

VISION THEMES

AIM: To **stimulate identity** in order to sustain vitality in this family of 'sibling' settlements; to live, work and grow into a **new modern economy** together, as a **unique** cornerstone of Leeds City's region and the proposed South Pennines National Park/Yorkshire Dales National Park. To resist becoming a suburban dormitory.

ISSUE 1: THREAT TO CHARACTER OF THE AREA IS DEEPLY FELT WITH A FEAR OF BEING A SUBURBAN DORMITORY

- ❖ Town meets country- preserve this feel with right mix of rural and urban
- ❖ Strong argument for preserving green fields which remain between Rawdon, Yeadon and Guiseley as our green infrastructure, as few central parks . Fields are what gives character
- ❖ Skyline views ie hills, notable buildings, and views of green fields in general, under threat
- ❖ Historic features not respected

Theme 1 -MUTUAL LANDSCAPE IDENTITY

Together the settlements sit on or close to the dip slope of the Chevin, made of local 'grit' stone – used in the foundations of the Houses of Parliament. The glacial topography of the Chevin and Airedale Gap is valued by both locals and people from a much wider catchment area; now there is the prospect of Aireborough being included in the designation of the mooted South Pennines National Park. Aireborough is a cornerstone; on the edge of the South Pennines, Yorkshire Dales, and Leeds City Region – 'corners' are important, therefore defining and celebrating "the flanks of the Chevin", is crucial: by enhancing the attractiveness to residents, so the area will be better able to keep its visitors and help the local economy. The Esholt Wood and Aireborough Greenway area, is also clearly loved, and in need of enhancement for its natural and historic features. Finally, the landscape has given rise to the textile, sporting, entrepreneurial and social history of philanthropy which also unites the settlements and can be the foundation of renewed civic pride, new resident integration and a visitor economy.

Objective: To conserve the historic features, landscape and feel of the area, and to become eventually part of the South Pennines National park. "Future economic and cultural prosperity depends upon protecting and valuing the past whilst finding new ways to create a 'living landscape' for the 21st century."

<http://www.pennineprospects.co.uk/south-pennines>

Objective: Start the plan by creating a green infrastructure for recreational use first, in line with the character of the area, around and through the townships

Theme 2 - LIFE ENHANCING SPORTING AND CREATIVE HERITAGE

Aireborough has nurtured many people in the fields of sport, music and entertainment. The Olympic legacy has been started with the High Royds sports park, and other facilities include Yeadon Tarn, and Aireborough Leisure Centre; but there is much more that could be done, especially as the area is developing into a centre for local youth. It is a strong desire, constantly mentioned, of all local people, to enhance life chances and skills for all young people.

Objective: Build on the heritage of amateur and professional entertainment and music, with relevant performing arts and music centres, space and cinemas. Encourage local children to develop their skills from an early age .

ISSUE 2: LOCAL ECONOMY, JOBS & INDUSTRY ARE NEEDED FOR A VITAL, SUSTAINABLE AREA AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WASTED OPPORTUNITY

- ❖ Lack of required commercial property for growing innovative firms
- ❖ Poor quality of facilities in commercial enclaves
- ❖ Dying Independent High Streets and lack of growing visitor facilities

Theme 3 - VITAL MODERN ECONOMY TO GROW AND THRIVE

The Forum's emphasis on growth of the local economy is based on the local traditions of industry and entrepreneurship, local skill sets, and the intense desire to resist the settlements becoming 'urban dormitories'. The area has a history of innovation; now the Airport's presence lends credence to the dawn of a new era of thought leadership, in creative, design, engineering and micro businesses, with the right facilities. Together with the heritage and landscape qualities of the area, this economic growth focus also supports the strong evidence of a growing visitor economy, to places such as the Airport, Yeadon Tarn, and destination retail shops, all of which needs visitor facilities to feed into a vital local economy.

Objective: Use the skills in the area to encourage living and working in Aireborough. Skills include engineering, design, digital economy and business services. We would like to encourage innovative, international new businesses in these areas, with the airport as a key hub. This should be done in conjunction with Leeds Bradford Airport.

Objective: Rebuild high streets to attract independent shops, services and experiences

ISSUE 3: UNATTRACTIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES ARE REPLACING CHARACTER

- ❖ Unattractive features and poor design of new housing
- ❖ Condition and quality of materials in public space and sites.
- ❖ Street and public advertising – there does not seem to be any set and maintained policy, we have advertising on prominent and key buildings that does nothing to enhance the area.
- ❖ Different areas not networked with walking/riding links

Theme 4 - BEAUTIFUL AND DISTINCTIVE 'QUARTERS' WITH INTEGRITY

There needs to be considerable effort devoted to 'presentation' of the better parts, enhancement of the poorer part and best possible design standards for all new development. Styles need to be defined that recognise the diverse qualities of each local area and respond to them sympathetically. Internal edges, centres for communities and interfaces also need to be identified and made more legible to strengthen the vitality and local identity of 'quarters'. People should be excited about the 'settlements' of Aireborough as places, not just as the location of a house.

Objective: To look at housing in the built up areas where a building would be an enhancement. Housing should be attractive and fulfil Bfl 12 standards. We should not be looking at large estates that just create isolation, are not what is required.

Objective: Identify key hub parks and areas for nature reserves and ensure linked in to all areas via cycle tracks and greenways

Objective: Find ways to get people excited about Aireborough as a place to live – not just a house

Objectives: All development should be properly finished off to fit in with the area, everything should be made good, and any damage rectified

Objectives: Put in design standards suitable for the rural character of the area

Objectives: Put in street signage standards suitable for the rural nature of the area

ISSUE 4: HOUSING SHORTAGES ARE SPECIFIC: DEVELOPMENT NEEDS TO ENHANCE NOT DETRACT

- ❖ Housing shortages are specific to retirement and low rental needs
- ❖ Planning gaps in the built environment
- ❖ Veto any more proposals for housing, until empty houses are filled first. Brownfield sites must be used constructively, and green field site loss must be resisted. All development must be sustainable regarding the pressure on overcrowded and congested resources.

ISSUE 5: OVERCROWDED SERVICES ARE THE RESULT OF OVER DEVELOPMENT AND UNDER INVESTMENT

- ❖ Huge pressure on schools, primary especially, and secondary
- ❖ Huge pressure on doctors and dentists
- ❖ Pressure on burial spaces

Theme 5 - A HUMAN LIFELONG PLACE

The evident need in housing is for 'really' affordable, and retirement homes that keep local people local, so that relationships can be nurtured and kept together rather than dispersed by necessity especially in old age. There is also a critical need for more 'major settlement centre' services (including schools and health care) to support the growing population – at a time when many services are being withdrawn back to Leeds City and are out of the reach of more disadvantaged people in the area who need them most.

Objective: Ensure that Aireborough has the right level of infrastructure for its population, and population profile. Infrastructure must be planned along with any housing.

Objective : Housing requirements should be for the people of Aireborough, and those that local industry wants to attract. Jobs first.

ISSUE 6: LACK OF COMMUNITY AND CIVIC PRIDE INCREASING ISLANDS OF ISOLATION: THE RESULT OF LOSS OF CHARACTER AND POOR URBAN DESIGN

- ❖ Isolated communities, housing developments, and no 'real centres'
- ❖ Local civic pride is declining
- ❖ Lack/loss of 'big community' spirit
- ❖ Lack of community facilities general
- ❖ Lack of community facilities for the young in particular (results from the Youth Forum)

Theme 6 -CIVIC COMMUNITY

There is both a desire for and a shortage of places to meet each other and do things together in such a major settlement centre. More, upgraded, and better connected facilities, by way of both outdoor and indoor space, coupled with renewed civic pride in the minds of the community, might counteract the reduction in municipal maintenance and upkeep. Nunroyd Park holds major potential.

Objective: Create gathering spaces and experiences in a network of linked 'quarter' centres, across Aireborough. All ages should be catered for, from the young, who come to Aireborough rather than Bradford (or even Leeds), to the more elderly who now live alone.

Objective: Stop erosion of community facilities to residential, and build up a plan for what is needed

Objective: Improve basic maintenance of facilities

Objective: Attract a 'destination' facility to the area eg Eden Project, or Hepworth Gallery for Civic Pride, that would also enhance local skills and design, and be a social enterprise helping to regenerate the area.

ISSUE 7: TRAFFIC , TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY IS THE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ISSUE

- ❖ A65/A658 Congestion – over capacity and getting worse
- ❖ Traffic congestion on local roads– bad for motorists and makes people feel unsafe
- ❖ Balance of vehicular traffic and pedestrians – A65 splits communities
- ❖ Parking provision
- ❖ Overcrowded trains
- ❖ Poor bus services
- ❖ Airport noise

Theme 7 - CONNECTIVE (NOT CONGESTED) TRANSPORT

The ingredients are already there for a neighbourhood well served by rail and air, but there is much untapped potential in both modes, with an urgent need to improve Airport related transport infrastructure. Aireborough needs roads that do not fill up and divide in the way that they do now. The aim should be for ‘civilised streets’ that belong to their communities, not roads passing through to far distant places.

Objective: To replan the road and rail network FIRST, in conjunction with the airport before any further development, so that we can get that right. In its turn, that may create development opportunities.

Objective: To look at shared space solutions, particularly along the A65 from Nunroyd to White Cross

Objective: To improve public transport, in order to reduce car use

Objective: To improve parking in line with need, at key pressure points

ISSUE 8: GINNELS/SNICKETS/GREEN WAYS ARE NOT NETWORKED AND IN POOR CONDITION

Theme 8 - HUMAN POWERED ACCESSIBILITY

The ginnels, snickets and greenways are a precious ingredient of all settlements, which are currently of a scale that makes walking and/or cycling viable means of moving around: these qualities are easily lost and so must be looked after and the network extended as new development takes place. The larger the urban area becomes the more difficult it will become to maintain these qualities, so ultimate size has to be constrained.

Objective: Reduce car use by increasing the pleasure and accessibility of a network of green ways and ginnels. This would greatly help with parking issues