

AIREBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: HEADLINES

AIM:

To stimulate and sustain vitality in this 'family of sibling' settlements, so that they can live, work and grow into a new future together, as a unique component of Leeds City's diverse international economy and of the proposed South Pennines National Park.

THEMES

1. **MUTUAL IDENTITY** - together the settlements sit on the dip slope of the Chevin, which is valued by many people from a much wider catchment. Therefore, defining and celebrating what was referred to repeatedly in the 2nd February ANF workshop as "the flanks of the Chevin", should be important to both residents and visitors to the area alike (and therefore also to the Planners). The glacial topography of the Chevin has long featured in the significance of the Airedale Gap; now there is the prospect of Aireborough being included in the designation of the mooted South Pennines National Park. The Esholt Wood and Aireborough Greenway area, is also clearly loved, and in need of enhancement for its natural and historic features. Finally the textile, sporting, entrepreneurial and social history of philanthropy also unites the settlements and can be the foundation of renewed civic pride, new resident integration and a visitor economy.
2. **PLACES TO EXPERIENCE, THRIVE AND GROW**- 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.
3. **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services (including schools and health care) to support the growing population – at a time when many services are being withdrawn back to Leeds City and are out of the reach of more disadvantaged people in the area who need them most.

4. **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 connect places better than they do now, and do not divide in the way that they do now.
5. **BEAUTIFUL AND DISTINCTIVE PLACES 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'.
6. **HUMAN POWERED ACCESSIBILITY** - The ginnels, snickets and greenways are a precious ingredient of both settlements, each of which is 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.
7. **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.
8. **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.