



INFORMER

Special edition October 2015

This supplement is produced to inform everyone about the outcome of the Public Meeting held on Saturday October 10th in Todwick Village Hall. The meeting was attended by 85 people.

Councillor Brian White opened proceedings by outlining the Local Development Plan, which every local authority has to produce, the aim of the plan being to address the issue of housing shortages and address the creation of employment opportunities in their area.

The impact of the plan, which was adopted by RMBC mid-September and published on the 28th of September, on Todwick is a proposed housing development on land at the Southern end of Kiveton Lane, opposite Todwick Wood and a large plot of land directly opposite the Red Lion on the other side of the A57, designated as a "Special Policy Area".

Councillor White outlined the objections to the housing development that had been made to Todwick Parish Council (TPC). These included the large size of the site (a proposed 12.5% increase in the housing for Todwick), increased traffic on Kiveton Lane, poor transport links, limited village amenities etc. etc.

However, he explained that we could not simply ignore housing issues and outlined a proposal to the meeting for an alternate site in Todwick. The Parish Council had been made aware that the owner of farming land in the village was willing to put an area forward to RMBC as a potential site, however it has not yet been considered by RMBC. The 'new' site is at the Northern end of Kiveton Lane, directly opposite the Red Lion and partly occupies land previously used by the old A57. This site has the potential for 37 homes. The comparative benefits of this site were outlined. If Todwick has to take a share of the housing required for the borough, then the smaller site, closer to the A57 was considered more appropriate and more in keeping with the size of the village.

The meeting was then opened for questions and discussions on the merits of both sites. There were many questions and comments ranging from drainage issues at the north end of the village, to a lady living in the village who could not get her children into the Todwick school and these were answered by Councillors Gregory & White and also by Borough Councillor Gordon Watson.

At the end of a lengthy discussion, Councillor White asked for a show of hands as to what direction the Parish Council should take. No one voted in favour of the RMBC proposal and a substantial majority of the audience voted to support the counter proposal.

Accordingly, TPC will now submit its objections to the proposed RMBC site and confirm we would agree in principle to the alternative site if it is put forward and subsequently accepted by RMBC.

Discussion then moved to the site opposite the Red Lion, which RMBC have designated as Todwick North. Councillor Gregory advised that this particular site, along with four others in the region have been identified as suitable for a major inward investment/employment facility. This is part of the plans for long term job creation. Should the plan be accepted it would effectively move this area of land out of the green-belt. However, it would remain for employment development only and not for housing development.

The meeting was then opened again for questions and comments on Todwick North, after which Councillor White asked for a show of hands on whether the Parish Council should accept or oppose the proposal of RMBC. There was a unanimous vote that this proposal should be opposed and TPC will therefore be doing this in it's submission to RMBC.

The Government inspector will then make the final decision on both of the above matters in due course.

The Parish Council are seeking professional advice in preparing and submitting the objections to the Plan but this would be limited by the monies available.

Some of those attending wished to know how they could contribute towards the cost of professional advice. Anyone who wishes to can make a cheque payable to Todwick Parish Council and send it to the Clerk of the Council at 10 High Street, South Anston, Sheffield S25 5AY. Please include a note with your name and address. No cash please. The legal costs have not been budgeted for, so every contribution helps towards the quality of assistance we can obtain.

The consultation closes at 5pm on November 9th.

Even if you have made objections to the plan previously, RMBC have advised us that they will not count. New and repeat objections must be made if they are to be considered by the Independent Inspector.

Please make them again, either:

- in writing to RMBC, Planning Policy, Planning, Regeneration & Cultural Services, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE ***Please note that comments must be made using the appropriate form from RMBC***
- or using the Council's website at <http://rotherham.limehouse.co.uk/portal>
- or by e-mail to: planning.policy@rotherham.gov.uk

More information about the plan can be found by going to:

<http://rotherham-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/sp/publicationsandp>

Anyone who does not have access to the internet is invited to Todwick Village Hall between 10.00am and 12.00noon on Tuesdays where lap tops are available and Councillor Bryan Ferris will be able to help you access the site.