



LoPRA's OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER Issue 1 October 2004

WELCOME TO OUR VERY FIRST NEWSLETTER!

This issue has been printed for every household in Long Preston to enable residents to find out a little bit about LoPRA, LoPRA's aims and, most importantly, to give you news of issues that may concern you NOW! The idea of a regular newsletter is to ensure that our members are kept up-to-date with village issues between public meetings and all future issues will be delivered to LoPRA members only on a quarterly basis. We will also start a letters page for which we will accept residents' views, questions and concerns ready for the next issue.

The Editor

ABOUT LoPRA

Introduction

LoPRA came into being at the inaugural meeting on 31 August 2004, attended by nearly one hundred residents, when the constitution was formally adopted and a committee elected. The Association was initiated due to increasing anxiety amongst local residents regarding the potential threat of further large housing developments on Greenfield sites which could change the face and character of our delightful Dales village forever. A prime concern was that speculative developers would effectively use the results of a recent affordable housing survey as a 'Trojan Horse'. This concern was exacerbated when it was heard that developers Northern Heritage had called a private meeting with the Rural Housing Enabler, The Hartley Trust, The Parish Council and a YDNP representative PRIOR to the results of the survey being discussed between the Rural Housing Enabler and the Parish Council (on whose behalf the survey was undertaken). Although this meeting was cancelled after concerns were raised by both Parish Councillors and local residents a number of individuals felt that it was time for a Residents Association to form in order to allow local people to voice their opinions and needs in an open forum - which was not

practically available through other associations and committees.

LoPRA in Brief

One of the purposes of the Association is to use such discussions, in conjunction with the Village Plan (based on the Planning for Real events held in 2003), to effectively liaise with the Parish Council and other Trusts and Committees to ensure that the village of Long Preston retains its character and beauty whilst addressing the needs of local people in a fair and open manner. And obviously the more people that join such an association the more accurate the representation of the villagers needs become as a whole. This could be especially important where lobbying is required for traffic calming measures, protection of Greenfield sites, restricting the size of building developments (and ensuring any such developments are appropriate to the village's needs), gaining funding for community facilities, etc. But most importantly the Association is there for the villagers to use as a communications and lobbying tool to ensure Long Preston retains and enhances its Dales character, community vitality and beauty.

OUR AIM is to reflect its members' views regarding the desired character of Long Preston, to protect the civic rights and community privileges of its members and to initiate or take action as necessary and appropriate for the provision, protection, preservation and enhancement of local amenities and environment.

**THE SECOND
LoPRA
PUBLIC
MEETING
will be held
on
Monday
13 December
at 7.30 pm
in
Long Preston
Village Hall**

All LoPRA members and Long Preston residents are welcome and we look forward to meeting both current and future LoPRA members.

Yorkshire Dales Local Plan Next Steps

1. In April this year a Public Inquiry was held at Middleham to examine issues about the new local plan for Long Preston and the Yorkshire Dales. The National Park Authority (YDNPA) had proposed no development beyond the current existing built-up area. There were several objections to the National Park's proposals for Long Preston submitted by developers/individuals who objected to the tight village boundary and who wanted to see more land made available for development.

2. An independent Inspector, appointed by the Government, is currently considering these objections and will report his findings to YDNPA. This is expected anytime from the end of October, although it could be as late as the end of the year. If the Inspector recommends modifications (i.e. the inclusion of Greenfield sites) the National Park will need to decide whether to accept them - they are not

obliged to do so. The outcome of the Inspector's findings have to be published and LoPRA will make sure that all its members are kept up to date by means of a short newsletter and, if necessary, by calling a special meeting.

3. As the National Park targets for new housing have already been met and there has been no need demonstrated locally for new housing, it is hard to understand how the Inspector could recommend any substantial Greenfield development.

4. However, developers have a lot to win and lose from the National Park's decisions and residents will need to be ready to challenge any proposals to extend the village boundary into green fields. LoPRA will be able to provide members with advice on how to lobby and how to fill in any necessary forms.

WORKING TOGETHER

At September's Parish Council Meeting Jim Sheppard of the Home Housing Association suggested that it would be a positive move for the various housing bodies (including Foundation Housing), the Parish Council and LoPRA to work together. This was supported by LoPRA committee members present at the meeting.

Nevertheless there was substantial criticism over the methodology of the survey undertaken by Foundation Housing and it was suggested that a new and fairer survey be undertaken that satisfies marketing research criteria. LoPRA would be willing to help undertake this.



→ Dropped crossing points are meant to have only a 15-20mm difference in level. In addition to that there are raised covers which are inadequately ramped.

STATE OF DISREPAIR

The Highways Authority have a duty under the Highway's act to maintain the free flow of pedestrians. The state of the footways at the entrance to Hartley Green is substandard to say the least. →

Over the past year, the average selling price of a detached house in BD23 4** has risen from £260,926 to £297,454, a rise of 14%. Over the same period, the average price of a terraced house in the area has increased 17.7% from £127,562 to £150,156. When the whole of Yorkshire and Humber are considered, the rises are 17.3% and 27.5% respectively. (National Statistics Office)

ACCESS BLOCKED FOR RESIDENTS

The properties adjoining Western Terrace have suffered lengthy disruption whilst the sewer was being laid to the British Fuels site; the access to the garage of one resident was blocked for 19 days. Whilst accepting that the work was necessary, they had made strong complaints to Northern Heritage that they had not been given adequate advance warning.

At a subsequent meeting with the directors - Mr Duncan Wilson of Northern Heritage Ltd and Mr Clive Richardson of Exchange Developments Long Preston Ltd (the landowner) - it was put to them that the site foreman "knocking on a couple of doors" as work started was not appropriate notification.

An apology was received from Mr Richardson (EDLP) for the disruption and assurances given by Mr Wilson (NH) that the correct formal notifications would be given ahead of any future restrictions of access; the laying of the gas main being the only one foreseen.

Mr Wilson also gave firm assurances that any subsidence of the trench would be promptly rectified and that the existing sewer, which ran parallel, had not been damaged. On being pressed he accepted the responsibility of Northern Heritage to rectify any problems with the existing sewer that may subsequently emerge.

REMOVAL OF BUILDER'S COMPOUND

Northern Heritage were due to clear their compound and re-instate the land behind their Hartley Green estate by the 16th of September, but were granted a one month extension by the YDNPA planning officer.

LoPRA have been monitoring progress and, whilst there has been considerable activity in removing the rubble from the adjacent field (seemingly to Otterburn), by the 16th October the site huts were still in place, together with a considerable amount of builder's material. The site manager apologised for being behind schedule, the delay being due to problems at the disposal site with water logged ground. He has assured us that the Hartley Green site would be cleared by the end of Wednesday the 20th and the dry-stone walls re-instated by the end of that week. So by the time you read this, the site should have been cleared and levelled and be just awaiting re-seeding in the spring.

OFFERING OUR SUPPORT

LoPRA supports sensible small scale development - particularly when it helps to secure the future of a valued local joinery business AND provide the owner with a home in Long Preston. On the 11th October the National Park Planning committee favoured the application by Colin Ward to convert a part of the workshop on Church Street to a house for himself. Hopefully this will now be approved. After the Parish Council meeting the previous week LoPRA members cooperated with the Parish Council and arranged for members to send lobbying letters to the Planning Committee members in support of the application. If LoPRA played a part in this sensible decision we can chalk this up as our first success! What next?

THE COMMITTEE AT WORK

It is important that the concerns LoPRA members have about Long Preston are heard and taken on board by the people making decisions about our village's future. To this end, your committee has written to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA), the Chair and Vice Chair of the YDNPA Planning Committee and to our Member of Parliament.

These letters have emphasised members' worries about (i) pressures from developers to extend the village boundary onto greenfield sites (ii) the real number of affordable houses needed in Long Preston and (iii) the amount of time taken by Heritage Developments to clear the builder's compound at the back of the Auction Mart.

As a result, a meeting was held on 18th October with Wilf Fenten, Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee to discuss the need to maintain the village boundary in advance of the publication of the Inspector's report. In addition: your Chairperson is to be present at the meeting between the Parish Council and Foundation Housing (to question the conclusion that 50 affordable houses are required); the committee has arranged a meeting with our Member of Parliament; the reinstatement of the builders' compound is now progressing reasonably quickly but is still being monitored.

A65 NEWS

Amey-Mouchel have been appointed consultants and contractors by the Highways Agency for the A65.

For minor maintenance issues contact Brian Smith 01539 554506.

As you may know, Long Preston and Hellfield bypass was removed from the Trunks Road Programme in 1998. The Highways Agency are currently revoking the Line and Compulsory Purchase orders.

Control of the A65 will return to N Yorkshire. We intend to discuss their attitude to a Long Preston bypass before they take over responsibility if possible.

For 1999 (most recent data published) the Gross Disposable Household Income per capita for Yorkshire and Humber was £9,325, 8% below the UK average, and 28% below the London average. For the same period, the Total Household Income per capita for the region was £13,872, 11% less than the UK average and 37% less than the London average. The discrepancy between GDHI and THI is due to taxes, social contributions and insurance only. (National Statistics Office)

From 2001 census data, the population of 20-39 year olds in Craven is 24.1% lower than the national average.

From 2001 census data, the population of 60+ year olds is 24.6% higher than the national average.

However, the population composite for the YDNP does appear to be stable.

LoPRA NEEDS YOU!!
- [and your neighbour!]

We have heard on the grapevine that some people have said that they are not joining LoPRA because they do not agree with things that have been said, perhaps by committee members. LoPRA is nothing if it does not listen to not only its members but the village as a whole. There is no fixed agenda and no dogmatic view on any issue, although of course individual members will have their own strong views on some of the issues that crop up.

LoPRA is committed by its constitution to assist and support the Parish Council where appropriate and members will attend PC meetings of the public. The Parish Council has also been offered a seat on the LoPRA committee by the LoPRA constitution.

It is not a question of LoPRA having any 'party line' that people feel they can not subscribe to. All can voice their views in LoPRA and even if the majority of members do not agree, a lone voice can often moderate a group.

So LoPRA is a democratic forum for all views. But it is not just a talking shop, it must and will take whatever action it can to ensure that change and development in our village reflect the aspirations of the residents. Otherwise, that is all it will be - a talking shop.

If you know people who are hesitating before joining please do all you can to reassure them and persuade them of the benefits of a strong united voice.



**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FORM**

I/ we wish to become a member of the Long Preston Residents Association

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other title First name / initials
Surname

Second name at address below (if appropriate)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other title First name / initials
Surname

House No/name Street
..... Postcode

Tel

Email (if available)

I/ we enclose annual membership fee (please tick relevant box)

Standard (per person) £5.00 Pensioner/Student/Unwaged (per person) £1.00

Plus optional donation for reserve fighting fund £

Total amount £

Methods of payment (please tick relevant box)

At any LoPRA public meeting by cash (or cheque payable to LoPRA)

OR

By sending my completed form and payment to:
Dr Andrew Walkden, LoPRA, St Oggs, Church Street, Long Preston BD23 4NJ

Annual membership is valid from 1 September to 31 August

THE LONG PRESTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION UNDERTAKES THAT THE
ABOVE PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE HELD SECURELY AND NOT
DISCLOSED TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT YOUR PRIOR CONSENT.



•ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LONG PRESTON?
•HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR VILLAGE IN TEN YEARS TIME?
•WHAT ISSUES CONCERN YOU NOW?
•BY JOINING LoPRA RESIDENTS CAN SHARE THEIR CONCERNS AND GET TOGETHER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM!

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