

Silkstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Welcome to a summary of the Issues and Options document for the Silkstone Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)



What is an NDP

Neighbourhood Development Plans (or NDPs) are locally led planning policy documents and are used to help determine planning applications in a parish or other defined area. They are informed by consultation and engagement with local residents and stakeholders and must sit within the wider national and local authority planning framework:

Government planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Barnsley Borough Council's planning policies are set out in the adopted Barnsley Local Plan and Policies Map.

At the end of the process everyone on the electoral register in the Parish is invited to vote in a referendum on whether the Plan should be used to help determine planning applications.

What are we consulting about?

As a first step, an Issues and Options document has been prepared by a Committee of local residents and parish councillors on behalf of the Parish Council. It sets out the key planning issues identified so far as relevant to Silkstone Parish (which includes the villages of Silkstone and Silkstone Common). It builds on previous work undertaken by the Parish Council including the Parish Plan (2004) and Parish Design Statement (2006).

This document is a summary of the key issues and invites you to complete a short questionnaire. The full Issues and Options document and other background information are available on the Parish Council's NDP website at www.silkstoneplan.co.uk or can be borrowed as paper copies from members of the steering committee listed on page 3. Your responses will be considered carefully and used to inform the next version of the NDP - the Draft Plan.

Please complete the questionnaire on page 7 and return it using one of the options on page 6.



Welcome to this special edition of the Parish Newsletter. It is dedicated to the promotion and the start of the consultation on the Silkstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Please take time to read it and complete the questionnaire in the end of the newsletter letting us know your thoughts. There are numerous ways to return your questionnaire which can be found on page 6. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read the newsletter, completing the questionnaire and returning it to us. We hope that there will be more community consultation in April 2021, social distancing and government guidelines allowing

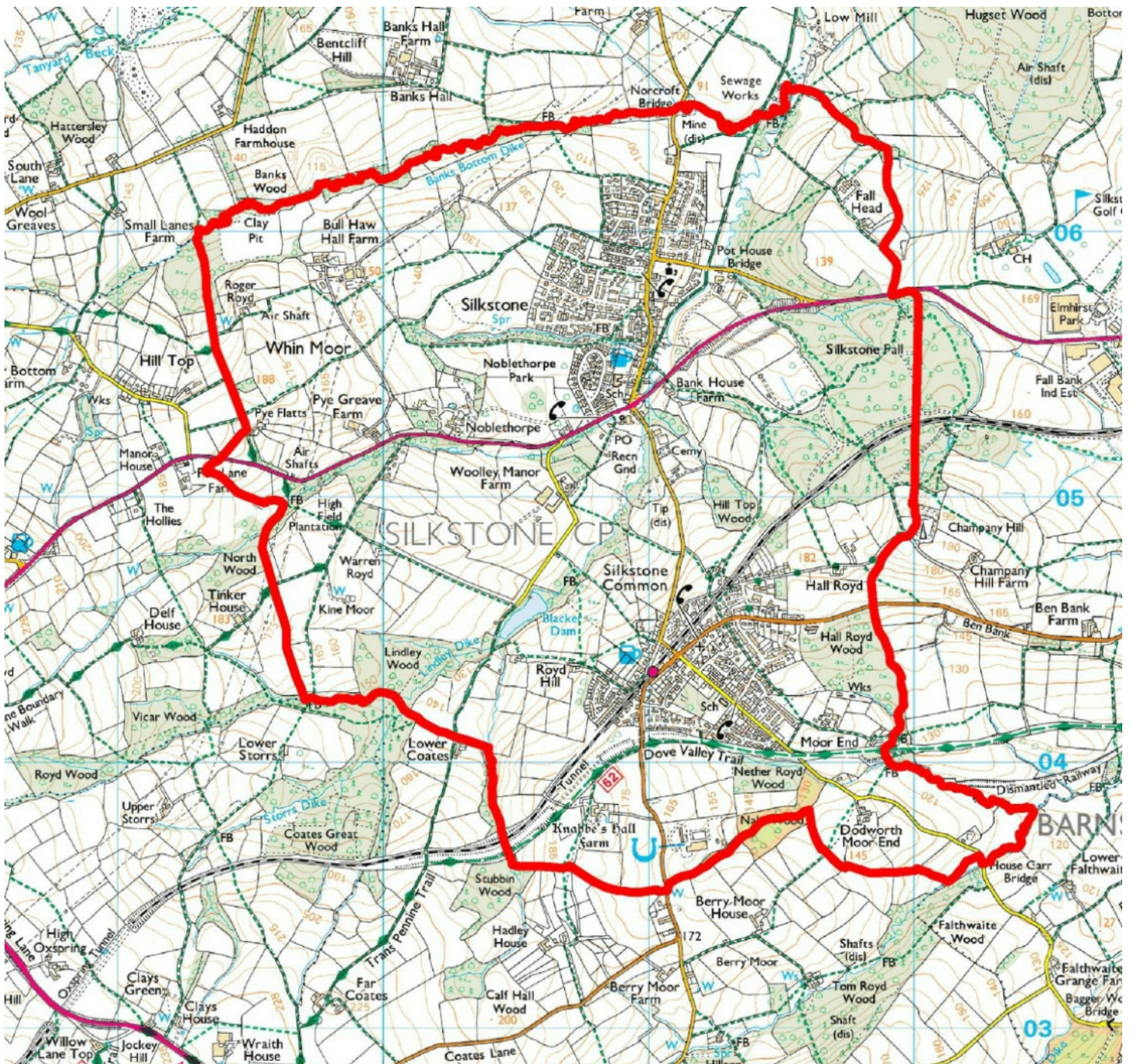
The back page is a reminder of the community group within the parish you can turn to if you need a helping hand with your shopping, walking your dog, or if you are feeling anxious and simply in need of a chat to someone. Also, the parish pantry is available for those in need within the parish.

Stay safe and well

Meryl Liddell
Chair Silkstone Parish Council

Designated Neighbourhood Area and Parish Boundary

The Silkstone Parish NDP can only include planning policies to guide development within the parish or designated neighbourhood area. This is shown on the Map below.





Draft Vision for Silkstone Parish up to 2033

To maintain the character of the villages by ensuring that any development is sensitive to the existing built and natural environment but recognises the need to support 21st century living in a sustainable way.

Draft NDP Vision and Objectives

Draft Objectives

Objective 1.

To support the development of housing provision to meet local needs that is in keeping with the character of the surrounding area.

Objective 2.

To support the protection and improvement of community leisure, sports and recreation facilities.

Objective 3

To protect, enhance and develop the Parish's biodiversity, natural assets and amenity areas, including the Trans Pennine Trail, the green belt, green open spaces, open farmland, and community allotments.

Objective 4.

To protect and enhance the Parish's built industrial and residential heritage and history.

Objective 5.

To preserve and improve accessibility and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the Wagonway, local beckside, local footpaths and bridle paths.

Objective 6.

To support the development of a sustainable local economy, with particular emphasis on maximising local tourism assets.

Objective 7.

To better manage local traffic to reduce highway congestion and increase road safety.

Objective 8.

To support better access to local public transport networks.

Who to contact

The following Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee can be contacted if you would like to borrow a paper copy of the full Issues and Options paper, or discuss any issues raised in it:

Silkstone

Ian Turner (steering committee chair)
Richard Leech (parish council vice-chair)
Alan Thompson

07941 741896; ian.turner4470@gmail.com
01226 791679; rich@richardleech.co.uk
07870 191873; alan.thompson2010@hotmail.co.uk

Silkstone Common

Meryl Liddell (parish council chair)
Derek Liddell
Jill Hayler
Paula MacDonald
Peter Millar
Debra Smith

01226 790509; meryl.liddell@btinternet.com
01226 790509; derek.liddell@btinternet.com
01226 791216; jillhayler@btinternet.com
07947 644183; paula.mac@live.co.uk
07970 118679; pmsilkstone@gmail.com
07443 221784; jd@jdblackhorse.me.uk

Key Planning Issues and Policy Options



1. Housing

The Parish is not in an area identified for housing growth in the Local Plan, but the NDP has to plan positively for development.

House prices in the parish are higher than average for the Barnsley borough area, reflecting the Parish's status as a popular and highly desirable area, with delightful surrounding countryside, highly-regarded schooling and good commuting links.

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee would like to use this consultation to explore whether local residents would like the NDP to include a planning policy to guide house types and sizes in Silkstone Parish, or whether we should rely on policies in the recently adopted Barnsley Local Plan. Recent developments for new housing in the Parish have tended to provide larger scale, family housing for private sale.

It is proposed that the NDP leaves decisions about house sizes, types and tenure to the policies in the adopted Barnsley Local Plan and the most up to date Barnsley level housing needs assessment. However, the NDP could include a local policy which supports the principle of new housing, provided locally appropriate criteria are met. Such a policy could include for instance supporting small scale development in areas up to 0.4 hectares, provided that new houses are not built in existing gardens, footpaths are preserved, density is consistent with adjacent areas and there is no detrimental impact of the landscape or visual amenity.

2. Community and Leisure

Silkstone Parish is fortunate to have a range of local community and recreation facilities. These include 2 schools, a play school, post office, a store with a petrol station and off-licence attached, a bakery, 2 churches, 2 restaurants and 2 public houses. Community Groups based within the villages include luncheon clubs, a number of football and cricket clubs, mother and toddler groups, children's music groups, a history group (Roggins), a CARE (Community Action in the

Rural Environment) group, Guide and Scout Groups, and a Village in Bloom Group.

The area also has the Recreation Ground in Silkstone with a football pitch and a cricket pitch. Membership of the clubs is open to non-Silkstone residents. Other areas of importance are the children's play areas located at Manor Park, Broad Gates and Martin Croft. In Silkstone Common the Recreation Ground has a football pitch and the children's play area known as 'Mike's Place'. Both recreation grounds have a "M.U.G.A. (Multi-Use Games Area)



The M.U.G.A. in Silkstone Common rec.

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee would like to know local residents' and stakeholders' views about whether the Silkstone NDP should include a Policy to support investment in provision in local community and recreational facilities. Such a Policy could add more detail to the Policies in the Barnsley Local Plan by working with local sports clubs to address specific provision needed locally.

Local residents and representatives of sports clubs are invited to explain where they think investment in local provision is required and what sort of facilities are needed.

The NPPF allows local communities to protect from development important small scale open spaces which have a particular significance. These are called 'Local Green Spaces'. In order to qualify for such protection, Local Green Spaces have to comply with a set of criteria set out in the NPPF. Paragraph 100 explains the criteria which have to be met:

'The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:



- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.'

The Parish Design Statement identified a number of important green spaces. The list of green spaces are the main ones within the villages, but there are a substantial number of smaller green spaces. These are of equal importance to the open rural feel of the villages. The Neighbourhood Planning Committee would like to know if there are any additional small, incidental areas of open space in either of the two villages which should be considered for protection as a Local Green Space.



3. Landscape Character and Wildlife

The Parish has its own distinctive landscape character including gently rolling hills and broad valleys, small, medium sized and large woodlands, mainly deciduous and some coniferous, substantial areas of intact agricultural land, both in arable and pastoral use, irregularly shaped small, medium sized and large fields bounded by hedgerows, stone walls and fences, stone farmsteads, often with large modern outbuildings, villages and hamlets set in open countryside, large stone country houses set within designed parkland landscapes and urban encroachment visible to the east.

The Silkstone NDP could include a policy which protects local landscape character by identifying those features which

contribute to the local distinctiveness of the Parish and requiring development to protect and enhance them.

The Parish Design Statement identifies and describes areas of biodiversity importance in Silkstone Parish. Pye Flatts Meadow on the Hoylandswaine boundary of the Parish is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Its special attributes arise from the fact that its sward has not been disturbed over many years, has not been ploughed or fertilised, and the wide range of plant species found there are entirely native species. Another area of significance is Knabbs Wood, which includes some ancient woodland, and is in the ownership of the Woodland Trust. It is highly likely that the site of the Huskar Disaster lies in this woodland.

There are also a number of traditional hedgerows close to the villages which are of significant conservation interest. Some hedgerows, within the built-up areas, serve as 'corridors' for wildlife along which birds, butterflies and small mammals travel. There are several areas of ancient woodland (woodland that has existed since 1600 or earlier) in the Parish. These allow for diversity in the general landscape and also add to the character of the villages. Watercourses such as Silkstone Beck and Husker Dike provide important wildlife habitats.

4. Built Heritage and Design

Silkstone Parish has 24 Listed Buildings including Grade I Church of All Saints and Grade II* Knabbs Hall. The area has an interesting and important heritage linked to its industrial past and particularly coal mining. The history of the Parish is explained in more detail in the Parish Design Statement. The Parish Design Guide identifies a number of sites of local heritage interest. In addition, the Design Statement describes areas of special character and interest requiring some degree of protection.

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee has been researching important local features and buildings of heritage interest. They are working to identify and describe candidates for local list non-designated heritage assets for protection as part of work on the NDP. This work would need to take into account guidance from Historic England and



advice from Barnsley Council but should provide a degree of protection to buildings and structures which are of local interest but which are not on the national list. These have been used to develop draft Design Codes for future development, available on the website, on which we would welcome comments from residents.

The Parish Design Statement sets out a number of proposed guidelines to help ensure new development responds positively to local character. These could be reviewed and used to help inform updated local design policies in the Silkstone NDP.

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee has been working to identify and describe different character areas. Character Area Appraisals provides more information about the local character of different areas of the village and are provided as an Appendix in the full Issues and Options document.

5. Movement and Accessibility

The Parish is served by bus and train services but there is a high reliance on private cars. Levels of car ownership in the Parish are relatively high for Barnsley borough. As a result, many residential areas suffer congestion due to on-street parking, where car ownership exceeds the spaces provided within the property. High Street, Silkstone, is a particular cause for concern, with difficulties often arising in its safe navigation. This has been worsened by recent residential developments and changes in business uses increasing levels of on-street parking.

The NDP cannot propose planning policies to tackle issue such as traffic and parking management. However, the Parish Council hopes that work with partners to improve public transport will reduce reliance on car travel.

The network of rights of way from the Parish provides access to the wider network of footpaths across the borough and into Derbyshire, West Yorkshire and beyond, and are generally well sign-posted and maintained. The Parish Council will work with Barnsley Council and other partners to develop actions to preserve and improve existing public rights of way and links to long distance trails.

This will include enhanced promotional activity to enhance the local tourism offer and support the local visitor economy.

6. Rural Employment

Local employment opportunities reflect the rural character of the Parish. There are no medium to largescale employers and many businesses are service based. Nearby major urban areas such as Leeds, Wakefield, Sheffield and Barnsley provide wide ranging opportunities with national and international employers.

Parish based businesses include Pot House Hamlet and other business linked to the visitor economy and tourism as well as professional services.

Next Steps

Please respond before 17th May 2021 by:

- Completing the questionnaire at the end of this document and returning it to npscs19@gmail.com or by post to the Clerk to the Parish Council at 8 The Meadows, Silkstone Common, Barnsley S75 4SG.
- Depositing your form in the box at the Co-op Store at Silkstone Cross, Silkstone Pharmacy, High Street, or The Cottage Bakery, Ben Bank Road, Silkstone Common
- Go to the website www.silkstoneplan.co.uk and either download the PDF questionnaire which you can fill in and return by email or as described above, or simply fill in the online questionnaire.
- Coming along and completing a response form at one of our events at Silkstone Common Methodists Church on Saturday, 10th April 2021 between 1.00 and 4.00 pm and the Huskar Community Rooms at Silkstone on Sunday, 11th April 2021 between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. These sessions will be an opportunity to talk to members of the steering committee about any issues raised in the consultation document. Note: If government restrictions on gatherings associated with covid-19 are in place, these drop-in sessions will be held virtually using Zoom over the same two days. You will need to register for those sessions by contacting npscs19@gmail.com

Questionnaire

You can use this form or go to the website to complete it on-line.
www.silkstoneplan.co.uk

Draft Vision and Objectives?

1A: Do you agree with the Draft Vision and Objectives?

Yes	
No	

1B: Do you have any suggestions for how they could be improved?

Housing

2A: Policy Option 1: Do you agree that policies in the Barnsley Local Plan are sufficient to guide decisions about house types, tenures and sizes?

Yes	
No	

2B: Policy Option 2: Would you like to see a general policy for new housing in the NDP which includes local criteria to assess proposals.

Yes	
No	

2C: If Yes, please provide details of any issues you would like to see addressed in addition to those set out in the housing section above.

Community and Leisure

3A: Policy Option 3: Should the Silkstone NDP include Policies which support investment in specific local recreational / sports provision?

Yes	
No	

3B: If Yes, please explain where this is needed and what is required.

3C: Policy Option 4: Please tell us about any areas which you think would meet the criteria for Local Green Spaces and explain why they are so important.

Landscape Character and Wildlife

4A: Policy Option 5: Should the NDP include a Policy to protect and enhance Silkstone Parish's distinctive local landscape character?

Yes	
No	

4B: If Yes, please tell us about any local landscape features which you think are important and which should be protected.

4C: Policy Option 6: Should the NDP include a Policy to protect and enhance Silkstone Parish's wildlife by identifying areas where developers could contribute to biodiversity net gain?

Yes	
No	

4D: If Yes, please tell us about any areas where you would like to see improvements to support local wildlife.

Built Heritage and Design

5A: Policy Option 7: Should the NDP identify a list of locally important non-designated heritage assets for protection in a planning policy?

Yes	
No	

5B: If Yes, do you have any suggestions for buildings and features of particular local importance. Please explain why they are important.

5C: Policy Option 8: Should the NDP include local design policies to guide new development, supported by more detailed design codes?

Yes	
No	

5D: If yes, please consider and comment on the proposed draft Design Codes

Movement and Accessibility

6A: Policy Option 9: Should the NDP include a Policy to improve accessibility for all, encouraging developments to link to the PROW network and to support travel by walking and cycling?

Yes	
No	

Rural Employment

7A: Policy Option 10: Should the NDP include a Policy which supports appropriate rural diversification and the visitor economy?

Yes	
No	

7B: If yes, please explain what sort of facilities you would like to see supported in the Parish?

Question 8:

8: Do you have any other comments about the Issues and Options document?

Please provide your name and contact details below.

We will only use your contact details for the purposes of developing the NDP and they will not be shared with third parties

If there is not enough space here for your comments please feel free to add additional sheets of paper.

Page 6 tells you how to return your views.



Supported by
Silkstone Parish
Council
and BMBC

Hello there

Helping Hands was set up in April 2020 to offer support to our community.

We have many volunteers from our villages who are available to provide personal support to people who need to self isolate for whatever reason.

Additionally, where jobs have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, food is available from our Parish Pantry along with personal support as needed.

It has also been reported that the virus and the lockdown restrictions are having an impact on how people feel. Anxiousness, feeling isolated, loneliness and depression are normal feelings during these times. However, just having a chat can help.

Do you, or anyone you know, need support? Or would you like to support others during these difficult times? Please contact either:

Richard Leech Mobile 07966 466507

Sue Williams Mobile 077962 60567

Please look after yourself and help keep our
Community Safe

Hands - wash hands regularly

Space - remember the 2 metre distance rules

Face - use your face mask to protect others

Thanks for keeping us all safe