

18th January 2015

Dear Sir,

Re: Response to initial Consultation on Plan for Selby District to 2027

Q 26 Is it necessary for Plan Selby to consider:

Q26a Providing a revised target for the period to 2027 for installed renewable energy?

A 26a NO.

It should be removed from SP17 entirely, as it is irrelevant. Targets in RSS dropped by government. We would like it to be replaced by a POLICY that is designed to maximise renewable/low carbon energy in such a way that it minimises the adverse impact on the district.

If we can generate another 1000 MW from biomass, we don't need 100 x 410 foot turbines with a capacity of only 250 MW. The futility of targets is shown by the fact that the core strategy renewable target (based on wind) for our area of 32 MW by 2021, has already been exceeded by over 1000MW due to Drax biomass, waste incineration plants and anaerobic digesters.

Before Christmas, the Prime Minister told the House of Commons that the Government no longer supported onshore wind farms and as evidence of this, subsidies would instead be directed to offshore wind farms. He said the onshore 10% target had already been met and our country should not be looking to build any more. Therefore SDC renewables policy needs to specifically exclude wind farms from our area, as onshore wind farms are no longer a part of national policy.

Solar and wind farms are not compatible with the vision for Selby District as set out in Core Strategy '...an outstanding environment....attractive, vibrant towns and villages...' They will have a devastating visual and audible impact in our area – so the renewables policy should clearly state they are not allowed in our area, as more effective alternatives are available.

Before you write the policy we think you should change advisers and engage a company that can give impartial advice on all forms of renewables, rather than rely on the one that is biased in favour of wind energy.

Q26d Identifying suitable areas for renewable and low-carbon schemes by technology?

A26d YES - Identify places for biomass, anaerobic and waste incineration etc. as these are the most effective renewable energy producers. Ban solar and wind entirely from the Selby District area.

Q26e Identifying separation thresholds? What might they be?

A26e Yes - Wind Turbines – minimum distance in SDP linked to size of turbine, to protect communities as turbines get bigger. 2km minimum distance for 145 m (to tip of blade at it's highest), distance increasing pro-rata if higher than 145m. Not more than one turbine at minimum distance. Minimum distances should be set for distances from homes, roads, pathways, railways, public areas and areas used for recreational activity. Distances should take into account: safety, amenities, visual impact, noise, and health issues. Must allow margin for flexibility as more information becomes available in future.

Yes – other renewables – there can be issues to do with smell (prevailing wind direction), traffic etc and a policy needs to be in place in the same way as for wind turbines.

Q26f Detailed development management?

A26f Yes – cumulative impact.

Q50a How should Hambleton grow and develop?

A50a 5.73 This write up is inadequate compared to that for Monk Fryston. Needs to be noted that there is a Primary School, 2 churches, central Village Hall, supermarket, car repairers, fully equipped play area for younger children up to age of 12 on Garth Drive, playing field with exercise equipment for adults, recreational facilities for older children and football pitch.

Q50a Any further housing development should be infill only – to the south of the school, between the playing field and Mill Lane and should have old people's bungalows.

Q50b What else needed that can be allocated a site? More superfast broadband boxes (although cable laid through the village, not enough boxes - connectors – so although we are not in a remote location, we cannot get it and receive no more than 0.5 mb speed in the evenings – cannot watch BBC I Player etc.) Doctors surgery/medical centre. Road widening and footpath building to the playing field (badly needed as very dangerous at present – blind corner and nowhere to walk). Car parking for village hall (grassed area opposite could be used – would stop people parking in front of the old people's home and blocking emergency access), more classrooms at the school. Recent village questionnaire also shows demand for indoor sports facilities and youth club in the village.

5.74 This is incorrect. Protected bypass line lifted some years ago and now has housing on it. (same with Monk Fryston).

Q9a Is a simple percentage growth across all designated service villages a fair and appropriate starting point for deciding the split between the DSV's?

A9a NO

I understand Linden Homes are in the process of building 149 houses at Thorpe Willoughby and planning permission has just been agreed for another 230 there. This is 379 homes in a Designated Service Village of approx 1,200 homes - an increase of 32% - and is equivalent to 37.9% of the housing allocation for Olympia Park which is in the Principal Town and has attracted funding to improve infrastructure and open up the site for employment investment. What infrastructure funding and employment investment will Thorpe Willoughby get? Local Service Centre Tadcaster has only been allocated 360 homes, less than this designated service village. Will they get any additional investment like Olympia Park? Given the number of homes that Thorpe Willoughby is getting, I would not expect them to take any additional housing quota. I think that the additional housing allocation should be split between the villages that have had little or no growth in the last 5 years and should include all the secondary villages like Wistow, not just the designated ones, and this would give people an opportunity to buy properties there.

Q6 Priority of Key issues:

T5 climate change and renewable energy (to get a policy in place ASAP and stop destruction of our countryside)

T4 infrastructure needs (to be completed before any houses built)

T6 protecting and enhancing the environment

T3 defining areas for promoting development and protecting key assets

T2 promoting prosperity

T1 providing homes (do we need them? there are too many unsold properties now – keep a record)

Q20 Development of Selby

The main street – Gowthorpe – is full of for sale/to let signs and has high and long term vacancy rates. It is not only Tadcaster that is suffering. This together with the many charity shops, means the shopping experience is less than satisfactory. To encourage 'normal' retailers I would like to see a reduction in the business rates, and to encourage shoppers to come back I would remove parking charges and restrictions. Selby seems to have gone to war against the car – the double yellow lines on Finkle Street and closure of the road in front of the Lonsborough effectively putting the surrounding banks ATMs out of bounds to motorists – with no regard for the fact the post office closures in surrounding villages made them an essential service to villagers; the traffic calming measures on Gowthorpe which removed at a stroke the on road parking for short stay shoppers who wanted to use the small retailers and who were able to get their shopping straight into their cars – who are now shunted to the supermarket car parks and never now go near the main street. Provision for the car has to be a part of improved accessibility planning, as Selby town serves a rural area where the car is an essential tool and there should be shoppers parking where the shops are. The owners of private car parks like the one outside Sainsbury's / Wilkos need to be encouraged to extend their free parking period from 2 hours to 3. This would give customers time to get away from the supermarkets after they have finished shopping and spend money in the town.

Q25 infrastructure requirements? For Hambleton:

- 1 Road widening and footpath to playing field – dangerous blind bend – nowhere to walk or for cars to pass. (accidents happen)
- 2 Car parking for village Hall – grassed area opposite could be suitable.(emergency access for residential home gets blocked at present)
- 3 Doctors surgery (bus service inadequate).
- 4 Full bus service ie after 6.00pm weekdays and all day Sunday or planning applications for housing only passed if every house has it's own garage.
- 5 Sufficient super fast broad band connections to enable every property in the village if they wish, to be connected. (insufficient connections at present).
- 6 Enlarged water treatment plant to accommodate all new development.
- 7 Enlarged primary school to accommodate all new pupils.

Kind Regards

Anne Whitham