

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Yorkshire Dales Development Framework  
Draft Housing Development Plan  
Public Consultation – June/July 2010**

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority will release a draft Housing Development Plan for consultation this summer.

It has been prepared following discussion during 2007 when a public consensus emerged that the Authority should attempt to use its planning policies to proactively address the shortfall of locally affordable housing. It therefore includes policies that are designed to release small sites for affordable and local needs housing over the next 15 years. The overall objective is to try to improve community sustainability by widening the range of accessible housing for the benefit of households that need to live and work in the area and which are not already adequately housed.

Preliminary work has been undertaken to identify possible sites for allocation and these form part of the draft plan. The intention is that anyone with an interest in local housing and community sustainability will be able to read the plan, understand the Authority's housing objectives and comment on the options for addressing them.

The draft plan also contains a light touch review of subdivision, conversion and replacement housing policy together with two wholly new areas of policy on climate change mitigation measures and Gypsy and Traveller sites.

A lot of public comment has already been received in response to the Authority's call for housing sites last year. These comments were reported to the Authority's Housing Working Group and influenced its recommendations to the National Park Authority meeting at the end of March. Where these comments remain relevant to the draft plan they will be considered again alongside the consultation responses that are received this summer.

A representation form will accompany the draft plan to help structure the response. The Authority is more likely to be influenced by representations that focus on planning issues and address the plans objectives. Amendments will inevitably be made to the policies and their supporting justification as a consequence of consultation. It is also likely that the list of preferred housing sites will change as some are removed and new ones potentially added.

The consultation and engagement timetable is as follows:

<b>Late May</b>		Draft plan placed on inspection at libraries, NPA offices and website. Paper copies sent to statutory consultees.
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>		Public consultation period starts

<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Yoredale, Bainbridge	professional meeting 2pm – 4pm public meeting 7pm – 9pm
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Grassington Town hall	professional meeting 2pm – 4pm public meeting 7pm – 9pm
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	People's Hall, Sedbergh	professional meeting 2pm – 4pm public meeting 7pm – 9pm
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>		Public consultation period ends
<b>August/September/October</b>		Report of consultation prepared and considered by Housing Working Group
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	NPA meeting, Yoredale	Housing Working Group reports to NPA and recommends amendments to draft plan

As well as publishing the draft plan and a copy of the representation form the Authority will also make its background evidence available on its website and provide links to supporting information and other relevant strategies. This will help consultees to scrutinise the supporting material and understand the context and reasoning behind some of the preferred options and draft policies. It is anticipated that this will be available by the end of May.

Three meetings with professional bodies and three public meetings are being held during the consultation period. Their purpose is to introduce the draft plan, explain its objectives and provide an opportunity to discuss some of its policies and proposals with officers and members of the Housing Working Group. The professional meetings are aimed at public bodies and stakeholders with a direct involvement in housing and development whereas the public meetings are aimed at residents and Parish Councils who may have a more specific interest in individual sites or the local implementation of policy. The outcome of these meetings will help shape the draft plan and influence the Working Group before it reports back to the Authority for decision. Eventually a final draft will be submitted by the Authority to a Planning Inspector for independent examination.

If you would like to attend the professional or public meetings please contact me so that I can plan accordingly for numbers.

I will write to you again at the start of the consultation period to direct you to a copy of the draft plan and a representation form.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Stockton  
Strategic Planning Officer  
(01969) 652334  
Peter.stockton@yorkshiredales.org.uk