The River Don at Bower Dell

Objective 2. 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, and community allotments**
- **Improving accessibility and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, local footpaths and bridle paths**
- **Promoting sustainable development**
- **Protecting and enhancing the Parish's built environment and rural heritage.**

Local Biodiversity

6.2.1 The NDP aims to improve and protect the unique qualities of the Parish, including local habitats and natural areas, as well as man-made buildings and structures which together shape the rural character of the Parish. The policies in this section aim to protect these local natural environments for future generations of Oxspring people.

6.2.2 The NDP 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

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

- 6.2.4 The following sites of biodiversity/geodiversity interest in Oxspring are identified on the Local Plan Proposals Map: Local Wildlife Site at Royd, Vicar, Lindley and Coates Great Wood Ancient Woodland Spring Vale Wood.

Green Infrastructure

- 6.2.5 Multi-functional green infrastructure is important to underpin the overall sustainability of a development by performing a range of functions including flood risk management, the provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and supporting biodiversity. An example of a green infrastructure provision is sustainable drainage systems. These can deliver benefits for people and for wildlife and make a valuable contribution to the local green infrastructure network. Actions such as re-naturalising watercourses can also bring multifunctional benefits, including benefiting flood attenuation. Woodland planting can also help mitigate flooding. Research indicates that green roofs/living roofs can reduce run-off and thereby the risk of surface water flooding; reducing the requirement for heating and air-conditioning; and providing habitat for wildlife. Proposals may present opportunities to incorporate features such as roosting opportunities for bats, the installation of bird nest boxes or the use of native species in the landscape planting.

Important Green Infrastructure in Oxspring

- **River Don.** A section of the River Don flows through Oxspring. On either side of the river banks, for the most part, there are trees and vegetation. As the river leaves the NP boundary to the east it is accessible from Bower Dell. For much of its length through the village the river flows through privately owned land and is not fully accessible to the public.
- **Trans Pennine Trial (T1 and T2 on Map 2 below).** A section of the TPT passes through Oxspring. On either side of the TPT, for the most part, there are trees and vegetation. There are two main access points within the NP boundary and one, at the eastern end, just outside the boundary (T1 and T2). The access point via The Willows, which is at the centre of the NP boundary area, though towards the western end of the village, has level access and is therefore fully accessible to cyclists, wheelchair users etc. The access point via Roughbitchworth Lane, which is behind the school and more towards the eastern end of the village, is accessed via steep steps and is not, therefore, accessible to all potential users of the TPT. The TPT is currently not well connected to the more recent housing developments, nor to other key community facilities such as the sports field, the Waggon and Horses public house or the riverside.
- **Castle Dam.** On the Western side of Long Lane is a small privately owned reservoir used for licensed fishing. This area, though more remote from the centre of the village, is popular with local walkers and bird watchers as well as those with fishing licences.
- **Undeveloped Green Spaces.** Apart from the farmland, which is beyond the immediate areas of most of the residential housing sites, there are a number of pieces of land within the central part of the NP boundary area, close to the centre of the village, which are undeveloped green spaces. These undeveloped pockets of land add to the aesthetic quality of the village, provide valuable wildlife habitats, in varying degrees, and are highly valued as green spaces by the

community. A number of these green spaces are designated Green Belt and as such are unlikely to be developed for housing, apart from in exceptional circumstances.

- **Dry Stone Walls.** There are a number of dry stone walls throughout the NP boundary area. Some are in a poor state of repair, especially those marking the northern boundary of Sheffield Road. Dry stone walls provide an important habitat for many species of wildlife, particularly small mammals and invertebrates and are part of the Yorkshire landscape. When they are well maintained dry stone walls are effective and attractive boundary markers. The walls in Oxspring are mostly in private ownership and are not, therefore, maintained by the parish council.
- **Trees and Woodland.** There are several woods within the area of the NP boundary and countless trees growing in gardens and on the boundaries of many places such as the school, the village green, the TPT etc.
- **Grass Verges and Planters.** There are grass verges at various points on Sheffield Road and Roughbitchworth Lane which form a barrier between the road and the pavement. These tend to be mostly turfed and are maintained by mowing or strimming by the council. There is a wider verge at the junction of Sheffield Road and Roughbitchworth Lane which has a cultivated bed of tulips in the spring and roses in the summer. This is maintained by village volunteers known as the “Titivators”. There are also grass verges along the more rural roads within the NP boundary area, such as along Long Lane, and these are less actively maintained and provide more diverse wildlife habitats. These verges also often contain drainage ditches which are vital in helping to prevent flooding. All the grass verges are valuable aesthetically, in varying degrees as wildlife habitats and as soakaways for rain water. Several planters located throughout the village are maintained by local residents.

6.2.6 The Barnsley Core Strategy 2011 sets out in Policy CSP 29 Design Principles that high quality development will be expected, that respects, takes advantage of and enhances the distinctive features of Barnsley, including: topography, green Infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features, views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways, heritage, townscape and landscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form particularly in and around ... Penistone and the rural villages in the west of the borough. Policy CSP 36 Biodiversity and Geodiversity requires that development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough. Policy CSP 37 Landscape Character advises that development will be expected to retain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character Area. Barnsley Unitary Development Plan 2000 Policy GS18 protects natural heritage assets and Policy BE4 protects archaeology. Barnsley Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014 – 2033 Policy D1 Design sets out design principles, Policy HE1 protects the historic environment and green infrastructure is protected in GI1. Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity requires development to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough.

Draft Policy OEN1 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Biodiversity Assets and Green Infrastructure

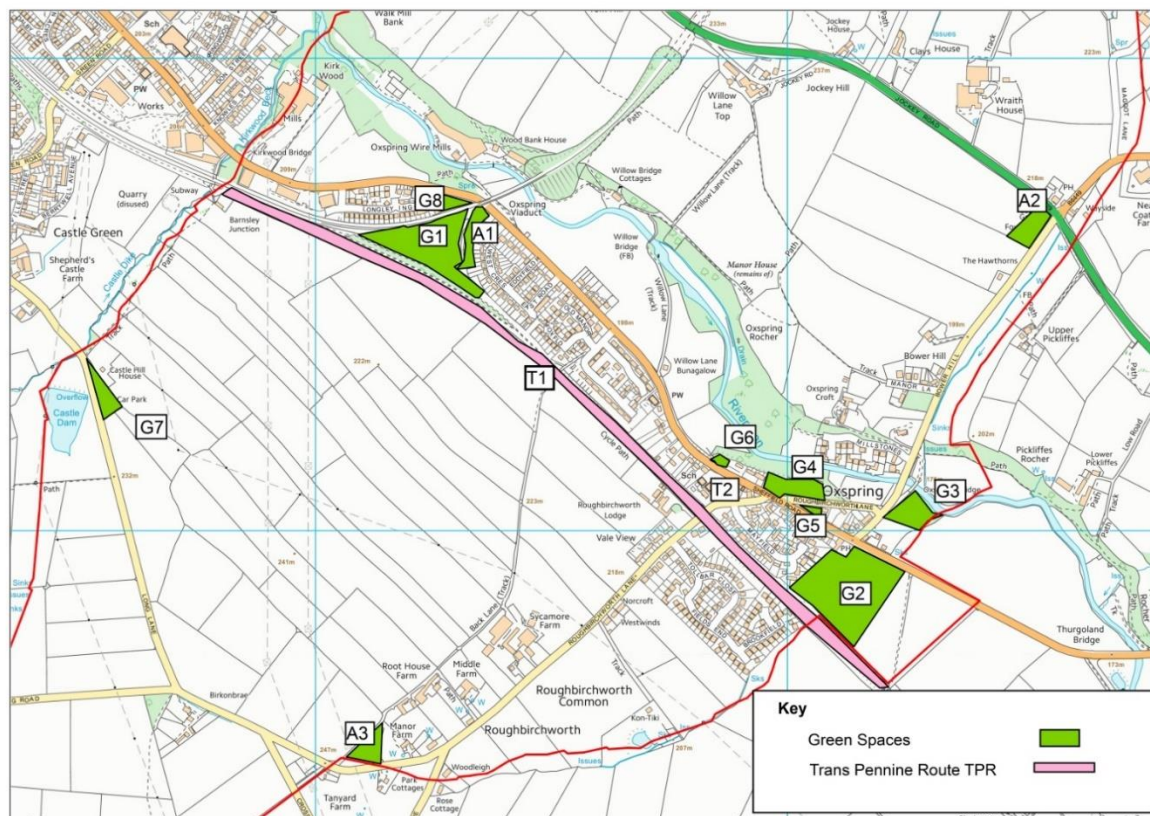
Proposals which enhance the rural character of Oxspring will be supported. For developments of two houses or more, proposals will be encouraged wherever possible to incorporate the following wildlife enhancements into landscaping schemes:

- Provision of wild flower meadows and verges and nature reserve areas to encourage biodiversity
- Creating wider field margins to create wildlife havens on farmland
- Establishing new and maintaining existing wildlife corridors.

Existing green infrastructure is protected and the creation of new green infrastructure is encouraged in new development proposals. Such green infrastructure could include for instance protection and creation of woodland and wildlife corridors, sustainable drainage, re-naturalisation of water courses, use of green roofs, incorporation of bat and bird boxes and other environmental assets in the area to preserve and expand the existing ecosystem network.

Local Green Spaces

6.2.7 There are a number of local green and open spaces which are highly valued by local residents for their aesthetic qualities and their contribution to biodiversity. These are shown on Map 2 and described in more detail below:



Map 2 Local Green Spaces and Trans Pennine Trail
Oxspring Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849

- **A1, 2 and 3 - Allotments.** Oxspring has three allotment areas at Clays Green, Roughbirchworth Lane/Long lane and West Crescent. There are waiting lists for all the allotment sites in the village. (There are currently 11 people on the waiting lists).
- **G1 - Ant Hills.** This is an area of land close to the railway viaduct south of Sheffield Road which is owned by the parish council. It is bounded by the railway line, the TPT and the gardens and allotments of West Crescent. It has been landscaped as an off road mountain bike or BMX track and children's play area. It is rarely used as such and is now mostly overgrown with trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Access to this site is poor and there is no signage to indicate its use or existence. However the site offers significant opportunities for enhancement for wildlife and recreational users.
- **G2 - Sports Field and Pinfold.** At the eastern most point of the NP boundary on the south side of Sheffield Road is a large field currently used as a sports field. The sports field is bounded on its south side by the TPT, to the east by farmland, to the west by the gardens of houses in Mayfield and Mayfield Court and to the north by the car park of the Waggon and Horses public house, trees which surround the Pinfold and the sports field car park. The Pinfold is a historic site now containing sculptures of sheep and benches. There are no direct links or access to the TPT, or to the larger housing developments south of the sports field, from the field.
- **G3 - Bower Dell.** At the eastern most point of the NP boundary, north of Sheffield Road, is a grassed area adjacent to the river known as Bower Dell, which is bounded by trees and shrubs and newly sown with wild flower seeds. This site is used as a picnic area but is poorly connected to other amenities and public areas within the village. It also provides the only public access to the riverside.
- **G4 - Village Green.** Oxspring has a village green on which there is a children's playground, which has a grassed surface and is bounded on two sides by trees and shrubs, and adjacent to the playground is a grassed picnic area with trees.
- **G5 - The Rookery.** The Parish Council owns a small triangular area of land between the lower section of Roughbirchworth Lane and Sheffield Road. This small woodland has several mature trees on it and some mixed shrubs and vegetation.
- **G6 - Gordon's Garden.** A memorial garden, opposite the school on Sheffield Road, is owned by the Parish Council for the use of the community. It is a grassed area newly planted with trees and wild flowers/spring bulbs. Access to this site is limited and could be improved to encourage greater use.
- **G7 – Castle Dam Car Parking Area.** An area of land owned by Oxspring Parish Council on the eastern side of Long Lane, opposite Castle Dam reservoir, currently used mostly as an informal car parking area for fishermen, walkers, bird watchers etc. but with further potential for wildlife etc.
- **G8 – Longley Ings Field.** A turfed and fenced field owned by BMBC at the end of the Longley Ings development, used as a recreational area by residents of Longley Ings etc.

6.2.8 The following green spaces in Oxspring are shown on the Local Plan Proposals Map:

- The Anthills, Sheffield Road,

- Castle Green Common, Long Lane,
- Oxspring Primary School, Sheffield Road,
- The Rookery, Sheffield Road,
- Bower Dell, Bower Hill,
- Oxspring Recreation Ground,
- Roughbitchworth Allotments.

6.2.9 The NPPF sets out in paragraphs 76 – 78, that subject to certain criteria, local communities can identify and protect local green spaces.

Para 76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

Para 77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- *where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- *where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- *where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

Para 78. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

6.2.10 Table 1 below sets out how the proposed protected local green spaces (**G1 – G6 on Map 2 above**) in Oxspring meet the criteria in the NPPF. All distances are measured in miles and are taken from the Post Office on Sheffield Road. New development could impact adversely on the openness of these sites through the introduction of built form of a scale or height or mass which intrudes upon the green space character of the area and leads to a loss of the sense of openness. The spaces should also be protected from development which impacts adversely on the very attributes for which the local green spaces have been designated. These attributes are described in Table 1 Column 3 Demonstrably Special to Local Community.

Table 1 Local Green Spaces

Open Space	Close Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special to Local Community	Local in Character / Not an Extensive Tract of Land
A1 - West Crescent Allotments	0.5 mile from PO. On western side of village between residential areas of West Crescent and Longley Ings.	Very well used by residents. There is a waiting list for vacant allotments.	0.3 ha
A2 - Clays Green Allotments	0.6 mile from PO. On north eastern edge of village just beyond residential areas on Bower Hill.	Very well used by residents. There is a waiting list for vacant allotments.	0.4 ha
A3 - Roughbirchworth Lane / Long Lane Allotments	0.6 mile from PO. On south western edge of village just beyond residential areas on Roughbirchworth Lane.	Very well used by residents. There is a waiting list for vacant allotments.	0.4 ha
G1 – Anthills	0.5 mile from PO. On western side of village between residential areas of West Crescent and Longley Ings.	Originally a BMX park but now a good natural habitat site. The Parish Council have plans to make improvements to the site to encourage more wildlife and improve recreational facilities.	1.7 ha
G2 – Playing Fields and Pinfold	0.2 mile from PO. On eastern edge of village adjacent to Waggon & Horses pub.	Very well used by the community. The only sports and recreation facility in village. Used by football clubs etc and dog walkers. Pinfold is of historic value.	2.7 ha
G3 – Bower Dell	0.2 mile from PO. On eastern side of village adjacent to River Don and Grade	Well used by community as picnic site and only access	0.5 ha

	II listed Oxspring Bridge.	to river. Quiet peaceful area.	
G4 – Village Green and Playground	0.1 mile from PO. Sited on Sheffield Road and the junction with Roughbirchworth Lane.	Very well used by community and neighbouring communities. Only recreation area for young children. One of only two car parks in village.	0.5 ha
G5 – Rookery	0.1 mile from PO. Sited on Sheffield Road and the junction with Roughbirchworth Lane.	Small wood of mature trees intersected by a footpath linking Roughbirchworth Lane and Sheffield Road. Maintained as a natural habitat site.	0.05 ha
G6 – Gordon’s Garden	Directly opposite PO. Sited on Sheffield Road in heart of village.	A memorial garden to a local resident on land gifted by his widow, where they had previously had a garage business. A peaceful & commemorative place.	0.06 ha
G7 – Castle Dam Car Parking Area	1.0 mile from PO. On western edge of parish boundary on Long Lane.	An area of land owned by Oxspring Parish Council on the eastern side of Long Lane, opposite Castle Dam reservoir, used as an informal car parking area for fishermen, walkers, bird watchers etc. with further potential for wildlife etc.	0.30 ha
G8 - Longley Ings Field	0.5 mile from PO. On western side of village at end of residential development Longley Ings.	A turfed and fenced field owned by BMBC, very well used as a recreational area by residents of Longley	0.15 ha

		Ings and other residents.	
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Draft Policy OEN2 Protecting Local Green Spaces

The following areas are protected as Local Green Space:

- **A1 West Crescent Allotments**
- **A2 Clays Green Allotments**
- **A3 Roughbirchworth Lane/Long Lane Allotments**
- **G1 – Anthills**
- **G2 – Playing Fields and Pinfold**
- **G3 – Bower Dell**
- **G4 – Village Green and Playground**
- **G5 – Rookery**
- **G6 – Gordon’s Garden**
- **G7 – Castle Dam Car Parking Area**
- **G8 – Longley Ings Field.**

These areas are as identified on Map 2 above.

New development which impacts adversely on the openness of these sites or adversely affects the attributes for which they were designated will not be acceptable other than in very special circumstances.

Planning for Climate Change

6.2.11 The NPPF makes clear that planning has a key role in addressing climate change by helping to ensure that new development is sited and designed as sustainably as possible. Some of the key climate change challenges relevant to our Parish and to the NDP will be to take full account of flood risk, and secure a transition to a low carbon future.

6.2.12 Planning for increased climate change resilience will reduce future costs both for local businesses and for local households.

Draft Policy OEN3 Planning for Climate Change

All new development must be designed to respond and adapt to the effects of climate change, particularly through the location of new development, design and construction techniques, renewable technologies, landscape and historic environment management, biodiversity, flood risk management and the use of green infrastructure.

Proposals for development which includes additional space to support homeworking will be encouraged.

New developments are required to take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy consumption.

New development must avoid and protect the margins of the river bank and flood plain areas and contribute to new, or existing improvements on green infrastructure.

Protecting Landscape Character



View of Viaduct, Sheffield Road opposite Eddyfield

6.2.13 Natural England has produced profiles for England's 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment. Oxspring lies within NCA 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. The most striking aspect of the landscape is the mingling of predominantly 'gritstone' industrial towns and villages with the strong valley forms and pastoral agriculture of the Pennine foothills. The gritstone industrial buildings and settlements bring a sense of visual unity to the landscape.

6.2.14 The Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2002⁹ identifies that Oxspring lies within the landscape character area B1: Upland Don River Valley.

Key Characteristics are:

- *Faster flowing upper reaches of the River Don extending into the open moorland.*
- *Meandering river set within a valley that is of varying width and depth, and which provides enclosure.*

⁹ https://www2.barnsley.gov.uk/media/Development%20-%20Planning%20and%20Transportation/Planning%20Policy/LDF/preferred/underpinning_documents/Landscape%20Character%20Assessment.pdf

- *Deciduous woodland belts located on the steeper valley sides and alongside the course of the river.*
- *Largely undeveloped character with pasture occurring on the valley sides and floor up to the water's edge.*
- *A dismantled railway line defines the edge of the valley to the South.*
- *Weirs, sluices and mills are indications of the former wool weaving industry.*
- *Stone bridges and stone walls are attractive man-made elements.*
- *Transport corridors (road and rail) are features of the valley in the lower reaches.*

6.2.15 *This area is an upland river valley where the river runs fast and as a result has been exploited in the past for its power. Fulling mills were established anywhere there was a stream of sufficient power to drive the water wheel and, because they were already mechanised, often became the nuclei of later woollen factories. Mill races, sluices, weirs and old fulling mills are all features of this part of the Don Valley today. A dismantled railway follows the valley along its length and provides a visual clue to the importance of the valley as a transport corridor. The presence of disused mines and shafts on the valley sides are also clues to historic land use activity.*

6.2.15 *The settlement pattern is typically scattered farmsteads on the valley sides, and villages with connections to mills on the river, and the woollen industry. The farmsteads and villages are built of local stone. The objective should be to conserve the intimate, rural charm of this upland river valley and to protect the floodplain from built development. Villages and agricultural settlements should remain compact, to maintain the rural character of the upland landscape. The harmonious interplay of river, woodland and landform character, should be retained, and urbanisation of this intact, rural landscape should be minimised.*

6.2.16 *The topography of the valley evokes a strong sense of enclosure, particularly where valley side woodlands have survived. These deciduous woodlands, and unimproved riverside meadows, are particularly important habitats for wildlife. This is a rural upland landscape where pastures, bounded by stone walls, reach down to the waterside. Generally, the fields are smaller where they abut the water, increasing in size as they ascend the valley sides. Scattered stone farmsteads are familiar features of the valley sides.*

6.2.17 *Minor roads follow the valley side, usually running parallel to the river, and linking the settlements including Oxspring. There are several crossing points of the river at these settlements, and distinctive stone bridges mark these. Stone, as a building material unifies built character in the landscape, with buildings and walls constructed out of the same local stone.*

Built Heritage Assets

6.2.18 *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 earthworks; 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.

Draft Policy OEN4 Landscape and Building Design Guidelines for New Development

New development will be required to demonstrate consideration of the following landscape design guidelines:

- 1. Development should be located within flood zone 1 (low risk). Where development is deemed necessary within flood zones 2 and 3 (in accordance with the sequential test) proposals must demonstrate that they are safe and will not increase flood risk to third parties, with flood-risk betterment provided where possible.**
- 2. Features such as stone walls, bridges, trees and natural landform must be protected, and where possible repaired and maintained.**
- 3. New buildings should maintain a visual and physical connection with their rural context through use of traditional local materials, and designs which respond positively to the local context and immediate setting.**
- 4. Where proposals for new buildings are located on valley sides, schemes must be accompanied by valley-side planting of native species to enhance wooded character of the valley and soften the urban edge. The use of local stone should be used for boundary features.**
- 5. Designs should take into consideration any views across the valley. Colours and materials should be chosen carefully to integrate the development into the landscape. Muted colours, particularly on roofs, will be important in successfully integrating new development.**
- 6. Views to existing landmark buildings such as Oxspring Viaduct, the Waggon and Horses and Travellers Inn public houses are protected, and buildings should be sited and designed to enhance these views and not obstruct them.**
- 7. The scale of built development will be crucial to its successful integration. Low rise, two storey properties are likely to be most successfully accommodated into this rural landscape. Exceptions to this may be appropriate where it is demonstrated that a third storey is required to accommodate technologies to maximise energy and resource efficiency.**

6.3 Employment and Renewable Energy



DR Baling

Objective 3. To nurture local businesses by:

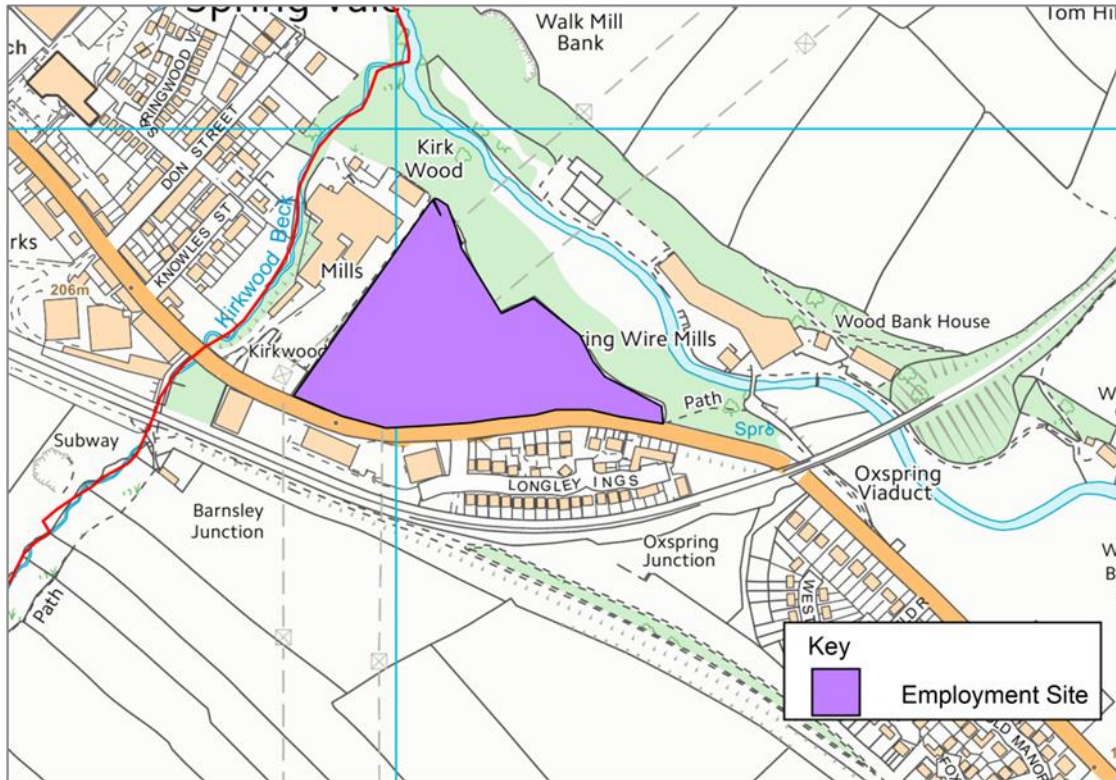
- Diversifying and growing the rural economy
- Supporting the provision of community sustainable green energy

Local Employment Site

- 6.3.1 The NPPF and Barnsley's local planning policy framework support economic growth. Residents and local businesses in the Parish of Oxspring, in public consultations, have also identified the need to protect and retain shops and services, and the need to diversify and grow the economy whilst retaining the special character and qualities that define this rural area.
- 6.3.2 The NDP will seek to strengthen the local economy by promoting the improvement and protection of local services, supporting the 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 could become a less sustainable community with fewer opportunities for employment.
- 6.3.3 The emerging new Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014 proposes an allocated employment Site P2 Land North of Sheffield Road. The site is identified under Penistone but falls within the NDP boundary of Oxspring. The emerging policy sets out that development will be expected to retain the mature trees present on the site's north-eastern boundary and provide a buffer strip along the entire edge of the North-Eastern boundary to prevent the site from being developed right up to the woodland edge. Policy E5 - Uses on employment land, sets out that *on allocated Employment Sites, or land currently or last used for employment purposes, the following uses will be allowed: 1. Research and development, and light industry 2. General industrial 3. Storage or distribution. Ancillary uses will be allowed where appropriate in scale.*

Other uses may be considered on their merits, particularly their contribution to the Borough's economic offer and job density.

Map 3 Proposed Employment Site
Oxspring Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849



- 6.3.4 This proposed employment site on land north of Sheffield Road in the Draft Local Plan (as shown on Map 3 above) is currently in the green belt. The NDP cannot allocate the site or include a criteria based policy for its development as green belt review is a strategic matter for Barnsley MBC and can only be undertaken through the Local Plan process. The Parish Council supports employment uses on this site, but proposes that preferred uses should be limited to those considered more appropriate to the site's rural, edge of village location, within a high quality landscape setting. New employment uses should be prioritised for B1 Business uses. Due to the restricted access for large vehicles from four low bridges including The Viaduct Bridge in Oxspring and Penistone Bridge on the same main road, and proximity to a residential area, the site is not considered appropriate for general industrial use, nor would it be suitable as a large storage and distribution centre.
- 6.3.5 In addition, the site is considered to offer significant opportunities for developing a community-led or commercially driven, green energy hub. The site adjoins the River Don offering potential opportunities to harness water power, and may be suitable for solar or other low carbon energy schemes. Consultations with local residents such as the questionnaire in 2015 demonstrated that although there was significant interest in renewable energy schemes provided they were sympathetic to local landscape and character, there would be little support for more wind energy schemes in the area. Therefore this type of energy scheme would not be supported on the site.

- 6.3.6 The development of the site also offers opportunities to ensure that new buildings are sited and designed sensitively and that existing features which contribute positively to local character such as dry stone walls and trees and areas of woodland are protected and enhanced.
- 6.3.7 The Parish Council intends to make a representation setting out these concerns to Barnsley MBC in relation to the site when the publication draft of the Local Plan is published for consultation in summer 2016. This representation will set out that new employment development on proposed Local Plan Employment Site P2 will be supported provided that:
1. New employment development is limited to Use Classes¹⁰ B1 Business uses. General industrial uses (Class B2) and Storage and Distribution (B8) will not be considered acceptable due to the rural village setting, potential traffic impacts on the village centre roads and limited accessibility.
 2. Schemes will be required to protect and enhance existing landscape features within and around the site including dry stone walls, mature trees and woodland areas.
 3. New development includes proposals for travel by means other than private car, and promotes such schemes as car sharing, electric car charging points, walking and cycling and use of public transport through transport plans.
- 6.3.8 Proposals for sustainable energy schemes and low carbon technologies on this site will be encouraged as part of the development of a sustainable community energy hub for Oxspring.

Tourism and the Visitor Economy

- 6.3.9 Oxspring is ideally suited for visitors. With the provision of improved facilities, more visitors will be able to enjoy the picturesque scenery and good walking in the area. The village is positioned on the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) and is easily accessible by foot, cycle and horse users from other areas.
- 6.3.10 The results of the 2015 questionnaire survey showed a high level of support for proposals for small scale tourism and visitor facilities such as a café and catering facilities, provided that traffic is managed effectively. Local residents and businesses support 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.
- 6.3.11 Barnsley Core Strategy 2011 promotes tourism and encourages the growth and development of cultural provision in Policy CSP20 and viable rural economy in Policy CSP21. The new Local Plan Consultation Draft supports a viable rural economy in Policy E8 Rural Economy.

Policy OEMP1 Supporting a Sustainable Rural Visitor Economy

In the village centre proposals for small scale new visitor and tourist facilities will be supported subject to national and local planning policies. Schemes will be encouraged

¹⁰ <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/commonprojects/changeofuse>

which provide cafe and catering facilities, and short stay or overnight accommodation, through sensitive conversion of existing buildings. Adequate provision of visitor parking and suitable traffic management measures must be provided.

Where planning permission is required, proposals will be encouraged which provide local community events which could bring visitors to the area, such as themed festivals, specialist markets and sporting activities.

6.4 Sports and Leisure



Football fields, looking towards Wagon and Horses Pub

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

- **Supporting the provision of improved community leisure, sports and recreation facilities.**

- 6.4.1 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.
- 6.4.2 However, 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 Sport England and the Football Foundation was not secured.
- 6.4.3 More recently (in 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 years. The primary school has no changing or sporting facilities on its site and occasionally uses the village playing field without toilet or changing facilities.
- 6.4.4 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 the 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.”

- 6.4.5 The Sheffield Road Playing Field is located within the Green Belt but the NPPF in para 89 sets out that certain new buildings are not considered inappropriate, and these include “*provision for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation ... as long as it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it*”. Barnsley Core Strategy, September 2011 protects green infrastructure in Policy CSP 33 - Green Infrastructure, and aims to protect and improve green space in Policy CSP 35 - Green Space. The new Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014 aims to protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure assets in Policy GI1 and sets out in Policy GS1 - Green Space that the Borough Council will work with partners to improve existing green space to meet the standards in our Green Space Strategy.

Draft Policy OS1 Sport and Leisure Community Infrastructure

Proposals for the development of viable and self-supporting good quality community, sport and leisure facilities available to all will be encouraged on Sheffield Road Playing Field (Site G2 on Map 2 above).

Such proposals must include all or a combination of the elements of the following:

- **New club facilities / sports pavilion including changing rooms and other rooms and facilities for wider community use; and**
- **An improved playing field.**

Schemes will be required to preserve the openness of the Green Belt and not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. Where new club facilities / sports pavilion buildings are proposed, they will be required to be sited adjacent to the existing built up area.

6.5 Movement



The Old Oxspring Road Bridge

Objective 2. To nurture the rural environment for future generations by:

- **Improving accessibility and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, local footpaths and bridle paths.**

- 6.5.1 The Trans Pennine Trail (TPT)¹¹ is a national coast to coast route for recreation and transport – for walkers, cyclists and (in parts) horse riders. The route links the North and Irish seas, passing through the Pennines, alongside rivers and canals and through some of the most historic towns and cities in the North of England. The Trail from coast-to-coast between Southport and Hornsea is 215 miles (346Km) long.
- 6.5.2 A section of the Trans Pennine Trail runs through the heart of Oxspring Parish, South of the main built up area of the village, along a disused rail line. The route offers significant opportunities for local residents and visitors to enjoy the wider countryside in a traffic free environment, and is suitable for walkers, horse riders and cyclists.
- 6.5.3 However there is a need for improved access onto the TPT from points within the village. Map 2 above identifies two access points in the village; T1 is more accessible but T2 comprises very steep steps which are not wheelchair, pushchair or cycle friendly.
- 6.5.4 Barnsley Unitary Development Plan, 2000 sets out in Policy WR15 that in accordance with Policy GS26 the following routeways as shown on the Proposals Map will be protected and developed as part of a safe multi-user recreational network: WR15/1 Trans-Pennine trail. *“This recreational routeway forms part of the proposed strategic, long distance routeway being promoted by a number of local authorities which it is intended will eventually form a continuous link between the East and West coasts of the country. The Council will, wherever possible, encourage the expansion of the routeway network in the community area to provide*

¹¹ <http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/>

'feeder' connections to the trail. This will extend informal recreation penetration in the area and assist in the enhancement of the areas of borough-wide significance identified in Policies GS25 and WR13." Policy GS2 Green Ways and Public Rights of Way protects Green Ways and Public Rights of Way from development that may affect their character or function.

- 6.5.5 Once the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule is adopted by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, where development sites adjoin or are in close proximity to the route of the Trail, CIL funding will be used to improve accessibility for all to the Trans Pennine Trail.

Draft Policy OM1 Improving Accessibility to the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) and Other Routes

Proposals which provide safe, level, ramped access onto the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) will be supported. In particular, proposals for access improvements will be encouraged at the Roughbirchworth Lane access point (T2 on Map 2 above) and if possible, from the sports field.

Proposals for improved pedestrian access down to and along the river to the north east of the proposed employment site and to the north of G4 will be encouraged.

7.0 Next Steps

- 7.1 The Oxspring Draft Neighbourhood Plan is published for 6 weeks formal consultation in Spring 2016. Following careful consideration of all representations the Plan will be revised further and then submitted to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 7.2 As well as a Basic Conditions Statement, a Consultation Statement will be published alongside the amended version of the Plan setting out how the representations received have been considered and used, to influence and inform the content of the Plan.
- 7.3 Following this, the Plan will be subjected to an Independent Examination by a jointly appointed Examiner, to consider whether the Plan meets the basic conditions, and also any outstanding objections.
- 7.4 It is likely that the Examiner will recommend further (hopefully minor) changes, before the Plan is subjected to a local Referendum. A straight majority vote (50% of turnout +1) of those on the Electoral Register will be required, before the Borough Council may “make” the Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be used to help determine planning decisions in the Parish alongside Borough and National Planning Policies.

Appendices

Appendix I

Timeline of Dates and Events Affecting Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan

Date of Event	Event	Evidence
01-Sep-11	BMBC adopt Core Strategy	BMBC Website
Apr-12	BMBC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	BMBC Website
23-Jul-12	BMBC Public Consultation on Development Sites and Places Document (ends 30 Sept 2013)	BMBC Website
03-Sep-12	Oxspring Parish Council Meeting – 37 members of public attended	Parish Council Minutes
01-Oct-12	Oxspring Parish Council Meeting – 11 members of public attended and 2 BMBC planning officers	Parish Council Minutes
13-Apr-13	Public Meeting at St Aidan's Church Oxspring	Notice to residents and signing in sheets
17-Apr-13	Public Meeting at Waggon and Horses Pub Oxspring	Notice to residents and signing in sheets
08-May-13	Public Meeting with Planning Aid England (PAE) at St Aidan's Church Oxspring	Signing in sheets
14-May-13	Letter to Hunshelf Parish Council for permission to include part of playing fields which is in their Parish in NP boundary	Letter
10-Jun-13	Letter to BMBC to set NP boundary to include Parish boundary and all of playing fields, including part which is in Hunshelf Parish	Letter
20-Jun-13	Formation of Steering Group and Sub Committees	Minutes

06-Sep-13	Application for Grant to Locality	Application Form
16-Sep-13	Meeting with BMBC Planning Officers	
23-Sep-13	Meeting with Steering Group and Parish Council members	Minutes
21-Oct-13	Meeting with Mike Dando from Planning Aid England (PAE)	
21-Nov-13	Letter from BMBC confirming designation of NP boundary	Letter
22-Nov-13	Faceless Arts Company Commissioned	Invoices
10-Dec-13	Meeting of Steering Group	Minutes
16-Dec-13	Meeting with BMBC Planning Officers	Agenda
01-Jan-14	Dearne Media Commissioned	Invoices
01-Jan-14	BMBC Draft Local Plan issued for public consultation	BMBC Website
10-Jan-14	Meeting with Hunshelf Parish Council	Letter from Hunshelf PC
14-Jan-14	Meeting of Steering Group	Minutes
11-Feb-14	Meeting of Steering Group	Minutes
20-Feb-14	Faceless Arts Company work with pupils at Oxspring Primary School	Video
23-Feb-14	Meeting with BMBC Planning Officer Helen Willows to look at various sites in village	Video
01-Mar-14	Public Consultation Day at St Aidan's Church including question and answer session with Angela Smith MP and others	Signing in sheets and video
03-Mar-14	Oxspring Parish Council Meeting - 11 members of public attended	Parish Council Minutes
05-Mar-14	Questionnaires delivered to all households etc in Oxspring	Returned questionnaires
11-Mar-14	Meeting of Steering Group	Minutes
31-Mar-14	Meeting with members of public and Ann Walker from	Notes from meeting and signing in sheets

	Parish Council to address issues raised at PC meeting	
10-Apr-14	Meeting of Steering Group plus 4 members of public and 3 Parish Councillors	Minutes
07-May-14	Key Issues Workshop with PAE	Signing in sheets
21-May-14	Meeting of Steering Group	Minutes
10-Jun-14	Informal meeting to discuss: format for Gala Day	Notes
16-Jun-14	Policy Writing Workshop with PAE	Signing in sheets
22-Jun-14	Public Consultation on Vision Statement at Gala Day for Huntington's Disease Charity on sports field	Photographs and signature sheet
01-Aug-14	Meeting with members of BMBC Education Department	
25-Aug-14	Informal meeting to discuss: planning permission to display banners, URS housing needs analysis, budget	Notes
25-Sep-14	Meeting with BMBC Planning Officer Helen Willows	
29-Sep-14	Meeting with new head teacher at Oxspring Primary School	
20-Oct-14	Informal meeting to discuss: policy writing for draft policy document, permission to display third banner at St Aidan's	Notes
23-Oct-14	Meeting with local farmer Mr Fox	
23-Oct-14	Meeting with Oxspring Primary School Chair of Governors and one other Governor	
28-Oct-14	Meeting with local business owner - Wintwire	
01-Nov-14	Informal meeting to discuss: effects of changes to BMBC's	Notes

	Local Plan and implications for Oxspring	
10-Nov-14	Housing Needs Analysis by URS completed	Report
13-Nov-14	Letter to local landowners June Stuart and Robert Thorpe	Copy of correspondence
19-Nov-14	Meeting with local business owner - DR Baling	
29-Nov-14	Meeting with local landowners Mr and Mrs Faxon	
29-Nov-14	Informal meeting to discuss: planning regulatory board meeting, timetable for draft policy document	Notes
02-Dec-14	Letter to Hunshelph Parish Council for permission to further extend NP boundary into land in their Parish	Letter from Parish Council
15-Dec-14	Letter to BMBC to extend NP boundary to include additional field which is in Hunshelph Parish	Letter
24-Jan-15	Public Consultation at St Aidan's Church on Draft Policies and Indicative Proposals Document	Signing in sheets
29-Jan-14	Public Consultation at St Aidan's Church on Draft Policies and Indicative Proposals Document	Signing in sheets
01-Feb-15	Draft Policies and Indicative Proposals Document delivered to all households etc. with questionnaire	Copy of document and questionnaire
19-Feb-15	Meeting of Parish Council with Angela Smith MP	Letter from Angela Smith MP
23-Feb-15	Meeting with BMBC Planning Officer Helen Willows	
18-Mar-15	Letter from BMBC regarding an objection to the extension of the designation of NP boundary	Letter from BMBC
23-Mar-15	Presentation to the full governing body of Oxspring Primary School	PowerPoint presentation slides
27-Mar-15	Meeting with BMBC Planning Officer Helen Willows	

30-Mar-15	Resignation of Chair of Steering Group.	Verbal resignation to two other SG members.
30-Mar-15	Meeting with BMBC Footpaths' Officer - S Ford	
05-May-15	Application for Grant to Groundwork UK	Application Form
20-May-15	Letter from BMBC approving extension to designated NP area	Letter
09-Jun-15	Approval of Grant from Groundwork UK	Email
15-Jun-15	Telephone conversation with BMBC planning officer Helen Willows re approval of grant and appointment of Kirkwells	
09-Jul-15	Inaugural meeting with Louise Kirkup of Kirkwells	Agenda
08-Sep-15	Steering Group Meeting to discuss first draft of Oxspring NDP by Kirkwells	Minutes
10-Sep-15	Meeting with Louise Kirkup to discuss first draft of Oxspring NDP by Kirkwells	Minutes
09-Nov-15	Meeting with members of OPC, SG, BMBC Planning Officer Helen Willows and Louise Kirkup to discuss first Draft NP.	Minutes
01-Dec-15 to 31-Dec-15	First Draft NP for informal public consultation	Public domain
05-Feb-16	Meeting with members of SG and Louise Kirkup to review NP	Minutes
07-Mar-16	OPC Meeting to approve amended NP	Minutes
21-Mar-16 to 02-May-16	Reg 14 6 weeks public consultation	Public domain

Appendix II

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL LETTINGS POLICY 2014

Effective from 1st April 2014

7a(ii) Local Connection A person has a local connection in the following circumstances.

- They have lived for 2 out of the last 5 years in Barnsley or have lived in Barnsley for 6 months out of the last 12 months.
- They are currently employed in the Barnsley Council area.
- They have close family who have lived in Barnsley for 2 out of the last 5 years or have lived in Barnsley for 6 months out of the last 12 months. Close family includes parents, grandparents, sons and daughters and siblings
- Members of the Armed Forces and former service personnel, where the application is made within five years of discharge from HM Forces.
- Bereaved spouses and civil partners of members of the Armed Forces leaving Services Family Accommodation following the death of their spouse or civil partner
- Serving or former members of the Reserve Forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their military service.
- They have other special circumstances that connect them to Barnsley
- They have been deemed to have a local connection under current homelessness law.

If a person has a local connection they are assessed as if they lived within the borough and as such can be awarded priority in bands 1 to 4. However, if a person has no local connection with the borough they will be assessed into one of two priority categories:

- Re-housing need. – They will be added to band 4
- No Re-housing need – They will be added to Band 5 A person with no local connection cannot appear in bands 1 to 3

Appendix III

NPPF - National Planning Policy Framework Definition of Affordable Housing

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Affordable housing: Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable). Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as “low cost market” housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.



Neighbourhood Plan

www.oxspringplan.org.uk