

COMMUNITY LED PLAN
CONSULTATION 15/3/2014

WHAT THE PEOPLE OF STANBURY TOLD US:

Turnout

Turnout was fairly low – 6 residents attended plus councillors, including Councillor John Suckling who is also a resident of Stanbury. Those who did attend, however, were willing to give us their opinion of what they view as important in a Community Led Plan.

Road/Transport

Traffic, especially heavy duty traffic, continues to be an issue. Restrictions to the size of vehicle permitted through Stanbury were requested. 3 people highlighted the issues with very large articulated vehicles causing risk and having difficulty negotiation through the village, and 2 residents stated they felt heavy traffic has a negative effect on tourism in the area.

Restrictions on parking were suggested by 2 residents who expressed concern at access being blocked for emergency vehicles.

Broadband/Fibre Optic Cabling/Mobile Networks

3 people highlighted slow broadband, poor mobile signals and lack of fibre optic cabling work in the area as an issue. This impacts those who are self-employed and working from home, residents and other businesses in the village.

Housing/Development

4 people told us that they valued the village's green spaces and did not want any significant new developments. Concerns was especially remarked on regarding the sort of development that had occurred across the parish of the standard 'square box' stone build houses which were described as 'characterless' and even 'ugly'. 1 resident stated that brown field sites existed in Keighley and further afield and should be built on first, being nearer facilities like shops and public transport than Stanbury, and that they would prefer no more 'new builds' of the type already mentioned. 2

other residents stated that ecologically friendly 0 or -0 carbon homes with low visual impact on the area should be encouraged, where building was necessary.

There are a number of empty buildings in Stanbury which were highlighted by 2 residents, who would like to see these refurbished and let or sold before new building was permitted. 2 residents stated that the infrastructure (schools etc) was not in place to accommodate any significant development. Although there is no major development planned for the Stanbury area 3 residents expressed concern that a large development would suddenly be 'dropped' on them by a developer/Bradford Council.

Economy/Tourism

1 resident highlighted that there was no overnight accommodation in Stanbury. The likelihood of accommodation being available in the nearby Pondon Mill was welcomed. 1 resident stated that they would like to see tourist services developed in the area, such as Bed and Breakfast accommodation, and encouragement for visitors.

The proposed development of an outdoor activities centre and accommodation, with the prospect of employment for local residents, was welcomed, and seen as an important economic development for Stanbury.

Repair/Retention of Amenities

2 residents highlight the fact that the infrastructure of Stanbury was now very old, and that roads, etc., continued to be in poor repair. 1 resident highlighted service cuts and the impact this had had on the wider area, and stated that Stanbury seemed to be a 'low priority' as far as maintenance issues were concerned, and asked how what amenities there were could be improved/maintained within the current BMDC budget constraints.

Emergency Response Times

Previous poor response times by police were highlighted by 2 residents, 1 having had to wait nearly a week before they had a visit from a police officer regarding an act of vandalism, with no further information or action. They acknowledged that they had not had contact with the police in the last two years, but expressed a concern, with current cutbacks, that they would be left without any police cover. Concern was expressed about the response to outlying properties.

Ambulance response times were highlighted by 1 resident, and a question was raised regarding the current status of the First Responders service, which had served Stanbury previously. A swift and appropriate response time by emergency services, be it fire, police or ambulance, was seen as vital, and something 2 residents stated they were concerned about losing.

Summary

Of the 10 priority issues we had suggested at the beginning of the consultation, residents of Stanbury broadly agreed with all of them, but the above issues are of particular concern to this area of the parish. There are few amenities in Stanbury, and residents tend to go into Haworth or further afield for shopping, and to use other services such as the Medical Centre or Toddler Groups, and other groups which function from West Lane Baptist Church or the Community Centre. This seems to be generally accepted, but general concern was expressed about future budget cuts and the impact this would have on any of the facilities/services currently used by residents in the community either in Stanbury or Haworth.