



Chris Henning
Executive Director - Place

County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Planning Policy
High Peak Borough Council
Town Hall
BUXTON
Derbyshire
SK17 6EL

Telephone: 01629 539810
Ask for: David M Dale
Email: davidm.dale@derbyshire.gov.uk
Our ref: PM/DMD/Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan
Your ref:
Date: 22 June 2023

Dear Madam/Sir

Localism Act 2011 – Strategic Planning Comments

Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2032: Submission Draft

Thank you for consulting Derbyshire County Council (DCC) on the Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Draft (WBNP). The comments below are DCC's Member and Officers' technical comments with regard to the residential, climate change, transport and education aspects of the Plan.

Local Member Comments

Councillor Ruth George, the County Council Member for Whaley Bridge Electoral Division, has been consulted. Thus far no comments have been received, but if I receive any I will forward them to you.

Officer Comments

3.2 Employment and Housing

WB-G3 Residential Development

It is welcomed that DCC's previous comments on this policy in respect of conformity with the housing policies of the Adopted High Peak Local Plan relating to new housing development within the defined settlement development boundary for Whaley Bridge, have been fully taken into account.

However, DCC's previous comments in respect of the Plan's policy approach to the provision of affordable housing have not been taken into account and are therefore reaffirmed as follows:

Affordable Housing Paragraph 2.7, bullet 5 of the recently published Examiner's Report on the Melbourne Neighbourhood Plan (see attachment) sets out a clear expectation that the Government's new policy approach to First Homes should be included in neighbourhood plans. DCC would advise, therefore, that a policy should be added accordingly.

3.4 Environment and Climate Change

This section talks about recognising the challenges of mitigating the effects of climate change and encouraging adaptation. However, it then refers to exploring energy generation from renewable energy sources such as hydropower. Renewable energy generation is more about mitigating the causes of climate change (reducing emissions), not adaptation. For adaptation, measures to reduce flood risk, overheating, storm damage etc should be referred to here.

It would also be beneficial for other forms of renewable energy to be highlighted as potential opportunities in this section, particularly solar power, greater energy efficiency, micro-generation, and use of renewable energy in domestic and commercial properties. DCC recognises that there can be unique challenges for energy efficiency, retrofitting, and renewable energy generation in character and heritage buildings, but it would suggest a policy that encourages the incorporation of appropriate measures, wherever possible, should be added to the Plan.

The section also presents an opportunity to consider the preservation of 'Dark Skies' and would suggest the addition of a policy to that effect. Limiting the transmission of light to only those areas where it is needed or useful can contribute to reducing emissions and the preservation of local character and biodiversity.

3.5 Transport and Movement

DCC welcomes the community support for the Public Rights of Way networks, notably footpaths, bridleways and greenways. This is reflected in the WB-T2 Active Travel section of the plan which states that the development must not encroach on, nor have an adverse impact on the safety amenity or accessibility of these paths. Further, that development should take the opportunity to create new links and access to footpaths. Positive consideration is therefore given to protecting and increasing the network and consequently DCC's Rights of Way Section offers full support to the Vision4Whaley Neighbourhood Plan.

Due to the numerous paths affected it is not possible to create a clear map to illustrate them, but details of these can be found on DMaps, the Derbyshire Mapping portal on the DCC website. [Derbyshire Mapping Portal - Derbyshire County Council](#)

General advice around public footpaths to be affected by proposed works is as follows:

- The footpaths must remain open, unobstructed and on their legal alignment.
- There should be no disturbance to the path surface without prior authorisation from the Rights of Way Section.
- Consideration should be given to the safety of members of the public using the path during the works. A temporary closure of paths will be permitted on application to DCC where the path(s) remain unaffected on completion of the development.
- There should be no encroachment of the path, and no fencing should be installed without consulting the Rights of Way Section.

- In planning the incorporation of the footpaths into the development, preference should be given to the use of made-up paths through landscaped or open space areas away from vehicular traffic.

3.6 Infrastructure Priorities

Bullet 6: Expansion of places at schools and medical facilities

In its response to the informal Pre-Submission draft version of the Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan (VfW), DCC commented that:

‘Since schools are an important community asset, many other neighbourhood plans include a factual statement on capacity, number, and projected number on the roll; DCC would suggest, therefore, that such a statement should also be included in V4W’.

The following updated version of the information previously provided, would suggest that there is no immediate need for an ‘Expansion of places at schools ...’ and that bullet 6 should be amended accordingly, with the following paragraph included in the Plan to provide a context for any future development:

“The schools in the Whaley Bridge locality are organised for DCC’s strategic planning purposes within the Primary Planning Area of Buxworth/Chinley/Whaley Bridge. This includes four schools which fall within the Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan area; Buxworth Primary School, Furness Vale Primary School, Taxal and Fernilee CE Primary School and Whaley Bridge Primary School. The table below details the capacity of each of the four schools, along with the number on roll from the latest annual school census and the 5-year projected number on roll.

	Capacity	Number on roll at January 2023	Projected number on roll in January 2028
Buxworth Primary School	105	104	92
Furness Vale Primary School	116	91	87
Taxal and Fernilee CE Primary School	207	216	192
Whaley Bridge Primary School	210	129	107

The projected future number on roll figures do not include the impact of housing developments. These are closely monitored, but assessed separately”.

I should be grateful if you would notify DCC of High Peak Borough Council’s decision on the neighbourhood plan.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss the comments further.

Yours faithfully



David M Dale
Policy and Monitoring and Joint Chair: CLIP: Planning Sub-group

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