

Local Plan Report

On 26th February 2020 I attended the Local Plan Preferred Options workshop hosted by Bart Milburn, Mark Robson and Matthew Usher.

The event was well attended by many parish Councils and local residents, particularly from the Catterick and Scotton area. Angie Dale the District Council Leader also attended the session.

This workshop was a follow-up event from one I attended last March.

The current Richmondshire Local Plan 2012-2028 is required by government to be updated every 5 years. The Local Plan sets out the needs of Richmondshire for sustainable development considering the economy, needs of society and the environment. It is based on the National Planning Policy Framework which is currently in a transitioning from EU Law.

So far, evidence has been collected from a variety of sources including:

- Employment Land Review (2018)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2019)
- Retail and Leisure Study (2019)
- Village Hall and Community Spaces study (2019)
- Local Green Spaces Designation (2019)
- Landscape Character Assessment & Sensitivity Study (2019)
- Open Spaces Study (2019)

Other studies yet to be finalised include:

- Strategic Transport Assessment
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Playing Pitch Strategy

RDC are only just finishing the first stage of gathering evidence- the next step is to present a Preferred Options consultation to local residents.

The Richmondshire Local Plan 2018-2035 will include:

1. Revised Strategic Principles and Core Policies
2. Site Allocations and Directions of Growth
3. Revised Development Limits
4. Catterick Garrison Master Plan

The Preferred Options Consultation will take place April/ May. Date TBC. The last round of consultation held in 2018 had a very poor response rate. 81 responses in total across all residents, business and PC's from the whole of Richmondshire.

The purpose of the evening's workshop is to promote the upcoming consultation. New consultation methods including a dedicated website with access to all supporting documents, Facebook/ Twitter Campaigns, Drop in sessions, and the ability to comment online via an Interactive Story Map.

I have asked that the website and online comments form provide details on more specific areas relevant to where people live. Eg within the current Local Plan a target of 105 houses was set for North Richmondshire- what that actually meant was 35 houses to be built in MT, 35 houses in Barton and 35 houses in Melsonby.

We can promote the consultation via the Village News, Village Shop, Facebook and notice boards. I can attend a drop in session, gather information and with the PC's permission, hold our own drop in session in the village hall with more specific details of exactly what this means for MT, collect responses from residents to enable us, as a PC to give an informed response.

RDC will provide me with hard copies and presentation documents but there will be some printing and refreshment costs.

I had the opportunity to ask about the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and was informed that RDC have been gathering information but are likely to come to the conclusion to stay with the current Section 106 system as they feel has more financial benefits.