

This document is notes from the discussion held by the Parish Council on our Parish Specific Policies to be included in the Hilltop Parishes Neighbourhood Plan. It refers to the draft Neighbourhood Plan (not yet accessible to the public) which is a working document being put together by the Plan Committee. The document was looked at in detail, point by point, and the amendments suggested as below. This is not in a format for public consultation, but will give anyone reading an overview of the parish council's thinking on these policies.

Blackshaw Policies

The key issues for Blackshaw arising from the consultation process are speeding traffic, on street parking, reviewing the 'village envelope', the need to support carefully sited and well designed new residential development, to review the designation of surrounding greenspace as "Land Around Todmorden" and its possible reallocation as 'Greenbelt', and enhancements to the aesthetic character of the settlement. There is concern about the number of burglaries and theft of vehicles, the maintenance of local footpaths, access to and from The Steeps area, the siting of small scale wind turbines and the need to redevelop the Callis Mill site (see Section 8.0) and the Woodman public house site.

5.3.1 The village envelope boundary should be reviewed and possibly adjusted subject to careful consideration by the Parish Council in consultation with residents.

5.3.2

5.3.2 Introduce rural crime reduction measures including ANPR cameras (as almost all crime committed in upland areas will be committed by people travelling there in vehicles)

5.3.3 Introduce strategies for reduction of volume of through-traffic, in particular unsuitable vehicles and reduction of traffic speeds through the village.

5.3.4 Undertake an audit of the visual character of Blackshaw Parish and propose standards for enhancing the aesthetic quality of key sites, landmarks, derelict buildings and temporary structures, including those located at key gateway entrances.

5.3.5 Improve the maintenance and accessibility of local footpaths, gates and stiles..

5.3.6 Celebrate and enhance the gateway entrances to Blackshaw Parish through the introduction of 'welcome signs', review the location of existing street furniture and signage and provide new, higher quality, street furniture. Improvement of the visual appeal of roadside features:

- At key junctions eg at Blackshaw Head Methodist Chapel.
- At entrances to Blackshaw Village envelope
- At entrances Charlestown and other communities

- At entrances to Parish

5.3.7 Undertake an audit of local derelict buildings and sites, temporary structures, caravans and commercial trailers, fly-tipping sites, etc in order to protect and improve the visual amenity of the environment.

5.3.8 Improve Broadband access and the mobile phone service throughout the Parish.

5.3.9 Explore and support innovative local strategies for the generation of hydro electric power.

5.3.10 Support the redevelopment of the Callis Mill site (see Section 8.0) as the location for ‘resilient homes’ resistant to flooding.

5.3.11 Introduce additional passing places on local roads and traffic speed/calming measures throughout the Parish with particular regard to the following:

- Roads in and out of Blackshaw Head village
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- A646 between Jumble Hole and Whitley Arches
- Access through Mytholm Steeps in order to avoid using it as a ‘rat run’:

5.3.11 (a) Identify, evaluate and cost options for improving the lives and safety of residents of Mytholm Steeps from the risks arising from inappropriate traffic flows past their dwellings arising from its use as a rat run. This will include consideration of options such as controlled single lane traffic flows, one-way traffic schemes, road-widening, off-street parking coupled with raised kerbs, enforcing the use of alternative routes for through traffic and the potential for the development of new routes.

5.3.12 Create a new recreational area/playground in Blackshawhead village for local children

5.3.13 Ensure that no further wind turbines are allowed within 500m of the village envelope without detailed consideration of their potential aesthetic impact in adding to a cumulative visual effect, and their potential cumulative noise and environmental impact already caused by the existing turbines within the area.

5.3.14 Investigate improving Hill Top Water Retention and the feasibility of Hydro Electric Power within the locality, including:

- Colden Water: opposite the houses at Eaves the valley has been filled in to provide a recreation ground, the river running through a tunnel. Fitted with a suitable sluice a substantial amount of water could be held back. Also
- Redmires Dam at Kebs.
- Staups Dam is currently drained but holds water and fitted with a valve.
- The Dam above Copley Holme on Hippins Water.
- The two Dams at the bottom of Marsh Lane which are joined together with an underground culvert and could be used for Hydro Electric Power.

5.3.14 (a) Improve water management

Drains, gulleys and minor waterways in upland settlements must be maintained in good order to avoid excessive run-off in times of heavy rain. An audit is required of the adequacy and condition of groundwater drainage in and around Blackshaw Head village to be taken into consideration in developing and applying local planning guidelines.

5.3.15 The local community should prepare a '**Village Design Statement**' for the village (*an advisory document showing how development can be carried out in harmony with a village and its setting and which can be adopted as a supplementary planning document*).

Notes: The village design statement is under development but it is proposed that it should only apply to Blackshaw Head village envelope. Other areas should be covered with a general "appropriate for the vicinity" statement that could be applied across the board. Is this acceptable?

If so, the following could act as a placeholder for Blackshaw Head Village:

All development within the village envelope should enhance the existing character of the village comprising local stone walls, local stone slate roofs with a traditional pitch, and generally matching the style of existing local cottages.

Two other issues arose at this stage:

1. The attitude to out of envelope, Zero carbon, off the grid, property development
2. How to approach affordable housing