

THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF PLACES

Parish Plan

The Parish of Crigglestone lies within the County of the West Riding of Yorkshire, it is a rural Parish and is part of the Rural Ward 18. One of the Key aims of the Parish Council set out in the Parish Plan is to protect the Green Belt and rural environment. The 'Crigglestone Parish Plan 2004' found that "the environment is clearly a major concern for local residents; with many people wanting to preserve the area, and feeling that no new developments should be built" (page 21).

Rural not Urban

The Parish Council **reject any linkage to, or inclusion within Wakefield City**. This is based on the following:

The villages/hamlets of Crigglestone, Durkar, Calder Grove, Painthorpe, Great Cliffe, Dennington, Chapelthorpe, Newmillerdam and Hall Green are virtually surrounded by the Green Belt.

There is no substantive physical link to Wakefield and in land use terms there is, and always has been, a distinct separation.

The River Calder provides a substantial visible demarcation that separates the large bulk of Wakefield from the Parish.

The primary physical journey from the villages to Wakefield is via the A636, which runs adjacent to and through the Green Belt. The journey both physical and mental is one of passage from a separate community to the City of Wakefield. You are travelling to Wakefield not part of it.

The swath of Green Belt provides open vistas across Pugneys to Sandal Castle, the sensations are those of separation. Whilst the immediate and unbroken linkage of Green Belt to the west continues right to the Pennines.

Historic Administration

Historic and current rural administration, the area is part of the Rural Ward 18 of the Wakefield MD Council; it was formerly administered by the Wakefield Rural District Council; the Crigglestone Parish Council is a Rural not an Urban Council.

Culture and Separate Identity

The culture and mind set of the residents, is one of protecting the non urban feel of the villages, some have their own football teams and Women's Institutes, Guides and Scouts. This separate village identity has been maintained, despite major developments.

The aim of clearly defining the area as a village or villages is to ensure, that land use policies support the following:

- That the area retains its distinct and separate identity from Wakefield and does not become more urbanised and that the Green Belt around and Open spaces within the area are protected.
- That the existing fragile sewerage and drainage infrastructure is not overburdened with more development.
- That there is a positive contribution to Air Quality Management by strictly limiting development (within the area), that exacerbates this problem by the generation of more traffic, which is the source of poor air quality.

Democracy

The democratic rights of residents and the Governments policies of devolution to communities is particularly important in enabling people to say how they wish their environments to be treated. Through the Ward Councillors, the Parish Council, Residents bodies and the Parish Plan, the message is clear "the environment is clearly a major concern for local residents; with many people wanting to preserve the area, and feeling that no new developments should be built" The LDF should reflect these views and the actual physical reality, that on every criteria, the communities that make up the Crigglestone Parish are not part of Wakefield City.

Village(s) or Service Centre

In terms of service facilities, each community has their own Public Houses, shops and in some cases Post Offices. The level of these services is low, indeed it is at the level of the village, not a Service Centre. Even taking account of the overall population size, Crigglestone is at the lowest end of the criteria for a Service Centre. If each of the communities is taken on population size and services, all of these rank as villages in their own right.

We have demonstrated that the communities and villages within the Parish are distinct and can be and are separated; in some cases by huge physical barriers such as the M1 Motorway. Certainly Calder Grove, Dennington, Great Cliff, Hall Green, Chapelthorpe and Newmillerdam are all clearly separate, and it is also clearly possible to delineate Durkar from Crigglestone and Crigglestone from Painthorpe.

Air Quality

One of the most critical issues in terms of Planning and Public Health, is that of air quality. In terms of planning, a real contribution can be made to actually tackling and trying to improve air quality, but this can only be achieved by accepting the designation of village(s), which will limit further development and thus actually be an effective land use planning policy for tackling the issue of air quality, by really limiting traffic generating developments, which will add to the problem. This is a real opportunity to actually plan to address an immensely serious issue. Designation that would allow extra development, are not addressing this issue, they are not only ignoring the problem but planning to make it worse - this cannot be right, when there is a real opportunity for planning to make a significant contribution in restricting traffic generating development. In view of the increases in traffic on the M1 and that from the Calder Business Park, together with the widening of the M1, it must be the role of the planning system to

prevent as far as possible, traffic generating development, particularly in Durkar, that is one of the most affected communities by air pollution. The designation of Village(s) status is a simply and accurate means of making such a positive contribution. It is an opportunity that should not be missed.

Preferred Options for LDF

That each of the Villages and Hamlets within the Parish of Crigglestone are treated and recognised as such.

That sub-groupings of Villages are formed e.g. Hall Green and Chapelthorpe; Dennington and Great Cliff; Crigglestone and Painthorpe.

That the communities/villages/hamlets of Durkar, Calder Grove, Crigglestone, Painthorpe, Dennington and Great Cliffe are generically collated as one village of 'Crigglestone'.

That one of the above designations be used through out the LDF and in particular to Policy CS1 and CS6 on pages 28 and 39-40.

A new paragraph 3.4.15 to cover this change be incorporated:

