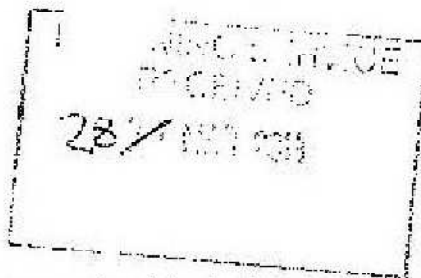


Our Comments on  
The Bradford Local Plan



Subject: Whether plan has been "Positively Prepared" and meets objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements for Ilkley

Comment:

We consider that the plan has not been properly assessed because Ilkley should not have been designated a principal town when compared with towns such as Keighley and Bingley

Ilkley is not a centre for employment and housing should be located as close as possible to centres of employment.

The current infrastructure is already at full capacity:

- Schools are full, with Ilkley children being offered places at schools outside the town. Not only adding to the pressure on the road and transport network, but also indicating that there would be no places for the children from the additional families that 800 new houses would mean. This increased demand has not been addressed in the plan.
- Parking in the town centre is already overflowing into residential areas, and there is nothing in the plan to address the increase in traffic and parking requirements that 800 new residences would create. There are no obvious places for additional parking facilities to be located.
- Public transport to Bradford and Leeds is often overcrowded at peak commuter times, any new development would inevitably bring in more commuters leading to increasing pressure on these facilities. Ilkley is essentially a commuter town and not a principal town.
- The A65 is the main trunk road to and from Ilkley in both directions and becomes very congested particularly in the town centre every day. There is nothing in the plan to alleviate this and many of the additional houses are planned in areas adjoining the A65 and would probably be the only access route for them. Plans for other developments along the A65 corridor would also impact on this route. There is no possibility of a bypass for the town as has been demonstrated in the past.
- The town has no hospital and again the current health service facilities are at capacity and there is no plan to increase the current facilities
- As well as being a commuter town, Ilkley is a tourist destination and the comments above regarding the public and road transport infrastructure would adversely affect this, one of the few areas of employment within the town.
- One of the destinations that bring visitors to Ilkley is Ilkley Moor, this is an area of great beauty and value to residents and visitors alike. The scale of the

proposed plan would threaten its integrity and doesn't seem to have been properly assessed within the plan.

It is not clear in the plan how the figure of 800 additional homes for Ilkley has been reached and so how can have been objectively assessed?

Within the remit of Bradford Council there are areas with much more suitable infrastructure and development opportunities than Ilkley. The developments that are taking place within Bradford, for example the Westfield Shopping Centre will provide employment and therefore housing development should concentrate on areas within short and easy transport links, where school places are available and health services are located.

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