

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Update August 2018

Many of you have been helping the Parish Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. This newsletter tells you what we have done so far, and gives those who are new to the process an outline of what the Neighbourhood Plan is about.

“Why are we producing a Neighbourhood Plan?”

Neighbourhood planning (part of the Government’s Localism Act) is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. Murton is helping lead the way as one of only 11 parishes in York creating their own Neighbourhood Plans.

Having our own plan means that **all of us in the Murton parish can make our own local decisions about what we think is important and needs protecting, and what we think needs improving.**

“Why does it matter?”

At national and city level there is already community-led planning (see Additional Information, back page), but our Neighbourhood Plan will extend this right into our own Parish. It will ensure that any changes or developments within the Parish must comply with your wishes as a community.

When complete, our Plan will lead decision-making and shape our community in the Parish for the next 15 years. That would be a long time to live with any mistakes, so we want to avoid them! **And that’s why it is so important to consult everyone.** See on page 2 what we’ve all done so far.

“Can I still ask questions and make comments now?”

YES! Please send questions and comments to Cllr Richard Clancey, Chairman of the Murton Neighbourhood Group Working Party.

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Parish Council believes that the best local decisions are those made by the people they will affect. So we have taken steps to give the Parish its own Neighbourhood Plan:

1. Our first step was to apply to the City of York Council for the right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Following public consultation, we were successful in getting their agreement.
2. The next step, before drafting the actual Plan, was to find out what matters most to people in the Parish and how the Plan can support this in the future. A Working Party, chaired by Cllr Richard Clancey, has been working hard to pull together this information.

We have sent two questionnaires to every household and business in the Parish and have had helpful and encouraging responses. We have also been gathering data about the Parish from the National Census and from the records and documents used by the City Council to generate the bigger City of York Local Plan.

We have also held a Drop-In session to describe the work done so far and to answer any questions that arose. And we sent two reports to every household and business in the Parish based on the questionnaires and asking for comments.

What happens next?

We now have a good idea of your priorities for the Parish in the future. But to be sure that the new Plan reflects these our next step is to produce a *draft* of the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. We hope you will offer your comments on it as soon as it is ready so that we can then draw up the final version.

What else is guiding us?

We also have to consider other tiers of planning to make sure our own Plan doesn't come into conflict and create unnecessary problems down the line. These include:

- The National Planning Policy Framework
- The proposed City of York Local Plan

However, these policies and your own feedback have highlighted **two strong themes** that directly affect our Parish – 1) **the Green Belt**, and 2) topics that come under the term '**sustainable future**'...

1. **Green Belt:** Preserving the Green Belt was one of your major concerns in response to the questionnaires we sent out. It is also a priority in both the National Plan and the proposed City of York Local Plan.

Specifically, the City of York Local Plan shows that almost the whole Parish should be in the Green Belt, including all of the village. The only exceptions are Murton Business Park and the area along Hull Road containing B&Q and the Hull Road Service Station.

2. **A 'sustainable future':**

The rules for neighbourhood plans include "building and securing a *sustainable future* for the Parish". This includes three important goals that all Neighbourhood Plans must have:

1. **Economy:** A plan should help to build a strong, responsive and competitive economy. This means ensuring there is sufficient land of the right type and in the right place when needed to support growth and innovation;
2. **Environment:** A plan will help protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment. This includes helping to improve biodiversity and using natural resources wisely;
3. **Social:** A plan must support strong, vibrant and healthy communities. This includes housing that meets the needs of present and future generations. It also includes accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

However, our Parish Plan is all about how *YOU* think we should achieve these three goals. Based on your feedback we are currently exploring the following ideas:

- **Economy:** There are over 50 thriving businesses in the Parish, ranging from a multinational meat-processing factory to one-person workshops and businesses run from people's homes. We need to ensure that they can continue to thrive in the future, insisting, for example, that all new developments incorporate superfast-speed Internet connectivity. At the same time we must protect our rural economy that plays a vital environmental role in our Parish. And over the next 15 years the way we all do business and shop will continue to change. So the Plan must be flexible enough to accommodate this while still supporting environment and community priorities.
- **Environment:** We propose designating six open spaces as 'Green Open Space'. We will also help preserve old hedgerows, encourage planting of appropriate trees and will further protect the village's conservation area. The plan will give statutory force to the Village Design Statement's guidelines for building work. Also, you told us that the footpaths and rights of way are much treasured so the Plan will encourage their use and upkeep.
- **Social:** There are rules about how many HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) there can be, and we want the plan to make sure these are followed. Many of you told us you are concerned about the lack of communal facilities, especially following the closure of the only pub in the Parish. So we want our Plan to find ways to reflect these concerns. And we want to ensure that any future development with the two settlement limits conforms to the Local Plan and the guidelines of the existing Village Design Statement.

What are the consequences of the National Plan and the emerging Local Plan proposals for the Green Belt?

The proposals strictly limit any developments that fill the green space between settlements within the Green Belt. We intend to propose that this is strictly applied to the gap between Murton and Osbaldwick villages along Murton Way and between Murton village and Murton Business Park along Murton Lane.

We are also proposing that the Local Plan's proposals for decisions regarding developments in the Green Belt are strictly enforced over the whole Parish. This is particularly important in the Conservation area and it will take particular note that building between houses and on land behind may not be desirable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you want more information about the National and emerging Local Plans, you can get it on the following websites

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework> (The National Plan)

https://www.york.gov.uk/info/20051/planning_policy/710/new_local_plan (The Local Plan)