

Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan-Steering Group Key Issues Workshop

18th September 2017

OUTCOMES

Sign off and agreed collective ownership of the following Topic Group Key Issues:

HOUSING AND DESIGN STATEMENT

1. Establish the housing needs of Blackrod to help determine future developments and the needs of the community.
2. Ensure any growth in housing comes with compatible levels of improvement in local infrastructure, roads, other rights of way and community services & facilities (Schools, Health & Medical facilities etc).
3. Ensure new housing and existing neighbourhood developments are configured with quality construction, accessibility and safety in mind.
4. Ensure new housing developments and re-development of existing housing are of designs and materials compatible with the existing street scene, townscape and character of the town and its surrounds.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Bus Services – Seek better provision and frequency of Bus Services serving Blackrod to neighbouring conurbations and hospitals, medical services, etc.
2. Train Services – Seek increased frequency of rail services to Blackrod; greater park'n'ride facilities for residents; Seek the introduction of cycle route(s) and the improvement of pedestrian routes to the railway station from the Village.
3. Parking Strategy – Investigate and promote the option of adapting the wide pavement areas (particularly along the main route through the Village) to provide on-street resident parking. Specify minimum parking provision standards for the various types of development. (Existing developments where extended/modified (by certain %age floor area) also to comply with these standards?). Include school drop off areas.
4. Design Standards – Overall highway infrastructure design associated with new development shall comply with best practice (e.g. BfL12; ex GMC Black Book; ***, ***,)

5. Traffic Calming- Seek the introduction of traffic calming along the main routes through the Village through a combination of bay parking, "intrusive" landscaping; and traffic direction priority signing.
6. 7.5t HGV Weight Restriction – Seek the introduction of 7.5t weight restriction of HGV's (apart from access) along the main routes through the Village – Scott Lane end to Hill Lane and Chorley Brow
7. Disability Access – undertake survey of main routes within the Village in respect to wheelchair/pram/pushchair users and the visually impaired; identify the issues; and implement/seek remedial measures.
8. Scott Lane/Manchester Rd Junction – Seek the introduction of traffic lights/mini roundabout at Scott Lane/Manchester Rd Junction together with general remodelling of the junction
9. A6/Blackrod Bypass Cycleway – Seek the introduction of shared use pedestrian/off-carriageway cycleway along the A6/Blackrod Bypass
10. Vehicle Charging Points – Ensure all future development incorporates vehicle charging points. Seek to incorporate similar facilities in appropriate locations within the Village carpark areas.

ASPIRATIONAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

TRANSPORT

1. Block of Shops in Greenhalgh's /Blackrod Motor Spares – Seek the re-location of the footway to immediately in front of the shops, in order to remove the conflict between pedestrians and reversing cars. (Land ownership issue?).
2. Car parking within Village – Identify all existing public car parking areas within the Village and (where appropriate) ensure their safeguard.
3. Footpaths/Bridleways – Identify all public footpaths/bridleways within the BNDP area and where appropriate identify any footpaths/bridleways in use or missing from the listing.
4. New footpaths/cycleways – ensure that all new development incorporates dedicated footway/cycleway connectivity to the Village centre
5. New Development Street Scene – Ensure that the street scene is softened through landscaping, etc with respect to on street car parking.(BfL12,etc) (Existing developments where extended/modified (by certain %age floor area?) to also comply with these standards?)
6. Cycle Storage – Ensure that all new development incorporates secure undercover cycle storage at a specified rate/bedroom
7. Existing Ginnels – Improve existing ginnels to make more user- friendly/attractive.

8. Village Circular Path/cycleway – Investigate the option/feasibility of creating a circular Way around the Village for pedestrians/horses/cycles.

INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Broadband Connectivity – All new development to incorporate super broadband cabling to each dwelling, etc (Is this already a design requirement?).
2. Renewable Energy – All new development to incorporate solar energy capture sympathetically built within roof construction (min specified level related to individual development).
3. Vehicle Charging Facilities – (Ref Key Issue 10 Transportation above).

PUBLIC REALM & OPEN SPACES

1. Promote and support the provision of safe and fit for purpose pathways, pavements, public rights of way and general access routes, throughout the Town and Parish, for all pedestrians and disabled users where appropriate.
2. Preserve our Open Spaces, expand and protect our Green Spaces for the benefit, use and enjoyment of all ages.
3. Improve and expand the facilities & places for leisure, health & fitness activities for children, youth and adults.
4. Improve and maintain the character and quality of the urban/rural landscape and townscape environment.

ASPIRATIONAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Consider a Conservation Area designation for Arley/Blackrod bottoms area currently classed as a site of biological interest.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. Work with Bolton Council to ensure that all appropriate available monies, including Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), are ring fenced to Blackrod, through a clear and transparent process, so that community facilities and infrastructure can be improved in line with future developments.
2. Work with Bolton Council Schools' Services to ensure there are sufficient school places for all Blackrod children, (now and in line with any future additional housing development).
3. Support the development of the Bolton Locality Plan in establishing a sustainable health and care system by 2021. Ensure the needs of all Blackrod residents are understood and taken into account, so that future developments meet these needs, and include any additional needs arising from future housing development.
4. Support the development of the community activities, including the churches, community centre, voluntary sector, playing fields and youth club to provide opportunities for leisure for all ages.
9. Work with Bolton Metro Libraries and Leisure Services to sustain and improve library facilities in Blackrod.
10. Work with Bolton Metro Bins and Environmental Health Services to provide recycling facilities in Blackrod.
7. Investigate means of providing public access to toilet facilities in Blackrod.
11. Work with Greater Manchester Police to look at improving policing in Blackrod.

ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT & RETAIL CENTRE

1. Ensure, as far as practical, the retention of the existing "core" retail facilities within the Village
2. Resist change of use of existing retail facilities which would result in the loss of amenity to the Village
3. Make it easier to shop in Blackrod by ensuring adequate coverage across the length of the village of appropriate retail facilities that meet the needs of the residents and that these are served by convenient & adequate parking facilities.

4. Encourage more local shops and start-up businesses to be established in Blackrod to meet the increasing demands of a growing community.
5. Support the provision of farmers/craft market type shops/fairs in and around Blackrod.
6. Identify, review and seek to protect, as appropriate, all existing employment areas (including local “pockets”)
7. Support the development of a more modern and relevant Business Park to meet the demands of 21st century business opportunities in the current Scot Lane Industrial Estate location.

ASPIRATIONAL ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Investigate the option for a business rate exemption period to encourage start-up businesses.
2. Particular concerns from the feedback from the community is the potential loss of the post office, banks/ATM, public houses (therefore, how can we introduce measures to support/encourage their continuing patronage).
3. Seek the improvement of the appearance of the Blackhorse shopping unit.
4. Increased higher value development will help the survival of local businesses.

BUILT HERITAGE

1. Note all existing Grade II Listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.
2. Identify other buildings/structures that may meet the criteria for Grade II Listing and work with English Heritage to secure appropriate Listing.
3. Identify other buildings/structures of local historical interest/importance to include in a Local List to become part of the Neighbourhood Plan.
4. Identify any “Areas of Special Character” which are considered to be of distinctive character or quality, and therefore worthy of local protection. These areas do not have the same status or level of protection as Conservation Areas, but designation helps identify and celebrate an area's special character and seeks to preserve and enhance it.