

The Parish Council believes that the only way to gain some measure of control over future developments in our Parish will be through a **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**. In the light of these dramatic changes to the planning system, it is the intention of the Parish Council to formulate an acceptable **NP** complimented by a **Village Design Statement (VDS)** which is currently being prepared.

It should be understood that a **NP** will not enable us to prevent any development which might be proposed. If carefully prepared the **NP** will help to limit the scale and character of such development. It would however be a legal planning document which would address "land use". Our objective must be, to protect and enhance the environment in our villages. It is essential that any housing is phased, to ensure that all the necessary infrastructure is put in place (roads, schools, retail & medical facilities etc) together with all the other facilities required by such massive expansion in our community. This would be funded through a "Community Infrastructure Levy", which is a financial contribution that developers would have to make to ensure that their proposals meet the criteria of "sustainability".

Any such NP would have to be approved by residents in a local referendum and it is our intention to hold a number of Public Meetings as the way ahead becomes clearer. In the meantime we are appealing to individuals and organisations in the community who have knowledge of planning, highways, infrastructure, design, architecture, artwork, photography etc and who are willing to help us, to attend a **Steering Group meeting at St Philip's Church in Scholes on Wednesday 14th December at 7.30 pm**. If you are unable to make that meeting but would like to help please contact our Clerk Chris Hassell on 393 5861 or send an email — chrisdhassell@hotmail.com

Clearly as the process unfolds there will be a need to employ professional help and the Parish Council has set aside a budget from existing funds for this purpose. Whether this will be sufficient is a matter of conjecture and further funding may have to be found in due course. **However it is the view of the Parish Council that this NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN has to be produced if we are to have any say in the future shape of our community otherwise decisions will be taken out of our hands.**

Please note that this meeting is only for the purpose of appointing a Steering Group. It is vitally important that those with knowledge and expertise who are willing to help will attend this meeting. Future public meetings for all residents of Barwick in Elmet & Scholes will follow in due course.

We have a responsibility to our Community now and for future generations

BARWICK in ELMET
& SCHOLES
PARISH COUNCIL
Localism Bill and
Neighbourhood Plan (NP)



MAJOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS
planned for BARWICK & SCHOLES

You will perhaps have heard of the Localism Bill which received Royal Assent in Parliament on 15th November. Its aim is to bring planning down to a local level but at the same time it appears to make it much easier for developers to build wherever they consider it most profitable.

Over the next 15 years both our villages and the surrounding area will see massive development. Potential development land has been identified for 3,500+ dwellings in Scholes (we only have 1,000 at present!), with a further 13,500 in the adjacent areas of Manston, Stanks and Grimes Dyke and around 500 for Barwick. Some of this development will be on Greenfield sites which are already earmarked in the existing Unitary Development Plan as "Protected Areas of Search". Construction is expected to start within the next 5 years. Thereafter, any development would be on land which is currently in Green Belt, with Leeds City Council reviewing the Green Belt Boundaries.

The new legislation and draft National Planning Policy framework is intended to minimise opposition to development where previously we have been able to lodge objections on the basis of protecting our rural identity.

