

KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON AND DALLOWGILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Change is something which communities have always faced and as far as change covered by Planning Policy is concerned, it is something which benefits from being actively managed, in order to ensure that those changes are for the better rather than for the worse. Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Councils have been granted the power to create a Neighbourhood Plan, the intention of which is to enable local communities to have a greater degree of influence over Planning Policy within their local area. Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan will be used by Harrogate District Council to determine Planning Applications in the Neighbourhood Area, alongside relevant policies of the Harrogate District Local Plan and other material considerations.

The Neighbourhood Plan Area being proposed by the Parish Council comprises one larger village (Kirkby Malzeard), a smaller village (Laverton) and the surrounding rural areas which contain smaller hamlets (such as Dallow) together with scattered farmsteads and other individual dwellings. It directly matches the boundaries of the grouped Parish Councils of Kirkby Malzeard and Laverton (which incorporates Dallowgill) as shown on the attached plan. We have contacted all adjoining Parish Councils and the Nidderdale AONB asking them to inform us if they had any concerns about the proposed boundaries of this Plan and we have received no adverse comments or requests to be included. We have also publicised the proposal within the community and again no concerns have been expressed.

Kirkby Malzeard is seen as a 'Primary Service Village' in Planning terms and is one of a dwindling number of villages where there remains a wide range of amenities including a Primary School, Doctors' Surgery, General Stores, Village Hall, Public House, Playing Field, Church, Chapel, Pre-school, Fish and Chip Shop, two other Shops and two Garage businesses as well as a number of local trades/businesses including builders, electricians, water services, decorators etc. In addition to the employment created by these and by agriculture and tourism, there are also three other major employers currently based around the village, namely

Wensleydale Creamery, D and M Design and Fabrication Ltd and R and J Yorkshire's Finest Farmers and Butchers.

That is not to say that all is well, as two Public Houses have closed within the Parish in the last ten years and the Post Office in Kirkby Malzeard also closed some years ago, to be replaced by a daily visit from a mobile Post Office Van. All the existing amenities would welcome additional income and trade, and how to sustain the remaining facilities is an important consideration.

The picturesque village of Laverton lost its last public building when the Methodist Chapel closed its doors in 2002 but Greygarth Chapel in Dallowgill still holds Services, as does the small Church of England Chapel of the Resurrection on the outskirts of Laverton, albeit on a less regular basis. There has been small scale infill development in recent decades which has not affected the character of the village.

The surrounding rural areas are unspoilt being largely used for grazing livestock with moorland to the west, but whilst traditionally businesses have been agricultural, there is an increasing trend towards tourism.

The proposed Plan Area therefore includes contrasting types of locations but they combine to form a balanced diverse community on which a Neighbourhood Plan can be successfully based.

There are many questions which will have to be answered as part of the process. Does the Parish need more houses than are allocated within the Local Plan and if so, how many? What type of housing mix is needed and where would they be located in relation to existing housing? Can we afford to lose existing employers and if we do lose them how do we replace them? Can farming businesses prosper through diversification and can the various forms of ancilliary businesses complement the rural area rather than detract from it? How do we cope with the increasing volume of traffic through the villages and along the country roads? The whole issue of infra-structure must be considered alongside Planning Policy if the area is to function properly in the years to come. Everyone in the community needs to consider these issues and be involved in the decision making which will help form our Neighbourhood Plan.

The initial steps to form a Steering Group have already been taken and once we have approval to proceed, we will add further members and commence work collecting evidence and opinions in order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which will help Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Parish continue to be the type of place where people are happy to live and work.

Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Parish Council, is a Qualifying Body under the relevant legislation and we therefore wish to formally apply for consent to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the Area described.

06.03.2019

Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Parish Council.

Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Neighbourhood Area

