

A Neighbourhood Plan for Alwoodley?

One outcome of the *Local Planning Act* is that communities can help shape and deliver new development within their areas. Under the legislation people living in Alwoodley could if we wish produce a local plan for the future development within the parish which in due course would have a formal planning status.

We think that there are major benefits in producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and welcome your feedback and views.

Do you think it is worthwhile us having a major say in the future development of our Parish?

It isn't an easy, quick or straight forward task; There are pros and cons . . . The process could take 2-3 years to completion - the steps include:

- establishing a committee/forum of at least 21 residents who should be reasonably representative. This could include interested residents, parish councillors, representatives from local businesses, land owners, developers - people with planning experience would be particularly useful
- defining the area to be covered by the plan (something to be agreed with the City Council) We will be suggesting the Alwoodley Parish Council boundaries
- community engagement in preparing the plan - the forum needs to produce a plan that the community support.
- the actual production of the NDP!
- checking with the city council planners to ensure legal and legislative compliance
- an independent inspection of the draft plan (for example at a public hearing)

- a referendum within the area covered by the plan requiring a *simple majority of those voting* to approve it

The final outcome would be the formal adoption of the NDP by the city council who would then be bound to take the plan into account and consult with us over all future developments.

Some of the reasons **in favour** of producing a NDP include:

- some other neighbouring areas including Pool, Adel and Otley are taking steps to prepare a NDP leaving Alwoodley possibly somewhat isolated.
- the city council positively welcomes the production of NDP's and are happy to co-operate and give assistance in planning terms
- it will provide an opportunity to shape the longer term future of the Parish
- developers will need to conform with any NDP

Local knowledge and aspirations will be a significant factor in formulating the plan

Some of the reasons **against** producing an NDP include:

- there is a cost in preparing one though the city council will contribute to some elements
- the fact that any NDP must conform to existing local and national planning policies so it cannot be used for example to resist current housing and other development proposals **already in the pipeline**. But the sooner we have a plan in place the sooner we have a say.
- the time scale and time commitment for the volunteers involved.

Some Parish Councillors are willing to be involved with the preparation of an Alwoodley NDP *provided the demand is there*. But we need to know if there are say twenty or more of you out there who would be willing to get involved.

If you are interested in helping please contact the Clerk