



BLACKROD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2033 CONSULTATION STATEMENT – PART ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

This consultation statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 in respect of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan. The legal basis of this statement is provided by Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulation which requires that a consultation statement should:

- (a) Contain details of the persons and bodies that were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- (b) Explain how they were consulted.
- (c) Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted, and
- (d) Describe how those issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan.

This Part One Consultation Statement covers the period from inception and early engagement through to Draft Plan compilation but prior to the commencement of Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation and circulation to consultees and the wider community.

2. EARLY CONSULTATION

The commitment to a neighbourhood development plan was first suggested to Blackrod Town Council in early 2016, although it had been muted earlier by residents who were not happy with certain housing developments, infrastructure issues and the loss of some older buildings that they considered part of the Heritage of the Parish.

The decision to proceed with a neighbourhood plan was confirmed at the April 2016 meeting of Blackrod Town Council and it was agreed that a steering group should be formed to take the project forward. This was publicised in the local press and Council Newsletter and is shown in [Appendix 1](#).

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION

It was also decided at the April 2016 meeting of Blackrod Town Council that the most appropriate area of coverage for the Neighbourhood Development Plan would be the Parish of Blackrod up to its boundaries.

The Local Authority (Bolton Council) published the area application as required by regulations and no adverse comments were received. The Designated Area Map was approved on 11th July 2016 and is shown in [Appendix 2](#). The Statutory Consultees, who responded and their comments, are shown in [Appendix 3](#).

4. CONSULTATION STRATEGY

It was decided in the early stages that a format and methodology should be established for consulting with the various consultees and statutory bodies. This Strategy will help direct the first stages of consultation with residents, the wider community and other relevant bodies. This Consultation Strategy can be found on our website at www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

5. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Timeline of Events

- 4th April 2016 - Blackrod Town Council agreed to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and appointed a Chairman to establish a Steering Group to undertake the work.
- 6th April 2016 - The Neighbourhood Plan was presented as an ongoing Agenda item at the monthly meeting of Blackrod Community group. The process was explained together with the aims and reasoning behind the Plan.
- 7th April 2016 - Confirmation was sent to Bolton Council, the Local Authority, that Blackrod Town Council was leading the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan covering the area of the parish. A parish map with clearly defined boundaries was included with the letter.
- 12th April 2016 - Bolton Council confirmed receipt of the letter.
- 12th April 2016 - Separate meetings were held with various residents of the town who had expressed an interest in being involved with the Plan.
- 15th April 2016 - Bolton Council confirmed process of Designation and consultation.
- 25th April – 29th April 2016 - Awareness raising discussions were held with the Local Doctors surgery, Schools Liaison Officer and information was placed in the local newspaper (Living in BL, April edition) and in the Town Council newsletter. See [Appendix 1](#).
- 16th May 2016 - Bolton Council confirmed their approval to publicise the Designated Area application and commence the nominal 6 weeks consultation period. This was published on their website with a closing date for comments of 20th June 2016.
- 23rd May 2016 - Made contacts with My Community and Locality for grant application and use of online resources.
- 24th May 2016 - Continued awareness raising activities through a piece in the local newspaper (The Advertiser, 24th May edition). See [Appendix 1](#).
- 26th May 2016 - Held separate awareness raising meetings with local managers/ owners of the two Care Homes of the town as well as one of the day care centres.
- 27th May 2016 - Meetings held with a number of residents who had expressed interest in being on the Steering Group.
- 1st June – 3rd June 2016 - Continued awareness raising meetings held with Care Home managers and Day Care Centre owners. And ongoing discussions with Consultants who had been identified to assist with processes of the Plan.
- 4th June – 15th June 2016 - Individual meetings held with a number of residents who had expressed interest in being involved on the Steering group.
- 12th June 2016 - Bolton Council's 6 weeks consultation period on the Designation Area complete with no objections received. [Appendix 3](#) shows the Statutory Consultees and responses.
- 24th June 2016 - Meeting held with Bolton Council Planning Strategy team regards general information and advice to complete grant application.
- 11th July 2016 - Confirmation received today of Bolton Councils approval of the Blackrod Designated Area.
- 14th July 2016 - Notification received of successful grant application.
- 26th July 2016 - Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct compiled for the Steering Group.
- 8th August 2016 - Held first meeting of the Steering Group. Chair confirmed and Treasurer appointed. All members were from the Community of Blackrod plus ex officio member from Bolton Council Strategic Planning office.

- 19th August 2016 - Website established and meeting minutes posted together with details of the Plan, the Steering group and how to make contact etc.
- 5th September 2016 - First one day workshop with full Steering Group and the appointed Consultants. SWOT analysis exercise.
- 7th September 2016 - Created a Flyer for Community awareness and involvement. Updated Community group at their monthly meeting and provided the flyer detail to St. Katharines Church for inclusion in their monthly magazine. The Flyer is shown in [Appendix 4](#).
- 14th September 2016 - Drafted Duty of Support letter and sent to Bolton Council outlining scope of assistance.
- 19th – 22nd September 2016 - Consultants provided Outcomes document from the Workshop as well as a Vision & Objectives document and Draft Consultation Strategy.
- 27th September 2016 - Website went live today; www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk and includes a Twitter link.
- 29th September – 7th October 2016 - Community engagement Flyer delivered to all Blackrod residents. Also placed on all notice boards in parish area and the Library. See [Appendix 4](#).
- 6th October 2016 - Monthly Steering group meeting. Appointed Vice- Chair and interim secretary.
- 10th October – 13th October 2016 - Application and approval received for Ordnance Survey Mapping License.
- 18th October 2016 - Requested assistance from Bolton Libraries services for information on local employers and business addresses.
- 19th October 2016 - Introduced the Plan, with the recent community engagement flyer, to the local Blackrod Youth Council and requested their participation in the process.
- 20th October 2016 - Steering Group members attended Blackrod primary school consultation event to ascertain the future capacity building and development plans for the school.
- 23rd October 2016 -Established nine Topic groups made up of Steering Group members and other members from the Community. See [Appendix 5](#).
- 24th October 2016 - A number of draft profile documents produced by the consultants for review by the Steering group.
- 17th November 2016 - Informed the Blackrod History Group of the Plan and the Built Heritage topic which they agreed to provide their support for in determining the buildings of heritage value to the parish.
- 21st November 2016 - Meeting of the Community Services/Facilities Topic group to scope out the requirement and issues.
- 22nd November 2016 - Initial commission with Consultants completed with various plans and maps being provided.
- 24th November 2016 - Meeting of the Housing Topic group with Bolton Council Strategic Planning team to discuss and scope the relevant areas and issues.
- 29th November 2016 - Meeting with Head teacher of Blackrod Church School with members of the Steering group to discuss the Plan and issues relevant to the school.
- 30th November 2016 - Meeting with Blackrod Youth council where the Neighbourhood Plan is now an agenda item for future meetings.
- 5th December 2016 - Heritage Topic group sought advice from Historic England on Grade II listed status and criteria.
- 9th December 2016 - Draft letter compiled for informing employers and businesses in Blackrod about the Plan. See [Appendix 6](#).
- 13th December 2016 - Further discussions with Bolton Council Strategic Planning team regarding Housing Needs Assessment data for Blackrod.
- 15th December 2016 - Display erected in the Library foyer for ongoing public awareness, updates and progress of the Plan. See [Appendix 7](#).

- 4th January 2017 - Discussions with Bolton Council Strategic Planning team and their consultants regarding Housing Needs Assessment for Blackrod.
- 10th January 2017 - Obtained latest Housing Needs Assessment data, dated 2016, from Bolton Council. This provided data for Blackrod together with Horwich and Horwich North East.
- 12th January 2017 - Discussed options with Bolton Council's Consultants for more appropriate Housing Needs Assessment for Blackrod as previous report contained minimal data.
- 13th January 2017 - From discussions with the Design Council and Design for Homes the Building for Life 12 (BFL12) standard was reviewed by the Housing and Design Topic group as well as all members of the Steering group and it was agreed to be adopted within the Plan.
- 16th January 2017 - Consultation Strategy group meeting discussed general communications and the arrangements for holding a Public Meeting at the end of February to update Blackrod residents and businesses on the Plan. Suitable Flyer designed with additional questionnaire feedback form as shown in [Appendix 8](#).
- 18th January 2017 - Draft letter of introduction produced from Blackrod Town Council for Steering group members who visit local businesses.
- 19th January 2017 - Full page notice of the Public Meeting arranged for inclusion in the Church magazine.
- 23rd January – 26th January 2017 - Two residents confirmed as new replacement members of the Steering group.
- 1st February 2017 - Ongoing discussion with Historic England regarding criteria for assessing Grade II and other listed buildings.
- 2nd February 2017 - Advert placed in local newspaper (Living in BL) regarding the Public meeting set for the 28th February 2017.
- 7th February 2017 - Meeting with Bolton at Home to discuss housing needs of Blackrod.
- 8th February 2017 - Meeting with head teacher of Blackrod Primary School to discuss the Plan.
- 8th February 2017 - Public meeting flyer included in the schools' Newsletter sent to all Blackrod schools children's parents.
- 17th February 2017 - Activated a Facebook page linked to the website:- <https://www.facebook.com/blackrodneighbourhoodplan/>
- 18th February – 21st February 2017 - All business letters posted and some hand delivered regarding the Plan and the Public meeting. Farmers, landowners and community services letters hand delivered.
- 28th February 2017 - First Public Meeting for Blackrod residents and businesses to learn more about the Plan. Questions and Answers session content noted for circulating on website and Facebook page as well as on the Library information display. Sample photographs are shown in [Appendix 9](#).
- 2nd March 2017 - Meeting held with Rivington & Blackrod High School to discuss potential for a focus group of Blackrod resident school children with the aim of establishing what their preferences are for Community Facilities. Also discussed with Head of Youth Services in Bolton Council.
- 6th March 2017 - Meeting of Blackrod Town Council approved the commissioning of a Housing Needs Assessment for Blackrod.
- 8th March 2017 - Meeting with outreach staff regarding the Rivington and Blackrod High School focus group and aims.
- 10th March 2017 - Bolton CCG made contact to rearrange meeting to discuss the GP & surgery provision in Blackrod.
- 15th March -16th March 2017 - Discussions held with Housing Needs Assessment Consultant and Envision Consultancy on the next phase of support for the Steering group.
- 18th March 2017 - Q&A document prepared from the Public Meeting and circulated via the website, Facebook and mounted on the display in the Library foyer for public information.

- 23rd March 2017 - Topic group for Natural Environment, Public Realm and Open Spaces held today.
- 23rd March 2017 - Visit to Farmer and Landowner at Yates farm to discuss the Plan. This Landowner also received the letter delivered in February.
- 23rd March – 28th March 2017 - reviewed and edited latest proposal received for the Housing Needs Assessment & Survey.
- 5th April 2017 - Meeting with project Consultants to review progress and next steps.
- 7th April 2017 - Update received from Bolton Youth Services on progress of the focus group work with High School pupils.
- 10th April 2017 - Confirmation received from Bolton Highways Department regarding number of old milestones located in the Parish as requested by Heritage Topic Group.
- 24th April - from 3rd April 2017 - Ongoing discussions with Bolton Corporate Information / Information Governance team regarding Data Protection requirements related to Housing Survey Questionnaire.
- 27th April 2017 - Community Facilities & Services Topic group attend meeting with Dr Bhatiani Director of Bolton BCCG regarding Primary Care provision for Blackrod residents going forward.
- 28th April 2017 - Meeting of Built Heritage Topic Group to discuss requirements & criteria for Local List of important buildings.
- 5th May 2017 - Arrangements made to have a stall about the Neighbourhood Plan at the Scarecrow weekend, a two day festival with activities throughout the village attracting lots of local people.
- 8th May 2017 - Meeting with Bolton Councils solicitor to discuss matters of Data Protection for the Household Survey and Built Heritage Nominations Form of important buildings.
- 10th May 2017 - Consultation Flyer/information sheet about Heritage buildings, Open Spaces and forward notice of the Housing Needs Survey Questionnaire circulated to all Parish Notice Boards, Display in Library foyer, Church magazine, website and Facebook. See [Appendix 10](#).
- 30th May 2017 - Consultation Flyer/information sheet circulated to village community groups – History Group and Community Group.
- 2nd June 2017 - Emails and letters, as appropriate, were sent to all residents involved in prior communications and meetings updating them on progress and on the Heritage buildings list and Opens Spaces review. Sample draft letter is shown in [Appendix 11](#).
- 7th June 2017 - Meeting with Bolton Youth Services & Outreach Manager to discuss the youth focus group work and outreach engagement conducted over April & May.
- 13th June 2017 - Information update including pre-notice of the upcoming Housing Survey included in Church magazine. See [Appendix 12](#).
- 15th June 2017 - Chase up letter sent to Bolton CCG for response on issues discussed in April.
- 16th – 20th June 2017 - Housing Needs Assessment for Blackrod - Agreed the following with ARC4 consultants; Contract Proposal, Survey Questionnaire detail, Survey covering letter, Data Processing Agreement. Planned distribution to Blackrod households over first week in July.
- 4th – 7th July 2017 - Steering Group members and other volunteers delivered the Survey Questionnaire to over 2212 households.
Note placed on Neighbourhood Plan website about the importance of completing the Survey. Also posted note on Facebook page and other village group pages as well as Issuing a Flyer to both Primary Schools for inclusion in their parents' newsletter. Large note placed on the Library foyer Neighbourhood Plan display.
- 12th July 2017 - Heritage Topic group meeting including volunteers held to discuss the ongoing list of potential buildings important to the Heritage of Blackrod. Introductory letter compiled and process agreed.

- 12th July 2017 - Reply received from Bolton CCG outlining their plans for strategic development of Primary Care provision around Bolton.
- 17th July 2017 - Initial contact made with Envision consultant regarding next phase of support.
- 24th July 2017 - Proposal received from Envision consultants for next phase of support.
- 28th – 29th July 2017 - Submitted final phase Grant application to Locality.
- 7th August 2017 - Blackrod Council agreed minor overspend on the budget set aside for the Housing Needs Assessment survey.
- 10th August 2017 - Final Survey responses received from residents equating to a 23% return rate.
- 23rd August 2017 - Received confirmation from Locality of approval of our grant application.
- 1st – 31st August 2017 - Steering group and Topic group members and volunteers visiting a number of houses and other buildings that are considered to have importance to the Built Heritage of Blackrod.
- 7th September 2017 - Steering group provided assistance to a PhD student from Liverpool University to undertake a survey of Group members on Neighbourhood Planning.
- 18th September 2017 – Workshop meeting of the Steering group to agree and finalise the Key Issues arising from the Topic Group work. Outcomes from the meeting placed on the website and on Library display boards. Links to documents circulated to residents via Facebook page and emails where appropriate.
- 18th September 2017 – Interim report received from ARC4 Consultants on the Housing Needs Assessment for Steering Group review in the Workshop.
- 25th September 2017 – Members of Bolton CCG team presented to the Steering Group their strategy for Primary Health Care in Blackrod over the next 5 years, as detailed in the Bolton Locality Plan.
- 1st October 2017 – Detailed draft report received from ARC4 consultants for the Housing Needs Assessment for Blackrod. Distributed to all Steering Group members for comment and discussed at the monthly group meeting on 5th October.
- 17th October 2017 – All comments from the Steering Group on the draft report from ARC4 Housing Needs Assessment were compiled onto one document and returned to ARC4 for further discussion and amendment of the draft report.
- 1st November 2017 – Steering group meeting with ARC4 consultant to discuss and agree on the final Housing Needs Assessment report.
- 17th November 2017 – Initial scope of the Policy Analysis document by Bolton Planning indicates there are no strategic conflicts.
- 27th November 2017 – Amended draft HNA and Executive Summary received from ARC4 including information received from Bolton regarding affordable/social housing letting.
- 4th December 2017 – Draft Policy documents for Built Heritage checked against NPPF and Historic England guidelines.
- 6th December 2017 – Draft Consultation Statement sent to Consultants for comment.
- 11th December 2017 – Basic conditions template received from Consultants.
- 11th January 2018 – HNA signed off with ARC4.
- 20th January 2018 – Received final main HNA report and Executive Summary.
- 23rd January 2018 – Discussion with Groundwork regarding Grant expenditure and progress.
- 16th February 2018 – Advice and guidance received from Bolton Strategic Planning regards definitions of Assets of Community Value.
- 1st March 2018 – Steering group met with Bolton Social Care team to discuss the implications of the Locality Plan on local primary Health & Social Care and how this could impact on the ageing population issues raised in the HNA.

- 27th March 2018 – Advice and guidance provided by Bolton Tree and Woodlands Manager on Natural Environment Policy for Trees and Hedgerows.
- 11th April 2018 – Meeting held with Bolton's Principal Officer for Strategic Housing regarding extra care hubs and housing provision for the elderly.
- 20th April 2018 – Completed end of grant report for Locality/Groundwork.
- 10th – 23rd May 2018 – Regular discussions with Bolton regarding draft Housing Policies.
- 23rd May 2018 – Meeting with Bolton Strategic planning to discuss requirements of SEA screening.
- 5th June 2018 – Discussions with Bolton Strategic Planning regarding suitability of 3 sites for housing development.
- 25th June 2018 – Members of the Steering Group visited Cottam Meadows in Preston to view housing development site built to BFL12 standards.
- 16th July 2018 – Information requested from Bolton at Home regarding their Lettings Policy.
- 24th July 2018 – SEA screening out to consultation with statutory consultees.
- 24th July 2018 – Meeting held with Manager of Bolton at Home to discuss how weighting works on local preferences.
- 27th July 2018 – Clarification document received from Housing Options and Advice Services Group Manager, Bolton on Local Lettings Policy.
- 20th August 2018 – Received feedback from Bolton at Home on our Local Occupancy Policy H4.
- 9th – 17th September 2018 – Feedback and amendments of various draft Policies with Bolton.
- 19th September 2018 – Received confirmation that our application for Grade II listing of our War Memorial has been successful.
- 17th October 2018 – Meeting with Bolton regarding Lifestyle Living for the Over 55's.
- 31st October 2018 – Final confirmation received from Bolton that all the consultees have responded to the SEA screening and that a SEA would not be required.
- 31st October 2018 – The first draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was completed today.
- 5th November 2018 – First draft Neighbourhood Development Plan issued to Blackrod Town Council today.
- 12th November 2018 – Blackrod Town Council provided feedback on the draft Plan.
- 14th November 2018 – Steering Group Consultation team met to discuss requirements of Regulation 14, Community engagement.
- 15th November 2018 - Draft Plan amended in line with feedback from Council and issued to consultants for final review prior to preparation for draft Plan pre-submission 6 week consultation with the Community.
- 3rd December 2018 – Blackrod Town Council ratified their approval of the draft neighbourhood Plan and confirmation to proceed to next stage Regulation 14 per-submission Consultation.

It should be noted that in addition to the above specific events there have been a number of regular meetings, usually monthly, held by the Steering Group to discuss, agree, and advance the Plan. These regular meetings were also supported with numerous Topic Group meetings in order to discuss, agree, and determine the final list of Key Issues from which the Policies have been established. Also, monthly updates were provided to Blackrod Town Council on progress as well as to a number of separate community groups operating within the Parish. These meetings were also supported by communications and meetings with the Consultants procured to assist us with the Neighbourhood Plan process.

6. CONSULTEES AND RESPONSES

In addition to the Statutory Consultees, listed in [Appendix 3](#), the residents and businesses of Blackrod were also consulted and the respondents with their summary comments are shown in [Appendix 13](#).

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Appendix 2	Approved Designated Area Map.
Appendix 3	Statutory Consultees and responses
Appendix 4	Community Awareness Raising Flyer
Appendix 5	Topic Groups with Steering Group members and volunteers from residents
Appendix 6	Copy of draft letter sent to all business employers in Blackrod
Appendix 7	Sample photographs of the public Library Display about the Plan and progress
Appendix 8	Flyer of Public meeting held on 28 th February 2017 with Form for residents' feedback.
Appendix 9	Sample photographs of 28th February 2017 Public meeting.
Appendix 10	Flyer on Heritage, Open Space and upcoming Housing Survey
Appendix 11	Copy of draft letter sent to residents
Appendix 12	Flyer in Church magazine on Plan progress and upcoming Housing Survey
Appendix 13	List of Respondents and Summary of comments

Strategic plan for Blackrod Parish

Following much discussion in their April meeting, Blackrod Town Councillors eventually agreed to support the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish.

This strategically important document will set out the vision and objectives of the Community for the next 15 years and will cover Housing Development, Infrastructure, Environment, Heritage and other areas determined by the residents and broader community of Blackrod. Councillor Alan Bury (Snr) stated, "It's taken some time to reach this point as much research and discussion was required but I am very happy that we now have an opportunity to influence what is built in Blackrod and have the ability to develop the village and its surroundings in a positive way.

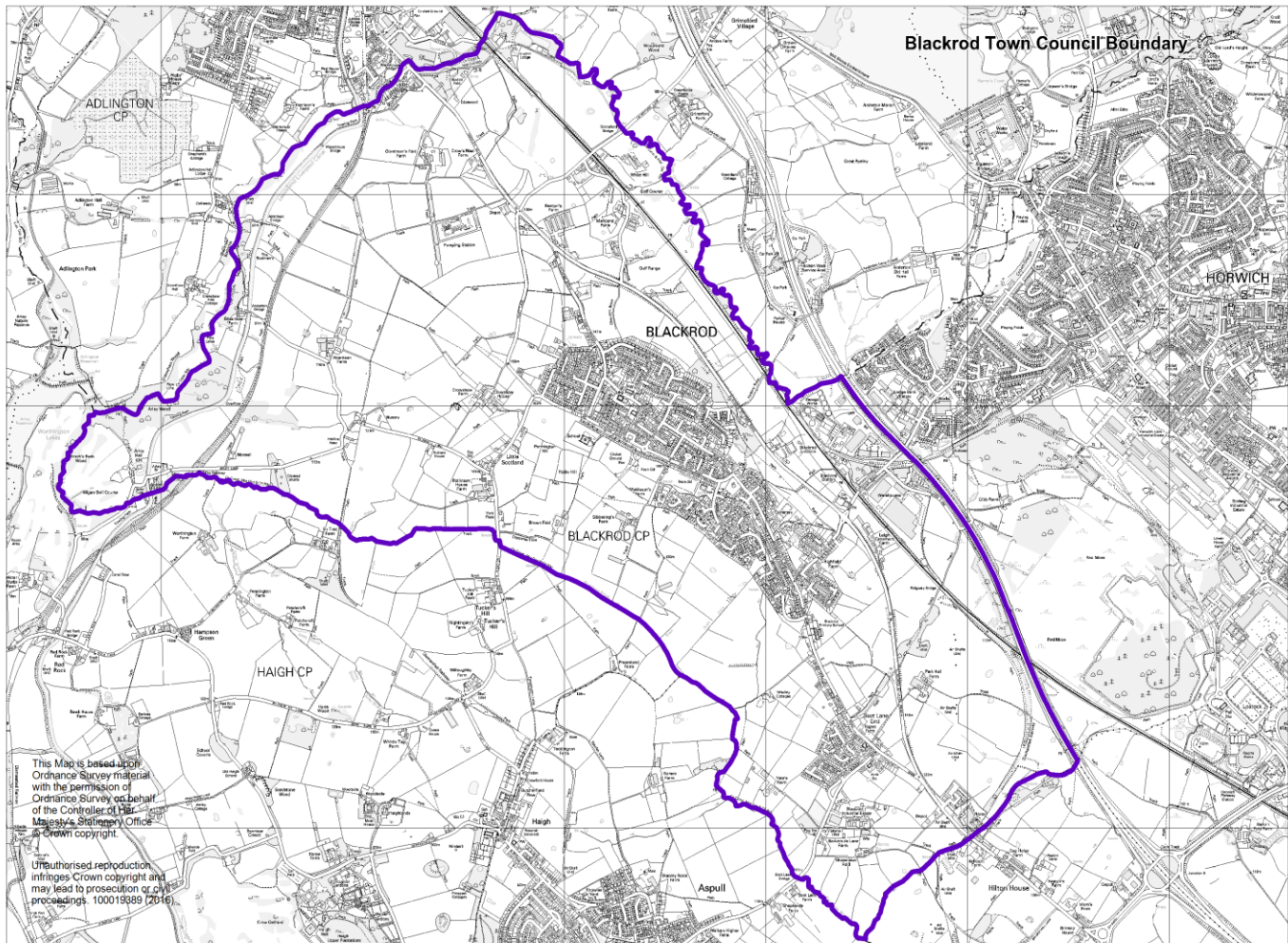
This is a Plan for the Community of Blackrod, as they will determine its content so I am looking forward to working with residents, groups, business and all interested

parties alike in its creation". Councillor Bury will now lead a project steering group tasked with compiling the Plan which is expected to take around two years to complete.

Blackrod residents or interested parties wishing to be involved in should contact Blackrod Town Clerk 01204 696632 or email clerk@blackrodtowncouncil.org.uk



APPENDIX 2



APPROVED DESIGNATED AREA MAP

APPENDIX 3

Organisation/CompanyName	Address1
Adlington Town Council Chorley Council	6 Coniston Avenue, Adlington, Chorley. PR6 9HQ Planning Policy, Civil Offices, Union Street, Chorley. PR7 1AL
Haigh Parish Council	7 Hampson Green, Haigh, Wigan. WN2 1LY
Wigan Council	Civic Buildings, New Market Street, Wigan WN1 1RP Room 1 Horwich Resource Centre, Beaumont Road, Horwich, Bolton. BL6 7BG
Horwich Town Council	Market Street, Westhoughton, Bolton. BL5 3AW
Westhoughton Town Hall	Strategic Planning and Transport, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston. PR1 OLD
Lancashire County Council	Developer Services & Planning, Grasmere House, Lingley Mere Business Park, Lingley Green Avenue, Warrington. WA53LP
United Utilities Water plc	
Historic England North West Region	3rd floor Canada House, 3 Chepstow Street, Manchester. M1 5FW
Highways England	Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester. M1 2WD
Network Rail (Minerals and Waste Team)	Room 55 - Floor 7, Wyvern House, Railway Terrace, Derby. DE1 2RU
Clinical Commissioning Group	St Peters House, Silverwell Street, Bolton. BL1 1PP
Natural England	3rd Floor, Bridgewater House, Whitworth Street, Manchester. M1 6LT
Entec on b/h of National Grid	Gables House, Kenilworth Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 6JX
The Coal Authority	200 Lichfield Lane, Berry Hill, Mansfield. NG18 4RG
Homes and Community Agency	Arpley House, 110 Birchwood Boulevard, Warrington. WA3 7QH
Knight Frank	Emily.Roberts@knightfrank.com
SSA Planning	PO Box 10201, Nottingham, NG9 9FZ

Representation from	Summary of Comment
Natural England	No comment on the boundary of the area, but identifies a range of information for use in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan
Historic England	No comment on the boundary of the area, but identifies a range of information for use in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan
Network Rail	No comment on the boundary of the area, but would like to be kept informed as the plan is developed.
Coal Authority	No specific comment, but identifies that Blackrod is an area where there has been past coal mining activity
Knight Frank	Wish to be kept informed as the Plan progresses
Horwich Town Council	Acknowledge the boundary and express the view that this is a positive development



BLACKROD RESIDENTS HAVE YOUR SAY!

We have recently gained approval to produce our own plan of how we see Blackrod changing over the next few years. It is called a **Neighbourhood Plan** and to be successful it needs the residents and businesses of Blackrod to come forward and have their say.

We need to know what you think of Blackrod as it is today and what you would like to see change.

What do you think are the good things about Blackrod and what do you think are the things that require improving?

This is a REAL opportunity to influence the place in which we all live or work.

This opportunity is for EVERYONE - adults, families, young adults, children, residents and businesses.

This is the first time ever that we, the residents of Blackrod, have secured this kind of opportunity so let's not waste it!

The **Neighbourhood Plan** can cover areas such as:

- *Housing*
- *Community facilities*
- *Roads, transport & other infrastructure*
- *Open spaces & the natural environment*
- *Parks, pathways & other rights of way*
- *Employment*
- *Retail & Town Centre*
- *Heritage*

For future housing developments this would put us in a more influential position when deciding what is (or isn't) built in Blackrod. Open spaces could be protected and the **Neighbourhood Plan** would have teeth as it will become a legal document reflecting the wishes of our community.

Over the course of the next 18 months you will see more publicity about your **Neighbourhood Plan** and how it is progressing as well as further opportunities for you to have your say.

You can email your views and ideas here: comment@blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

...or drop into Blackrod Library and leave your feedback.

THIS PLAN WILL NOT SUCCEED WITHOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT

APPENDIX 5

Topic Group	Name
Housing	Alan Bury (Lead)
	Pat Shacklock
	Simon Godley
Transport & Infrastructure	Richard Galloway (Lead)
	Rob Long
Natural Environment + Public Realm & Open Spaces	John Price
	Alan Bury (Lead)
	Richard Galloway
	Rob Long
	Natalie Sweet (v)
Community Facilities	Judith Stallard (Lead)
	Ann Kilcoyne
	Alan Bury
	Scott Bachelor (v)
Economy & Employment; Town Centre & Retail	John Price
	Richard Galloway (Lead)
	Pat Shacklock
Built Heritage	Judith Stallard (Lead)
	Ann Kilcoyne
	Alan Bury
	Nick Bell (v)
	Ged Phillips (v)
	Bob Massingham (v)(Blackrod History Group)
Design Standards	Pat Shacklock (Lead)
	Alan Bury

(V) = Volunteer from residents or a Community Group

Consultation Strategy Group – Richard Galloway, Rob Long, Alan Bury and Ann Kilcoyne

APPENDIX 6



(Business Address here)

Blackrod Neighbourhood
Development Plan Steering Group
c/o Blackrod Town Council
Council Chambers
Church Street
Blackrod, Bolton BL6 5EQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

February 2017

Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan

As part of legislation introduced in 2012, Blackrod is preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan, which will put in place the **Vision** and **Planning Policies** for the future development of Blackrod for the next 15 years.

This is an opportunity for residents and local businesses to have input into bringing forward the Development Plan, which will become a **legal document** reflecting the wishes of the community as a whole.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan will cover areas such as:-

- Housing
- Transport & infrastructure – Roads, Transport, Parking and other Infrastructure
- Natural Environment
- Public Realm – Parks, Open Spaces, Pathways and other rights of way.
- Community Facilities
- Economy & Employment
- Retail & Town Centre
- Built Heritage
- Design Statement

We are seeking your views as a member of the local business community:-

- What do you consider are the strengths of Blackrod from a business point of view?
- What could be improved?
- What do you consider, from a planning point of view, are the greatest opportunities or threats to your business in Blackrod?

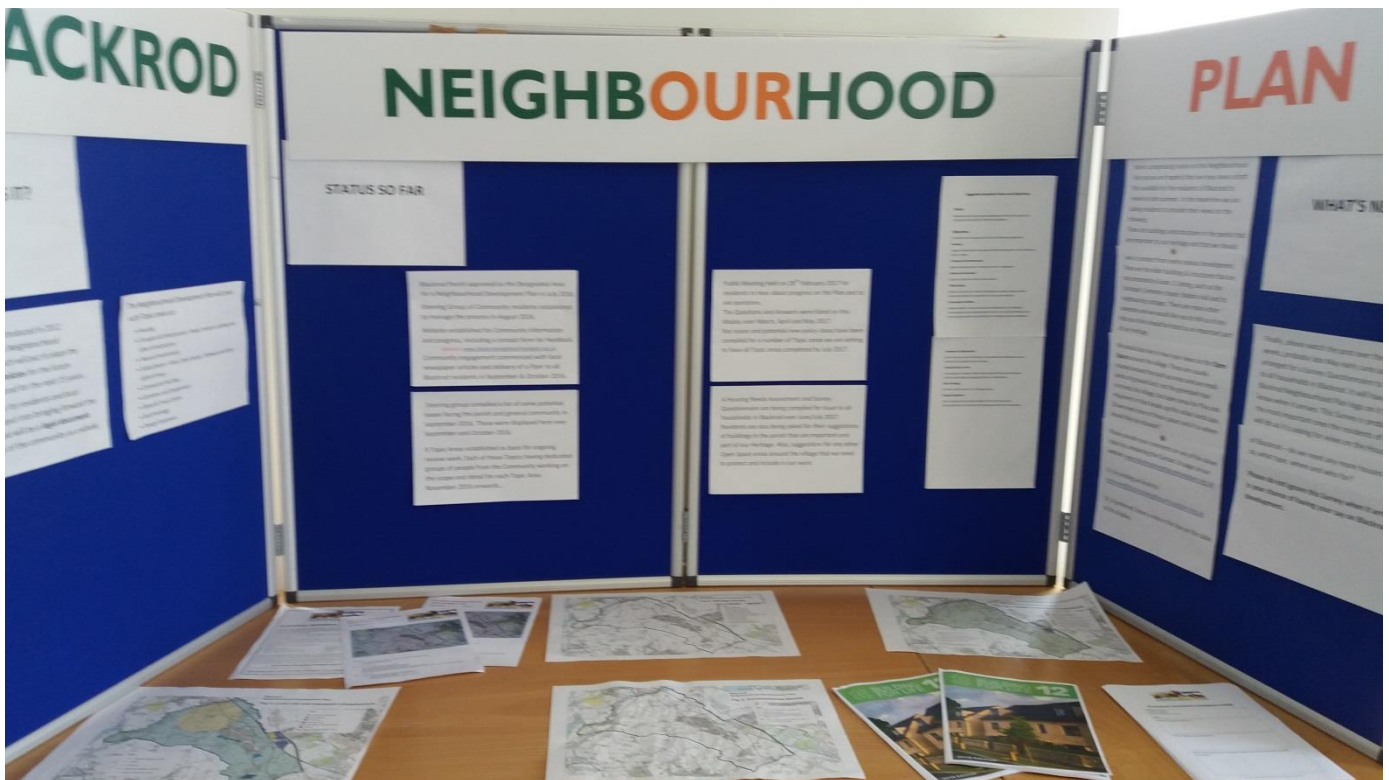
The draft Neighbourhood Plan will be developed over the next 18 months but meanwhile please visit the website www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk or contact us at the above address to get more information and to provide your feedback.

Yours faithfully

Alan Bury, Chair, Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

APPENDIX 7

Display located in the Library Foyer for all visitors to see and check on monthly progress.
(Sample Photographs)



APPENDIX 8



PUBLIC MEETING

On Tuesday the 28th February at Blackrod Community Centre. Commencing at 6.30pm

Find out how the work on Blackrod's Neighbourhood Plan is progressing. The Community Steering Group will be available to answer your questions.

Share your views, comments and ideas.

This is **your** Neighbourhood Plan so do not miss this opportunity to contribute and be involved.

If you are unable to attend please provide your comments on the website:

www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Or, complete the Feedback Form available on our display in the Library.

(Refreshments will be available including FREE Pancakes!)

BLACKROD RESIDENTS FEEDBACK FORM

Residents Name:

Contact Details:

(Address, Telephone or email)

Date:

What I like about Blackrod:

What I Dislike about Blackrod:

What I think will need to change in Blackrod in the future and any other comments:

APPENDIX 9



APPENDIX 10



Work is progressing nicely on the Neighbourhood Plan and we are hopeful that we may have a draft Plan available for the residents of Blackrod to review by late summer. In the meantime we are asking residents to provide their views on the following:

There are buildings and structures in the parish that are important to our heritage and that we should seek to protect from overly zealous development. These are the older buildings & structures that are not protected by Grade 11 listing such as the Cenotaph; Cemetery chapel; Bobbin Hall and its neighbouring cottages. There are many other examples and we would like you to tell us of any that you think should be listed as part of our heritage.

We would also like to hear your views on the Open Spaces around the village. These are usually situated around the built up areas and are small pieces of grassed land, not the greenbelt that surrounds the village, but open areas for Play and enjoyment or that breaks up the urban landscape. Do we need more of these spaces and if so where should they be situated?

Please provide your comments on any of the above topics by completing the Contact Us page on our website: www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Or, by sending an Email to: comment@blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Or, if preferred, leave a note in the box on our display in the Library foyer.

Finally, please watch the post over the next few weeks, probably late May early June as we have arranged for a Survey Questionnaire to be sent out to all households in Blackrod. It will have our Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan logo on it so you will know when it arrives. This Survey is probably one of the most important ones the residents of Blackrod will do as it is asking for views on the Housing needs of Blackrod – do we need any more houses built? If so, what type, where and who for?

Please do not ignore this Survey when it arrives it is your chance of having your say on Blackrods development.

APPENDIX 11



(Resident address)

1st June 2017

Dear Resident,

Thank you very much for your support and feedback over the past weeks and months, your suggestions and comments have been most useful in helping us prepare the Neighbourhood Plan.

A special thank you also for attending the Public Meeting on the 28th February 2017 your contribution was gratefully received.

I am attaching for your information our latest consultation flyer which concerns those buildings that are important to the Heritage of Blackrod and the Open Spaces around the village. Your feedback on these would be very much appreciated.

Finally, please watch your post later this month as we have arranged for a Survey Questionnaire to be sent to every household in Blackrod. This will have our Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan logo on it, so you will recognise it. This survey is probably one of the most important ones the residents of Blackrod will be asked to complete as it is asking for your views on the housing needs of Blackrod – do we need any more houses built?, if so, what type, where and who for?

Thank you again for your support, this is the communities Neighbourhood Plan and without your contribution there will be no Plan.

Kind regards,

Alan Bury

Chairman of Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.



BLACKROD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan

Work is progressing nicely on the Neighbourhood Plan and we are hopeful that we may have a draft Plan available for the residents of Blackrod to review by late summer. In the meantime we are asking residents to provide their views on the following:

- There are buildings and structures in the parish that are important to our heritage and that we should seek to protect from overly zealous development. These are the older buildings & structures that are not protected by Grade 11 listing such as the Cenotaph; Cemetery chapel; Bobbin Hall and its neighbouring cottages. There are many other examples and we would like you to tell us of any that you think should be listed as part of our heritage.
- We would also like to hear your views on the Open Spaces around the village. These are usually situated around the built up areas and are small pieces of grassed land, not the greenbelt that surrounds the village, but open areas for Play and enjoyment or that breaks up the urban landscape. Do we need more of these spaces and if so where should they be situated?

Please provide your comments on any of the above topics by completing the Contact Us page on our website: www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Or, by sending an Email to: comment@blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Or, if preferred, leave a note in the box on our display in the Library foyer.

Survey Questionnaire

Finally, please watch the post over the next few weeks, probably late May early June as we have arranged for a Survey Questionnaire to be sent out to all households in Blackrod. It will have our Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan logo on it so you will know when it arrives. This Survey is probably one of the most important ones the residents of Blackrod will do as it is asking for views on the Housing needs of Blackrod – do we need any more houses built? If so, what type, where and who for?

Please do not ignore this Survey when it arrives, it is your chance to have your say on Blackrod's development.

List of Resident Respondents and Summary of Comments

Relevant Topic Group/s	Resident	Summary of Comments
Transport and Infrastructure	R1	<p>My suggestion relates to improvements along the full stretch of the A6 from Blackrods border at Adlington through to its border with Westhoughton – in particular improvements for pedestrian and cyclists.</p> <p>The stretch from Adlington to the layby at the bottom of Spar hill has no street lighting and a very poor footpath. My wife often uses this route for running but is unable to do so as the nights draw in. As a keen cyclist, the lack of streetlights combined with a 50 mph limit makes this stretch particularly treacherous.</p> <p>My suggestion for this stretch is bright LED lighting and a new combined path and cycle lane (separate from the main road). Continue on from the bottom of the hill towards the boundary with Westhoughton, and whilst it is street lit, there are many hazards to contend with. Namely narrow pathways, overgrown grass areas that encroach onto the paths, overhanging branches, elevated tree roots etc. Not pleasant for walkers, but for runners it can be dangerous. Again for cyclists on a 50mph road where cars persistently travel at 70mph+, as a cyclist you do take your life in your hands.</p> <p>So my suggestion is to have the same dual footpath and cycle lane away from the main road.</p> <p>I hope this suggestion is shared by others in the community and hope that this is given some consideration for future planning.</p>
Transport and Infrastructure Public Realm	R2	<p>On walking down the Chorley Road brow to catch a bus you have to almost walk on the road as the grass takes over the pavement this is walking down on the left hand side towards the A6. I have reported this to the council about five weeks ago but no joy.</p> <p>On the opposite side I was walking to the bus stop when I fell due to the state of the tarmac all cracked and broken, I had to go to hospital where it was found I had broken my elbow and injured my arm. This was on sept 14th 2015, I have attended physio for eight months to no avail. I have now been put under a spinal surgeon at Chorley hospital and I have to have a spinal operation. All this caused by a fall due to the state of the pavement.</p>
Housing Transport and Infrastructure Community Facilities	R3	<p>I am very concerned about the speed of traffic on Little Scotland especially between Hill Lane and the junction of Blundell Lane. It is extremely difficult to get out of the property where I live, it is particularly difficult turning right. There is supposed to be a speed limit of 30mph, but very few people keep to this.</p> <p>Horse riders use the road and children, dog walkers etc. use the very narrow footpath. There are also cars parked on the pavement which makes it more difficult for pedestrians.</p> <p>Is there anything that can be done, e.g. a speed camera, traffic calming measures? The situation is of course going to get worse when the new estate is built.</p>

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Relevant Topic Group/s	Resident	Summary of Comments
Transport and Infrastructure Retail	R4	Bolton is really in a mess, closed shops, businesses and no future, please do not let this happen in Blackrod. Blackrod Council needs to care more for the community stop any further development of residential property until more infrastructure is in place, and promote a better community spirit, similar to that which existed 20-30 years ago. I will keep viewing the website to see any progress and wish you well with the Plan.
Transport and Infrastructure Community Facilities Public Realm	R5	<p>Blackrod isn't at all a bad place to live, not that many amenities but then it is becoming something of a Commuter village. There is one thing that I think detracts from the aesthetic beauty or charm of any village or Town and Blackrod is no exception. That is the vast number of vehicles littering the streets.</p> <p>Cars and vans are routinely parked throughout the village quite illegally. If they are not on double yellow lines or in breach of restricted waiting they are parked partially on a pavement, which is a breach of road traffic law per se as well as causing an obstruction to other road users .</p> <p>Causing an unnecessary obstruction also remains an offence in law and so every time anyone travelling along the highway has to wait behind a parked vehicle whilst oncoming traffic passes the person responsible for the parked vehicle commits an offence. In fact most of the time, in Hillside Avenue, where I live, I am certain that in an emergency a fire engine, for instance, would find it impossible to negotiate. And that in one of the new 20mph restricted speed areas!</p> <p>Enough of the law, that's bad enough that it is never enforced, but it is simply true that all these illegally parked vehicles make the village look abandoned.</p> <p>So (1) start to enforce parking law.</p> <p>(2)Encourage people, perhaps with free permissions or other financial incentives, to get rid of all these pointless 'postage stamp' front gardens, many of which are totally unkempt, drop the kerbs and park off road next to their house.</p> <p>(3)Construct a large free car park, and I know this will be contentious because people think it's a matter for the European Court of Human Rights if they have to walk more than twenty yards for anything nowadays, but there is land available and people need to change their perceptions that they can park anywhere that is convenient to them, and it may help some become a bit fitter.</p>
Housing Design Principles	R6	I have contacted the post office regarding the proposed move to Spar raising my concerns regarding the parking. When (as it will) it moves I think the best thing for the existing building would be to turn it back into residential but as a house as opposed to apartments. The reason being that Blackrod isn't Really Apartment Land – how long did it take to shift all those built on the site of the Black Horse? YEARS! A house would be better suited to the needs of the area and I hope you will be able to put your weight behind this.

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Relevant Topic Group/s	Resident	Summary of Comments
Transport and Infrastructure	R7	I feel strongly that Blackrod should have significant numbers of street trees planted. There are only a handful of street trees in the village. Street trees would help to improve the character of the area making it leafy and more attractive. They help reduce air pollution which will benefit children who walk and ride to schools along busy traffic routes. They will increase benefits for wildlife and birds. Please can you include this in the Plan.
Public Realm Community Facilities	R8	Please can we have a skate park next to Blackrod play area. Kids need fun things to do & exercise. Please can you make the Youth Club be open more times a week.
Public Realm Community Facilities	R9	I would like to see the 2 fields on Vicarage Road protected from future development by way of being granted "Village Green" status. This will enable the children of Blackrod a safe area to play and study the wildlife of our surrounding countryside.
Transport and Infrastructure Community Facilities Retail Centre Design Principles	R10	Banks needed + 24 hour Free ATM's. Shops or supermarket with reasonable prices to enable people to shop locally - Spar has monopoly. A public house that serves meals - rumoured that the Red Lion is closing. Roads resurfacing. Daily Bus service to Adlington + Chorley (2 hourly). Reinstate bus service via Greenbarn Way and Vicarage road to help the elderly with no transport. More police patrols - very rarely seen. Parks warden to monitor play areas. Childrens area on Vicarage road is vandalised by teenagers. Road sweep to keep village litter free. No more building - Blackrod losing its character. Toilet replaced at each end of village. Reopen Tip - it was a big help to residents.
Community Facilities	R11	Relocate Youth Club to Community Centre - ample parking, safer for kids to get to, etc. Use Community Centre like "Biker Grove" especially school holidays - facilities already there. Have a toddler/baby session in mornings at Community Centre.
Community Services Design Principles	R12	The objectives have obviously been well thought out. However, may I respectfully request that crime and Anti-social behaviour reduction should also be included. I realise that the neighbourhood group cannot Police the streets but may be able to influence Policing, CCTV and other crime reducing initiatives, in order to ensure that Blackrod remains a pleasurable place to live. Thank you for your efforts.
Public Realm Community Facilities Housing Infrastructure.	R13	Can the land near to play area next to cricket ground it be turned into football pitches with astro turf for children with fencing around it. It is currently under-utilised. I agree with all the items listed on Vision and objectives & swot analysis of Blackrod. Housing growth must be matched with adequate infrastructure & medical facilities. Need to improve youth facilities as the playground is currently inadequate.

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Relevant Topic Group/s	Resident	Summary of Comments
Transport and Infrastructure Public Realm	R14	<p>The new development on Hill Lane will mean a significant increase in traffic on Dark Lane as it will be the quickest route out of Blackrod. The new residents will not want to go through Blackrod with a 20 mph limit on Hill Lane, and a bad bend with parked cars on both sides to negotiate, no they will take the quick, easy option – Dark Lane. Dark Lane is already a dangerous lane to travel on for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Lots of the points that I make below could, if fixed, help to improve the situation on Dark Lane. We must have a speed limit at least.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It has a national speed limit of 60 mph (the limit A6 is 50 mph!) 2. It is steep sided, narrow and has no pavements apart from a short stretch of pavement in front of the 6 terraced houses at the top end. 3. It has only one light next to the houses. 4. It has a 90 degree bend just past the houses. 5. The steep sides of the lane ensure that snow and ice do not melt quickly making conditions treacherous in the winter months. 6. Dark Lane is not gritted regularly. When an accident has occurred the police ask the council to grit. The police close Dark lane when it becomes too dangerous. 7. Dark lane is used by farm vehicles, milk tankers and many other types of heavy goods vehicles as a rat run through to Haigh, Wigan and beyond. 8. Each end of Dark Lane has a dangerous junction. <p>A: The A6 junction was notorious until the new bollards and safe turning lane were added. It does however still have a number of collisions, especially in the winter. The bottom end of Dark Lane flattens out as it meets the A6 and if the surface is slippery and vehicle breaks applied to aggressively then there is a danger of sliding out into the middle of the A6. Roadside vans for sale and cars waiting to go into the car wash can obstruct a driver's vision to the left.</p> <p>B: The junction with Little Scotland and Hill Lane is very dangerous especially if you are on foot. Walking towards the junction from the houses and a vehicle behind you decides to move out in order to overtake you they can then be faced with a car or heavy vehicle coming around the bend at speed from Little Scotland. Some drivers won't wait they would rather risk there and the your life. I have seen this scenario many, many, times. The bushes at the junction are rarely cut, making visibility poor for pedestrians. At this junction and to the left hand side when you are facing Blackrod is a piece of marshy ground which becomes flooded in the winter and the drain close to the junction cannot take away all the water, making the road even more dangerous.</p> <p>We also get fly tipping on the spare land next to the houses. What we need is a sign to say no fly tipping and the Penalties if they do. I would hate to stop people parking on that land as many stop for a rest or to have their lunch but the amount of rubbish that they leave behind is awful.</p>

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Transport and Infrastructure	R15	Blackrod is a very pleasant place to live but the downfalls are: Dog Fouling and litter. There is a lot of publicity about building houses and worry about parking and schools but my priority would be a decent transport service for the village. In the past 20 or so years we have lost buses to Manchester, Preston, The Trafford Centre and more locally Middlebrook and Leigh and a train service to Manchester Piccadilly from Blackrod.
Housing Community Facilities Infrastructure Economy & employment Retail centre.	R16	What I Like: I like the open grassland opposite my house. I have heard that there are plans to build on it. Many local residents walk their dogs there. The road is narrow and traffic would be congested if there were houses built on this land. I like the choir group and the fact that they also run drama groups for children. I like the Library, pilates in the church, the health centre, the schools, the baby groups. I like the idea proposed of a farmers market. I Dislike: There is no vegetable shop. I do not like the change in parking spaces next to St. Katharine's church, it's awkward to park & seems only because we had to put a 20 mile sign there. What needs to change: More Economic opportunities as I think the future will move to more local employment as traffic increases/train capacity overflows on Manchester route.
Transport and Infrastructure	R17	What I like: Village life suits me fine, Peace & Quiet. What I dislike: No Bus service to Adlington or Chorley. Feel cut-off if travelling into Lancashire. What needs to change: Transport links need to improve.
Community Facilities	R18	What I like: Community spirit and the varied provision of groups throughout the village, sports as well as leisure. The problem I feel is that not everyone is aware of where they are, who runs them and who to contact if you want to join. A register of clubs in the village would be a valuable contact point available in the library etc. What I dislike: The congregation of teenagers around the play area off Vicarage Road and the worry what they will leave behind to injure our children. Poor lighting in that area doesn't help either. Lack of car parking always a problem. What needs to change: See above.
Transport and Infrastructure Community Facilities.	R19	What I Like: Library, shops, Low crime rate. What I dislike: Lack of police presence, PCSO's (smoking, drugs on the park). Dog fouling the pavements. Cars parking on the footpaths making it difficult to pass with young children. Snap-bags from drugs found on the pavements. What needs to change: More facilities for children, more parks.
Community Facilities	R20	What I Like: It's a very clean & tidy village. Nice local shops & great schools. What I dislike: - What needs to Change: Would like to see the park at Scot lane improved & maybe made bigger.
Housing	R21	What I Like: Peaceful place to live, fresh and clean. What I dislike: The prospect of building on green belt. What needs to change: If building has to take place make sure it is bungalows and lower price houses.

List of Resident Respondents and Summary of Comments

Relevant Topic Group/s	Resident	Summary of Comment
Housing Community Facilities	R22	What I like: It is a lovely village, good amenities, great Library and friendly helpful staff. Very good communication with local services and people. Lovely church and a kind lady vicar. Excellent train and bus services. What I dislike: - Left blank. What needs to change: Still want it to remain a village so not too much expansion with housing etc. Want it to keep the "village" feel so minimum input from Bolton council - KEEP THE LIBRARY OPEN!
Public Realm Infrastructure.	R23	Incorporating Wheelchair facilities around Blackrod. I am a new resident in Blackrod and as a wheelchair user I am hoping that your Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan will have included developing existing wheelchair access or creating new wheelchair access to public places and venues within Blackrod. If you are endeavouring to looking into this aspect within the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Blackrod and need some feedback with regards to this, I would be more than happy to assist in enabling Blackrod to become more accessible for all residents, not just wheelchair users but also buggies and the infirm.
Not NDP	R24	Blackrod is a good place to live and for me the only two things that spoil it are the litter dropped by residents and the few dog owners who don't pick up their dog waste. I don't understand why some people think it's ok to spoil their own environment. I've picked up litter and put it in the bin at the community centre (other people do this too) and I am always amazed at the litter dropped right next to the litter bin.
Transport and Infrastructure Public Realm	R25	What I like: The friendliness. The bus 521 which gets people to the hospital (but this finishes about 5.15 pm). The colourful floral displays. The wonderful Library and staff. What I dislike: The lack of a bus service to Middlebrook and the infrequent bus service to Chorley (one on Tuesday & one on Monday). The cars parking on part of the pavements obstructing people with pushchairs or wheel chairs. The pot holes. What needs to change: The car parking especially where the new post office in the Spar. The buses or lack of them. Dog fouling, weeds and overhanging branches especially Blackrod house and nearby.
Community Facilities Housing Transport and Infrastructure.	R26	What I like: Friendly place to live close to countryside - canal for walking, recreation. Church's welcome to visitors into worship and many events and activities of village life involving wonderful local schools and community. The church bells being rung. Care taken by group who look after the cemetery and floral displays through Blackrod. St. Andrews performing Arts, Community choir enabling of building to be used also for out of hours school care. Yoga etc. Excellent Nursery facilities, Doctors surgery, Care homes, close to motorway, flower shop. Excellent butchers and local shop. Bus to Hospital. Hairdressers. What I dislike: Litter, dog dirt problem, dangerous potholes, Lack of toilet facilities & bus shelters. Rubbish problems, fly tipping, poor state of some footpaths and paths along the bypass. No bank. No Dentist. Inconsiderate parking on footpaths - hazard for disabled people and mothers with prams & children. Poor bus service to Chorley. No hospital bus 521 on Sundays. What needs to change: Concern over planned housing developments and its effects, more traffic congestion, more school places needed, more provision for health centre services. Library to be open daily.

List of Resident Respondents and Summary of Comments

Relevant Topic Group/s	Resident	Summary of Comments
Community Facilities Housing Transport and Infrastructure	R27	<p>What I like about Blackrod: Elevated position. Down to earth people, villagy feel, Community spirit.</p> <p>3. Low crime rate 4. Library 5. St. Katharine's Church 6. Bus Service</p> <p>What I dislike about Blackrod</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drinking of alcohol in the streets and lanes 2. Fly tipping and the amount of litter, bottles and cans in the lanes and around Blackrod. 3. Potholes in and around Blackhorse Street <p>What I think will need to change in Blackrod in the future and any other comments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A footpath is needed from the houses on Dark Lane to the junction with Hill Lane. 2. Speed restrictions needed on Dark Lane. 3. More police patrols to catch fly tippers and drinkers on Dark Lane and Blundell Lane. 4. The shops on Blackhorse Street and the flats above are looking sad and untidy. <p>This is not helped by that general area looking unappealing. The road needs attention, the parking in front of the shops in untidy, the old toilets/ bus shelter needs knocking down and a modern shelter putting in surrounded by a green space.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. People with caravans and campervans seem to think that it is a good idea to park them in their gardens – it isn't, they should be dissuaded. 6. Building on green belt land should not be allowed. Some people think that it is acceptable to start with stables or agricultural buildings and then apply for a change of use to dwelling. This should not be allowed, these people are stealing our Heritage.
Community Facilities Transport Retail.	R28	<p>What I like: Still fairly quiet but that's about it. I've lived in Blackrod all my life it's gone down-hill it was a nice village now it's a ghost town. What I dislike: All the shops have gone, banks, dentist, pubs, parking is a big problem too many houses being built. Post office moving to Spar - not thinking about elderly people lower down the village how are they going to get there if no transport. Not enough policing, people parking where they want on double yellow lines etc. What needs to change: Blackrod needs some proper amenities for us like Horwich. Time we had some proper shops, public transport for people in Whitehall Lane - I mean elderly who cannot get to shops or post office when it moves they can't walk there (out of sight out of mind). If it is just a little bus every couple of hours for them to get up and back not fair for people who have to pay for taxis to get shopping because they cant get up to the top and if it's raining they get wet through trying to go up. Elderly people have been forgotten about in Whitehall Lane they have a bus going along Vicarage road so why can't they have one in Whitehall lane.</p>

List of Resident Respondents and Summary of Comments

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Transport and Infrastructure	R29	<p>What I like: Its size - small enough to walk to open countryside in 5 minutes, big enough to support a Doctors Surgery, a library; and various independently owned shops; plus 2 schools.</p> <p>It's people - Lancashire people "the salt of the earth". What I dislike: The fact that people are allowed to park their cars all over the place, including right up to the curve on narrow roads leading to main road.</p> <p>What needs to change: There needs to be double yellow lines put on road junctions up to the point mentioned in the driving licence test booklet. This is particularly important at the exit to the little car park on Rivington street, where idiots park opposite it, making it difficult to get out and preventing drivers turning off the main road (near the bus stop) into Rivington & Boardman Streets. Double yellow lines should also be put on the narrowest part of the main road, in front of the 5 terraced houses, where there are always cars parked - blocking one side of the road, making it single track.</p>
Transport and Infrastructure	R30	<p>What I like: Blackrod is the uniqueness of the town.</p> <p>Against all odds the Blackrod community still maintains the feel of a village.</p> <p>Residents are very protective about this and rightly so.</p> <p>What I dislike about Blackrod currently is the surrounding development in other towns that is having a detrimental effect on traffic flow in and around Blackrod, particularly at peak times and the amount of Heavy Goods traffic using Tanners Brow and subsequently going through the village.</p> <p>The salt /gritting of problem areas in winter seems to be an afterthought, despite the amount of accidents.</p> <p>The amount of litter surrounding the area is increasing to insecure loads on lorries operating across the area.</p> <p>I believe what needs to change in Blackrod in the future is any further development needs to take into account the planning of traffic movement in and around Blackrod, and the effects of surrounding Towns such as Standish, Chorley, Wigan and Middlebrook Complex etc, and their desire to build and develop, that is undoubtedly effecting congestion in the area and affecting the Quality of Life.</p> <p>I am not an anti- build advocate however Development and Planning needs to reflect all the above and the needs of all community.</p>
Transport and Infrastructure	R31	<p>What I like: Community Spirit, Green Fields all around, Good transport links. What I dislike: It's one long road and parking can be difficult. What needs to change: To engage with younger families.</p>

List of Resident Respondents and Summary of Comments

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Transport and Infrastructure	R32	What I like: Friendly, peaceful area. Good community feeling. Great restaurants, countryside on your doorstep. What I dislike: Pot hole, Disrupted train service, lack of grit bins regarding inclement weather. Lack of Community policing. What needs to change: Speed cameras on A6, Manchester Road and Station Road.
Transport and Infrastructure	R33	What I like: Friendly community, 2 very good schools, great views from many places. What I dislike: Dog fouling of paths & play areas. The private streets are "tar wash" the council estate has beautiful block paving - which is used for parking on! Don't see very much for our high council tax. No tip now. What needs to change: The Infrastructure needs to suit the extra people more housing will bring. The "Traffic calming" - (ie removal of 3 lanes down to 2 lanes) onto the North bound M61 needs to be put back to original. Too much traffic not moving quick enough. – easily done - just make sure the lines are replaced next time painting is done!
Community Facilities Retail Natural Environment	R34	What I like: There is a good community spirit and it always remains clean and tidy. The landscape suits my lifestyle also a lot of travel links for example, Blackrod train station, good bus times and very close to the motorway. What I dislike: I do not feel like there are enough facilities for youth, for example parks?/play areas? where teenagers and children can spend their time playing. Not enough shops towards the bottom end of the village - it's a 40 minute trip to get essentials. What needs to change: Add small places where youth can play for example: Football pitch (that is looked after); A new park with a more modern area instead of the old one at the back field behind the community centre. A gym or swimming baths would be great.
Retail Community Facilities.	R35	What I like: It is a whole & separate place, which would be good to preserve. The community feeling. What I dislike: Lack of shops & bank. What needs to change: As commented on at the meeting school places and Medical facilities.
Community Facilities Retail	R36	What I like: A village feeling within a small town. Convenient location for motorway, high quality primary school provision. What I dislike: Poor selection of shops; Lack of leisure facilities ie gym. Too many housing developments lack of central focus. What needs to change: Better quality / selection of shops and leisure facilities to provide a central hub which will encourage a community feeling.
Transport and Infrastructure Natural Environment	R37	What I like: Open spaces, large footpath network on map if not actually on land! Views. Villagers - people who talk to each other and care about their neighbours and their neighbourhood. Blackrod station and access it gives to Gtr. Manchester and the rest of UK. Busses coming frequently and going to "hubs". Having a local Doctors & Chemist and Library. What I dislike: Deterioration of footpaths to extent that they are impassable. Brokensteps and pavements and cut throughs and rails on steps e.g Whitehall to New street steps - nothing done. Large heavy vehicles (lorries etc) coming through the village rather than using A6.. obviously not those which are "stopping" or on delivery in Blackrod. What needs to change: Overgrown paths, pavements, ginnels must be sorted as should steps and rails be sorted. Commercial weight limit on New Street etc to prevent through traffic ie access only. Green patches being designated for specific use e.g trees; memorial garden; childrens games; butterfly garden etc.

List of Resident Respondents and Summary of Comments

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Transport and Infrastructure Community Facilities.	R38	<p>What I Like: Close to countryside; Close to motorway network (although difficult to get there at peak times) and public transport; Unlikelihood of serious flooding due to its high level; Community activities – Church, Scarecrow Festival etc.</p> <p>What I Dislike: Road surfaces (even though outside group's control)</p> <p>What needs to change: Better roads; Daily library opening; Additional school places; Additional on-site health facilities at local surgery</p>
Community Facilities	R39	<p>What I like about Blackrod: Easy access to the countryside but within a short distance of the motorway. A good day time bus service to Wigan and Bolton. A good 'community spirit' especially within the churches and the scarecrow festival. What I dislike about Blackrod: A poor train service to Bolton and Manchester. Traffic problems on the A6. Too much car parking around the schools morning and evening. A feeling that Blackrod does not exist from a Bolton Council point of view.</p> <p>Need to Change: We need our own Health Centre that can provide all the required facilities on site and not to have to travel to Westhoughton. A local recycling facility.</p>
Transport and Infrastructure	R40	<p>Traffic congestion caused by HGVs, vans and cars using the route of Manchester Road between A6 and Scot Lane as a short cut through to Wigan. It has now become dangerous trying to cross the road or even trying to get into our own cars which we have to park outside our houses because we have no off the road parking.</p> <p>The playground and playing field are also situated on it very dangerous for parents and children to park up and gain access to them. We have the noise of the HGVs passing 24/7 making it impossible to get a night's sleep.</p> <p>The HGVs turning from Manchester Rd onto Scott Lane have to go on the wrong side of Scott Lane which its self is dangerous for oncoming traffic and pedestrians trying to cross Scott Lane. Is it not sensible to make Scott Lane and Manchester Road Access Only, or do we have to wait for a fatality before anything is done.</p>
Community Facilities Transport and Infrastructure Housing	R41	<p>What I like: Amenities - Local e.g Library, Doctors, Hairdresser, Butcher, Baker, Hardware store, Post Office, Playground. 2 Good schools + high quality childcare. Clubs + activities especially under 10s or adults.</p> <p>Public Transport - Bus into Bolton/Wigan. What I dislike: Lack of activities for teenagers.</p> <p>Public Transport - Trains to Manchester/Preston- not enough. No bus to Chorley (direct). Speed of traffic through centre of village. What needs to change: Housing stock modernising to meet 21st century needs. Traffic calming through centre of village.</p>
Community Facilities Retail	R42	<p>What we Like: Community Spirit; Lovely people; location; views and that it feels safe. What we dislike: The Plans for expansion which will put pressure on our schools, nurseries and GP services. What needs to change: We need a nice café like "Chill at the Cowshed" in Horwich - popular with young and old. Need to keep the community spirit and some shops would be good, they all seem to be closing.</p>

List of Resident Respondents and Summary of Comments

Relevant Topic Group/s	Resident	Summary of Comments
Public Realm Transport and Infrastructure Built Heritage Natural Environment	R43	<p>I was born in Blackrod and have lived here most of my life. Almost all of the original stone cottages, houses, primary school and pubs have been demolished since my childhood. I'm hoping that there will be no more vanishing of the local landscape and, where necessary, preservation orders obtained, if possible.</p> <p>Of concern is the loss of more green space, especially that designated for children's activities and sport, and that those currently operational are better maintained by Bolton Council. It would be good to think that more play areas be developed too. Green belt is obviously a priority to be saved from development, and where possible the few green spaces left for public use, safeguarded.</p> <p>The road system throughout Blackrod is now poor, with far too much pavement parking. Clearly parking is a major problem, exacerbated by poor public transport, especially going North over the boundary into Adlington/Chorley, as trains are not much of an alternative as currently stops are infrequent at Blackrod Station. What would be a help, I believe, is to utilise the area behind the old Post Office, as it is rough ground currently, for parking. A more major but, I believe, useful option would be investment in reducing some very wide footpaths both on New Street – Manchester Road, on maybe both sides, creating parking bay areas on one side and prohibiting any parking 7 days a week on the other side of the road. I do appreciate this is major works, as drainage, street lighting, slight road narrowing and resurfacing and signage would have to change. However, it would have the advantage of facilitating better footpath access for those walking, especially those with children and prams, and dogs, wheelchair and mobility scooter users. Being able to walk safely in the village, which is currently so obstructed by parking along the main road, on Vicarage Road South corner, and in other streets on estates, is fraught with difficulties. Having cars parked across pavements in front of shops, e.g. Greenhalgh's, with drivers reversing, sometimes without checking pavements, cars moving in North and South directions, and checking for vehicles turning left out of Whitehall Lane can be very dangerous.</p> <p>Blackrod may be a village, but it is now commuter territory for many workers, especially going into Bolton and Manchester, and traffic hold-ups are an everyday occurrence, so those drivers need consideration. Maybe Blackrod has already grown too much, so further housing development should be minimised. Equally, as one who has appreciated living here all these years, I can understand the attraction of developers to build, and for people to want to live here.</p> <p>Much of the original character of the village is gone forever, but whatever happens next it would be good to see an attempt at creating character wherever possible, and not building more ugly modern buildings which do not enhance the village at all.</p>

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Natural Environment Transport and Infrastructure	R44	I was very encouraged to see the recent plans for future development in Blackrod. Having grown up here I care about the future of the community and wish to see it continue to thrive. My main concern at present is for the environment which I believe is an important feature of the town and surrounding area and gives Blackrod its unique appeal. Having worked away and returned to the area, I am concerned that new building works and industrial development could threaten the availability of open spaces, so crucial to both the mental and physical health of residents. The loss of these spaces would be a great shame and a factor in mine and other people's decision to stay in the community or go elsewhere in the future. We are already losing a sense of peace and quiet to increasingly heavy traffic. Blackrod must work hard to maintain its 'out of the way' community feel and remain a place to live and breathe, not just somewhere to exist on a commuter route. I'd be very happy to discuss any ideas with you.
Public Realm Infrastructure	R45	I am getting tired of complaining about the ginnel leading from Hill Lane - Harrison Crescent. The top half of this passage way is clear but the lower half was overgrown, after several complaints these were finally cut down but not uprooted nor sprayed with weedkiller. All the cut foliage has been left looking an eyesore. My second complaint is the continuing parking on the kerb outside the Spar and on the GPO manhole cover. I had a bad fall due to a car being parked there.
Built Heritage	R46	As a building of historical importance we believe the Old Vicarage on Manchester Road should be considered as an important part of our Heritage.
Community Facilities Public Realm Natural Environment	Discussion with 6 Teenagers – Outreach work	What we like: It's Quiet. What we dislike: Not enough to do, it's boring sometimes. What needs to change: Need a Mini Skatepark; astro turf 3G like the Arena; Youth Club -WiFi -Xbox- Pool Table.
Community Facilities Public Realm Natural Environment	Discussion with 4 Teenagers – Outreach work	What we Like: It's quiet. The Park & field and the shop. The environment is ok and the Cricket Club. What we dislike: The field because all the space is not being put to use; Vandalism in the Park; we all loved the basket on the Park, it was the best thing but it as gone off; too much Litter on Park. There's not much to do but go to the Park. The community Centre doesn't really get used. What needs to change: We need a zip wire on the Park a kind of small skatepark; astro turf football field; a new swinging basket and a proper slide on the park. Better trampolines; more bins; a tree swing on the Park; CCTV and better climbing frame; more benches. Park needs to be bigger and better with new things.

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Community Facilities Public Realm Natural Environment	Rivington & Blackrod High School. Focus Groups - (Total of 10 feedback forms from boys and girls)	What we Like: It's small, there's Parks and good scenery & quiet. Nice place to live; friendly people. It's not loud and isn't very busy, cute old people. What we dislike: It's Boring, Not much to do. There is nothing I dislike about Blackrod; No supermarket, confusing street layout, lack of bus services, Tanners brow; no shops. What needs to change: More places to hang around; Chinese takeaway; football pitch; Better links; Pot holes in the roads; New Community Centre; more takeaways; more shops "down" Blackrod; Astro Pitch; shops on bottom of Blackrod.
Community Facilities Public Realm Natural Environment	Blackrod Youth Council	What we like: Local shops; Youth Centre; Community Centre; Schools; Clubs like Karate; The quietness and calmness; Scenic views from the hills; Not too busy and hectic; 10 minute walk to train station and local to Middlebrook. What we dislike & areas for improvement: The teenagers on the park ruining its facilities; The Library hours since we would like it to be open more often; Amounts of littering around our houses; That there aren't many facilities for older children; The Youth Centre hours since we cannot keep ourselves occupied; Some alleyways aren't safe and are not clean for children; People not picking up their dog's poo; Age limit for children to access the parks or times for different ages.

List of Business Respondents and Summary of Comments

Relevant Topic Group/s	Business	Summary of Comments
Transport and Infrastructure Community Facilities Retail	Blackrod Care Home	Blackrod Strengths: Location—close to Motorway; Catchment with regard to this business; Good location for Bolton, Wigan and Chorley. What could be improved: Sunday buses particularly for staff from Horwich, Bolton, Aspull, Adlington; Papershop that delivers for the residents; Tesco type “local” store; Community Police presence. Opportunities: None Threats: None General Comments: Application of double yellow lines outside premises would be a major threat to me business.
Retail Employment Infrastructure Housing Community Facilities	Blackrod Motor Spares	Blackrod Strengths: Very central What could be improved: Presence of a bank in the village; parking. Opportunities: Small express type stores; All small businesses on free rate relief in village; More houses in Upmarket sector i.e 5 bed 2 Bathrooms. Threats: None General Comments: Skate park for the kids; kids café in Community Centre.
Employment Infrastructure Housing	Blackrod Premier - Convenience Store	Blackrod Strengths: Close knit community that is happy to use local small businesses; Low crime rate; Good Village location with high percentage of hard working people. What could be improved: Encourage a bigger variety of independent businesses; Parking at front of shops for Easier customer access and to keep traffic wardens at bay. Opportunities: New homes in the area will bring new customers to businesses in Blackrod and allow us to Continue to serve the local population and employ local staff in the future. Threats: As Blackrod is a small area with a limited population having duplicated businesses makes it harder to Thrive. Large companies e.g supermarkets to move into the village would devastate all local businesses and Could force closure. General Comments: None.
Infrastructure Housing Community Facilities	Phillips Butchers	Blackrod Strengths: Friendly Place. No particular strengths from a business point of view. No Retail Centre. What could be improved: Lack of Parking is a real problem (There is parking available on council land off Silvester St to the side of Phillips but it is in disrepair, is an awkward access and is not sign posted) 60% of clients come from outside the Village i.e. there are not enough customers within the Village itself to sustain the business. Move the bus stop from outside the shopfront! Opportunities: Greater development; more 4 bed houses. Threats: Trade has fallen off due to Middlebrook development. General Comments: Slow traffic down through the Village Customers move out of the Village because there is nowhere suitable to move up to, property wise General poor appearance of Blackrod (looking tired) Create income to the Village by selling some of the assets for development e.g, re-develop Community Centre to

		<p>provide a new community centre and release some of the land for development.</p> <p>Traffic along Vicarage Rd as it is becoming a rat-run particularly during evening peak (after 5 pm)</p>
Infrastructure Housing	Spar	<p>Blackrod Strengths: Community working together.</p> <p>What could be improved: Parking; More community events e.g similar to Scarecrow Festival.</p> <p>Opportunities: Housing planning i.e more development.</p> <p>Threats: None</p> <p>General Comments: None</p>
Infrastructure Retail Community Facilities	The Poacher	<p>Blackrod Strengths: It is a growing village and most people are employed.</p> <p>What could be improved: The roads. Prohibiting HGVs/articulated lorries from passing through the village.</p> <p>No shops/amenities at this end of the village.</p> <p>Opportunities: A double edged question. Opportunity will come from granting more and more planned dwelling houses, but on the flip side this becomes a threat to the infrastructure within the community. More homes = more people, cars, pets, etc. The community is not set up to increase and advance in such a way. Schools, parking and Green Belt areas are at capacity and increased planning approval jeopardises the infrastructure and beauty of the Village as a whole.</p> <p>Threats: The greatest threat to our business would be the Brewery selling the land and building with consent to rebuild homes or shops, etc to cope with the increasing demand of more people in the community.</p> <p>We could, in the future, be only 1 of 2 public houses within the community but our planning regulations have to be observed for capacity, H and S and fire regulations.</p> <p>Basically the community local could become a local of strangers</p> <p>General Comments: The Scarecrow Festival does not seem to reach this end of the Village.</p> <p>We don't seem to be involved or informed of things happening in or around Blackrod.</p>
Infrastructure	Design Lights	<p>Blackrod Strengths: Good transport links to motorway; Being part of a local community</p> <p>What could be improved: Better parking facilities</p> <p>Opportunities: None</p> <p>Threats: People parking without consideration for others.</p> <p>General Comments: None given</p>
Infrastructure Retail	McRobbs	<p>Blackrod Strengths: None given</p> <p>What could be improved: Poor state of the road immediately outside of the shop (it is the responsibility of the landlord) and the problem of parking.</p> <p>Opportunities: None given</p> <p>Threats: Convinced that the lack of parking has affected his business as people have told him that as they could not find a parking spot they moved on to a Horwich Butchers.</p> <p>General Comments: None given</p>