

Statement in Support of a Neighbourhood Plan for Roecliffe and Westwick

The villages are served by the Roecliffe and Westwick Parish Council which has been in existence for 63 years. This Council is an active one and it meets four or five times each year to deal with the many and varied issues of the area. An annual meeting is also held when the various local bodies make an annual report of progress or problems. All meetings are open to the public.

The Parish Council is a qualifying body for producing a Neighbourhood Plan, and as such we consider that the Roecliffe & Westwick Parish Council is an appropriate forum for creating the Plan. In view of this, a working party has been nominated, chaired by Mr. Dave Siswick, who is the Parish Councillor with responsibility for Planning Matters. Other members of the working party include the school headmistress, three further Parish Councillors and the Clerk to the PC; several residents from the chosen area, including a representative from the Women's Institute, and a prominent local businessman. The members of this working party have many and varied skills, and have been drawn from a wide section of the community. This working party will report back to the Parish Council.

It is believed that this group is representative of the village population, and of those who will benefit from the creation of a NP.

The members of the working party have close links with many local organisations including the church, the school, business local and national, the village fund, the WI, and rambling organisations.

Liaison has taken place with the other adjoining councils of Bishop Monkton, Littlethorpe, Burton Leonard, Staveley, Markington, and Boroughbridge (Town Council).

The boundary chosen is the boundary of the two Parish Councils.

This area has been chosen because it encompasses all aspects of life in our community, agricultural and business, domestic and commercial, and village green and common land, school and more elderly residents, working and recreational land. There are roads, footpaths, and a long river bank.

It is recognised that the proposed NP will not stand alone, but will dovetail into those plans developed for adjoining areas, and of course those developed by Harrogate BC itself. Our plan is meant to complement others' plans, and not restrict them.

We have already received invaluable support from HBC, for which we offer thanks. It is our intention to maintain a close contact with their officers to ensure that the Plan represents the brightest framework for the future development of our community