

Consultation statement

Compliance with Regulation 15 (Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012)

Saddleworth Parish Council submits its Neighbourhood Plan to Oldham Council and the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) for independent examination.

This Consultation Statement complies with requirements of Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and provides the response to Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations (pre-submission statutory consultation). It has been prepared by Saddleworth Parish Council Strategic Planning Committee to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Section 15(2) of Part 5 of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain:

- a contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- b explains how they were consulted;
- c summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;
- d describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

This Consultation Statement summarises all statutory and non-statutory consultation undertaken with the community and other relevant statutory bodies and stakeholders in developing Saddleworth Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan. In particular the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan describes how concerns have been addressed and what changes have been made to the final Neighbourhood Plan as a result of statutory pre-submission consultation. Changes are included in the Neighbourhood Plan submitted to the Local Planning Authority which can be cross-referenced to comments received as part of statutory consultation (regulation 14).

Background to consultation on Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan

In February 2016 Saddleworth Parish Council declared its intention to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Oldham Council and the PDNPA ran their consultation on the designation of the boundary from 19 August 2016 to 30 September 2016.

The application to designate Saddleworth Parish Council boundary as a neighbourhood area was approved at Oldham Council Cabinet on Monday 21 November 2016. It was also approved at the Peak District National Park Authority Planning Committee on Friday 11 November 2016.

Responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan was delegated to the Parish Council's Strategic Planning Committee, which is made up of nominated members of the Parish Council and co-opted members bringing specific expertise.

On 21 February 2017, 7pm–9pm, the Strategic Planning Committee formally launched the Neighbourhood Plan with a presentation at Saddleworth Civic Hall, followed by a question and answer session.

The Strategic Planning Committee embarked on an initial series of exploratory meetings with specific neighbourhood groups, in particular the community associations in each of the villages covered by the Saddleworth Parish, children from the secondary school, and consultations with the two parent planning authorities – Oldham Council and the Peak District National Park.

Representatives from the Strategic Planning Committee also attended a business breakfast in spring 2017 with local businesses to give a presentation on the potential impact and opportunities of the Neighbourhood Plan. More details are provided in the “Consultation meetings” section.

The aims of the Saddleworth Parish Neighbourhood Plan consultation process were:

- To involve as much of the community as possible throughout all consultation stages of Plan development so that the Plan was informed by the views of local people and other stakeholders from the start of the Neighbourhood Planning process;
- To ensure that consultation events took place at critical points in the process where decisions needed to be taken;
- To engage with as wide a range of people as possible, using a variety of approaches and communication and consultation techniques; and
- To ensure that results of consultation were fed back to local people and available to read (in both hard copy and via the Parish website) as soon as possible after the consultation events.

In preparing Saddleworth Parish Council’s Neighbourhood Plan the Strategic Planning Committee has consistently ensured that residents and other stakeholders including local authorities, interest groups, land owners, businesses and statutory bodies have regularly been consulted and that their comments have been noted and where appropriate incorporated into the plan as it evolved.

A greater level of consultation has been undertaken than the legislation requires and full details of all consultations are provided in the appendices to this consultation statement.

Understanding the issues

A number of consultation exercises were designed by the Strategic Planning Committee to help understand the issues of importance to the wider community. During the consultation that followed, the views of local residents have been obtained through a variety of exercises including survey questionnaires, public events, seminars and written contributions. Local organisations and businesses were consulted and invited to respond to questionnaires and/or provide submissions in writing or by way of discussion groups and meetings.

Contact details have been available on the website, www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk and in all updates and advertised at every event with a statement encouraging engagement.

During the development of the final Neighbourhood Plan, the Peak District National Park Authority and Oldham Council were regularly consulted, as were the community associations of each of the villages in the Parish. Regular consultation has maximised the opportunities for those living and working in Saddleworth to shape their final Neighbourhood Plan.

Overview of consultation approaches to engage the community

Information on the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan has been held on the Saddleworth Parish Council website throughout the process. From inception, the information was on a dedicated website on a subdomain of our main site: at neighbourhood.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk.

When the Parish Council's website was updated in July 2023, the Neighbourhood Plan was moved to the main website, with its own menu item to make it more central to the online presentation of information.

The website contains an introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan; the consultation documents, including all the responses to the initial consultations; the topic papers on each proposed area of the Neighbourhood Plan; each draft version of the plan as it was taken through the development process; the consultation version of the plan, together with the Habitats Regulation Assessment and the Strategic Environmental Assessment; and the formal (Regulation 14) consultation on the Plan.

Additionally draft Neighbourhood Plan documents were regularly shared with both Oldham Council and the Peak District National Park Authority.

Regular public events and consultations were held during the various stages of the production of the Plan. Notices and posters were also a regular means of communication through full use made of the parish notice boards.

A series of informal lectures and information sharing events were also organised by the Strategic Planning Committee, to help the community to understand the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Finally the role of the Strategic Planning Committee has been integral to the Plan process. The Neighbourhood Plan has been the primary focus of the Strategic Planning Committee from the initial decision to develop the Neighbourhood Plan, with regular attendance from Oldham Council representatives throughout, and from village community associations and the PDNPA as required.

Oldham Council and the PDNPA were also kept informed throughout about the consultations and communications taking place.

Consultation meetings

21 February 2017

A launch meeting was held in the Saddleworth Civic Hall attended by around 100 people. A presentation on the process was given, followed by a question and answer session, with residents given the opportunity to leave notes with any questions that were not answered during the session.

The meeting was advertised in Parish Council minutes, Saddleworth Monthly, Saddleworth Independent, the Oldham Evening Chronicle, www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk, and Parish Notice Boards.

A copy of the presentation that was used for both the launch meeting and the subsequent meetings with individual villages is included as Appendix 1 to this document (pages 1–7).

May to November 2017

A series of meetings were held with individual village community groups, with attendance varying between 10 and 100 people (with the exception of Slackcote, which is by far the smallest community covered as an individual village).

There were events for Grotton and Springhead; Lydgate; Greenfield and Grasscroft; Uppermill; Delph; Slackcote; Austerlands and Scouthead; Dobcross; Diggle and Denshaw.

This followed the general format of the launch meeting, with a presentation followed by questions and answers from residents.

Regular correspondence was received from the Saddleworth Civic Trust and members of the public.

The meetings were advertised through the individual Community Groups in each locality, and on the parish noticeboards.

A summary of the themes raised from these meetings is included as Appendix 2 to this document (page 8). This formed the basis of the initial outline of the Neighbourhood Plan, included as Appendix 3 to this document (page 9), and then the extended outline – Appendix 4 to this document (pages 10–17).

Dobcross Community Association carried out their own survey in Autumn 2017, bringing forward a written submission to the Council together with the underlying data supporting it. This was advertised through their community newsletter, which is delivered to each home in the village by volunteers.

The Dobcross submission and the data from the Dobcross survey are referred to in Appendix 5 to this document (page 18), and are available at <https://www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk/downloads/dobcross-overview.pdf> and <https://www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk/downloads/dobcross-traffic-and-transport.pdf>

January to July 2018

Meetings were also held with sports groups; the Saddleworth Parish Youth Committee; and Saddleworth School.

January to March 2020

An initial survey about the Neighbourhood Plan was done online and on paper. The survey (pre-Regulation 14) was open from the 1 January 2020 to 28 February 2020. The online consultation was available until March 7 to allow for any late responses.

As well as being available on the Parish Council website, the consultation was published in local Facebook groups, and on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

The paper consultation was an eight page insert in the Saddleworth Independent, a free local newspaper with an estimated readership of 25,000. As well as the insert, an additional 1,000 copies were printed and distributed to specific sites across the borough, including community centres, libraries and pubs.

In total, we received 476 responses to the initial consultation (combined total for online and paper). The consultation responses are detailed in the accompanying documents.

The questions in the survey on the Neighbourhood Plan and references to the responses are included as Appendix 6 to this document (pages 19–29), and the data is available at Overview (data-led responses): <https://www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk/downloads/future-of-saddleworth-overview.pdf> and: <https://www.saddleworthparishcouncil.org.uk/downloads/future-of-saddleworth-individual-responses.xlsx>

Drawing on the extended outline and the responses gained from the Dobcross and Future of Saddleworth surveys, a series of topic papers were drawn up by the Strategic Planning Committee; links provided as Appendix 7 to this document (page 30).

The topic papers formed the basis of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, which went through 15 separate versions. The draft Neighbourhood Plan was developed through the Strategic Planning Committee at its regular meetings. Through consultation with the two parent councils (Oldham Council and the Peak District National Park Authority) and the village associations, who were also invited to the Strategic Planning Committee meetings, the topics were gradually revised to the final topics.

The iterative versions of the Neighbourhood Plan are linked in Appendix 8 to this document (page 31).

Pre-submission consultation on draft Neighbourhood (Regulation 14)

Consultation time frame

The time frame for the consultation was set as follows:
“Consultation with the community and statutory bodies on the final Draft Plan The consultation period runs from 00.01am on April 2, 2024, until 11.59pm on June 10, 2024.”

Who was consulted

The following stakeholders were consulted:

- Residents and businesses in Saddleworth
- Land owners
- Statutory consultees (as per regulation 14, including Schedule 1)
- Neighbouring parishes
- Other community stakeholders and interest groups e.g. neighbouring planning authorities, business organisations, nature, heritage and sports organisations.

A total of 73 consultees were directly contacted and asked for their views/comments on the plan. This includes Schedule 1 consultees referred to in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. A full list is provided as Appendix 9 to this document (pages 32–33).

A letter was sent to all consultees informing them of the statutory consultation process and inviting comments on the final draft Neighbourhood Plan. This included a link to the full draft Neighbourhood Plan, available on the Saddleworth Parish Council website. They were encouraged to submit their comments via email or letter during the consultation period to the Clerk of the Council via post or email. They were also given the option of submitting their comments using the online portal.

The initial survey had been delivered with the local newspaper, the *Saddleworth Independent*, which at the time distributed print copies of the newspaper. However, this had ceased to be distributed on paper by the time of this consultation, so the Parish Council contracted LDM to deliver 12,000 copies of an eight-page consultation document to all houses in the Parish. The consultation document could be returned as a paper document, and also included the links to complete the consultation online, as well as access to all the preliminary documents that had formed the process.

Residents were also given the option to request a print copy of the full draft Neighbourhood Plan, or to visit the Saddleworth Civic Hall or Saddleworth libraries to receive copies. Copies were distributed to each of the libraries in Saddleworth (Greenfield, Uppermill and Delph).

Summary of Statutory consultation techniques:

- All final draft documents were posted onto the website
- E-mail responses and comments to the Committee
- Posted responses to Strategic Planning Committee

A public meeting was organised at the Civic Hall on 14 May 2024 in order to inform and consult with local residents and businesses about the Neighbourhood Plan. Copies of the Plan were available along with members of the Strategic Planning to answer any questions. The event was open from 7.30pm to 9pm and around 30 people attended.

The public meeting was advertised in the Saddleworth Independent, Parish Notice Boards, Parish Council Minutes, and on the Council’s Facebook page and in local Facebook groups.

Summary of consultation responses

A total of 221 responses to the statutory consultation were received, plus statutory respondents gave feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Plan resulting from statutory consultation (see Appendix 9).

In total, 14 responses were provided from statutory consultees.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Lancashire Wildlife Trust		
	The Trust agrees with the threat of climate change. Plan should refer to biodiversity as well as climate change.	Added "biodiversity and resilience" to key issues section.
	Vision should include that the parish should become an area with a flourishing natural environment. The vision should reinforce the references to biodiversity.	In vision, added text on enhancing biodiversity of the area, and on a flourishing natural environment.
Objective 1	Policy should ensure that the development minimises the impact on the openness of local landscapes. Plans should recognise a policy function of green belt is that open areas have the potential to support valuable wildlife areas. The Trust draws attention to the Building with Nature project. Reference needed to GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Comments have been noted. We consider that national and local policies on green belt, together with the Neighbourhood Plan policies on protection of important views, and character and quality of land adjacent to the National Park cover these. On policies 1-3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional footnote on GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy. • Minor changes made for clarity on native tree and bird species. • Additional supporting text on biodiversity • It is not considered that individual project or grant streams should be included in a strategic plan.
Objective 2, policy 2: Character and quality of land adjacent to the National Park (now policy 5)	Agrees with policy, would like reference to Dark Peak SSSI	The Dark Peak SSSI is referenced in paragraph 24 on local SSSIs.
Objective 2, policy 3: Conversion of agricultural buildings (now policy 6)	Supports requirement for ecological surveys. Specific reference should be made to the potential impact on protected species such as bats. Replace the "should consider" with should in reference to incorporating green infrastructure.	Included in policy 6, bullet point 2. Done.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 4 (now policy 7)	Supports the policy	Noted
Policies 2–5	<p>Recommend a specific biodiversity objective. The information on ecology is scattered.</p> <p>Reference to mandatory of biodiversity net gain of 10%.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan could identify specific local habitats and species that would benefit from off site delivery of biodiversity net gain. The plan could identify local species which are important to Saddleworth.</p> <p>Support policy on tree coverage and peatlands.</p> <p>Recommends reference to ELMS funding.</p> <p>Support preservation of peatlands, and recommending extending to peat soils.</p> <p>There should be a specific presumption against the loss of ancient woodland cover.</p> <p>There should be an indication of important habitats which are not covered by SSSIs/SACs and SBIs.</p>	<p>Objective 1 already includes reference to biodiversity. Policy 1 separated out to create three specific policies, with a new policy 2 focusing specifically on the biodiversity elements. Policy 1 now focuses solely on green infrastructure, and policy 3 covers protected spaces, bringing clarity and focus.</p> <p>New paragraph added on biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>We do not have the evidence or research to be able to carry this out, but would support any initiatives from GMEU to do so. The local nature recovery strategy identifies habitats and species which would benefit, which is referenced.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>It is not considered that individual project or grant streams should be included in a strategic plan.</p> <p>This is being covered in the Oldham Local Plan.</p> <p>This presumption added in policy 2.3, bullet three.</p> <p>New paragraph added to supporting text with specific reference to important habitats across Saddleworth which fall outside the statutory designations.</p>
Policy 5: Erosion and flooding (now policy 8)	Supports the use of nature based solutions. Made suggestions for further enhances on naturalising water courses SuDS and flood risk.	This is being covered in the Oldham Local Plan.
Policy 6: Sustainable construction (now policy 9)	Strongly suggest that windfarm development on deep peat soils should be refused.	This is being covered in the Oldham Local Plan.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 7: Design, character and heritage (now policy 10)	Green infrastructure should mirror the local habitat and biodiversity policies.	Biodiversity has now been consistently addressed in new policy 2 on biodiversity and with reference to the local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Policy 14:	The policy should recognise that some brownfield sites can support a wealth of biodiversity interest.	The policy has to be read as a whole, and the importance of protecting sites with a range of biodiversity is now considered to be covered through the new biodiversity policy.
Policy 18: Tourism and leisure (now policy 21)	The policy should include protective measures to ensure there is no undue disturbance to sensitive landscapes/habitats or species.	This has been covered elsewhere in the document, so a reference has been added to draw particular attention to the relevant policies. The HRA did not consider any additional text was required.
Policy 19: Agricultural land (now policy 22)	<p>Recommends highlighting the importance of peat soils in mitigating against climate change.</p> <p>Recommends reference to ELMS funding.</p>	<p>This is being covered in the Oldham Local Plan.</p> <p>It is not considered that individual project or grant streams should be included in a strategic plan.</p>
United Utilities		
	UU outlined their key criteria for any proposed building near their assets, and advised that applicants should be made aware of the understanding of site constraints.	UU are a statutory consultee on developments, and consultees will have the opportunity to respond and draw attention to any relevant site constraints as part of the consultation process.
Policy 4: Local green spaces	UU would like to provide comments on potential local green spaces.	Local green spaces are designated in line with the criteria in the NPPF, and either through a Neighbourhood Plan or Local Plan to which UU are a statutory consultee.
Policy 5: Erosion and flooding (now policy 8)	<p>Requested a specific reference to the information provided to Oldham Council as part of the emerging local plan.</p> <p>Amend text to read "flood risk from all sources".</p> <p>Additional text provided on assessment of natural drainage patterns.</p> <p>Supportive of recommendation 1.</p>	<p>Reference has been added.</p> <p>Text has been amended.</p> <p>Text added as new bullet point to policy 8.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
Policy 6: Sustainable construction (now policy 9)	Recommended new text on water efficiency element.	This text is incorporated into Oldham Council's emerging local plan, so has not been repeated here.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 8: design masterplans (now policy 11)	Generally supportive; suggested reference added to foul and sustainable water policy.	Text added as bullet point 8 in policy 11.
Policy 9: Chew Brook Vale (now policy 12)	Recommended inclusion of text on masterplan for the development being consistent with any flood advice from the owner and operator of the reservoir	New bullet point added to policy on flood risk element.
Policy 15: Community and self-build (now policy 18)	Recommends inclusion of text to cover site-wide strategies for on-site infrastructure.	This is addressed for larger sites (25+) in the design masterplan section. It has also been addressed more broadly in Oldham Council's emerging Local Plan, so has not been repeated here.
National Grid		
	National Grid provided a default response, with no suggested changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No action taken
National Gas		
	National Gas provided a default response, with no suggested changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No action taken
Natural England		
	Natural England confirmed that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and, significant effects on Habitats sites, either alone or in combination, are unlikely. As such they made no suggested changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No action taken
Coal Authority		
	The Coal Authority confirmed that there as there are no sites allocated for future development, and as such, they had no suggested changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No action taken
Marine Management Organisation		
	The Marine Management Organisation provided a default response, with no suggested changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No action taken

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
National Highways		
	National Highways confirmed that: "Given the scope of the Plan, the general rural nature of Saddleworth and the distance of the urban areas from the nearest access points on to the Strategic Road Network, it is not envisaged that any of the proposed policies would have a detrimental impact to the safety or operation of our network. We therefore have no comment to make at this time."	No action taken
Oldham Council		
Policy 1 – Green infrastructure	Reference to "All development" within policy may be onerous in terms of expecting minor developments such as change of use, small extensions to meet all criteria. The policy could be worded to remove reference to "All." Footnote 2 has a minor typo – it should read "Development must meet PfE Policy JP-G5 8Uplands, which deals with..."	"All" removed from the policy. Footnote corrected.
Policy 3 – protected spaces	Page 23, paragraph 58 - In hindsight it would be better to add (2020) after the list of SBIs.	Added date to list.
	Paragraphs 68 and 69 do not appear to relate well to this section. In addition, our comments on draft 1.13 flagged that the text within paragraph 69 is already contained within the legislation section and to avoid repetition could be removed.	Paragraph 68 moved to paragraph 12 to more appropriate section. Paragraph 69 deleted.
Policy 6 – sustainable construction (now policy 9)	The policy as worded reads like developments are required/expected to prepare a local area energy plan.	Policy 9.3 reworded to make it clear that developments should be in line with local area energy plans, not providing them.
Policy 9 –Chew Brook Vale (now policy 12)	Please note that in finalising PfE, the Chew Brook Vale Allocation is now PfE Allocation 13 (amended from 15).	Reference amended.
Objective 8	Suggested amending text from "To prioritise sustainable and brownfield sites and their best use." to read "To ensure that development prioritises the use of sustainable sites, and makes effective and efficient use of brownfield land, and"	Text amended as requested.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 15 – Community and self-build (now policy 18)	Oldham Council registered concerns that a local connection test would not be allowed to apply to both community build and self-build, particularly in relation to previous comments by the PDNPA. They registered that any restrictive occupancy would need to be maintained through a section 106 agreement, rather than planning conditions, and that the Parish Council could set out a more positive statement on supporting community self-build.	<p>The area covered by the PDNPA is not covered by this policy. The reference to restrictive occupancy being applied through planning conditions was removed. A statement on the Parish Council supporting and promoting community-led projects was included.</p> <p>The policy actively supports developments which take this approach. We would welcome further discussion with the assessor on whether the policy can stand as it is or would need any further amendment.</p>
HRA	A revised HRA is required for the next stage of the plan.	A revised HRA has been provided.
PDNPA		
Page 12	The PDNP Management Plan is not a planning document. It sets the direction for the Local Plan which currently consists of the Core Strategy (2011) and Development Management Policies (2019). The new Authority Plan 2023-28 Strategies and policies: Peak District National Park. The Cultural Heritage Strategy is no more – it has been assimilated into the Landscape Strategy.	The references have been updated to the correct documents.
Page 14	Please add PDNP Local Plan to the list of planning documents	Amended.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 1 (now policies 1–3)	PDNPA requested information on deficiencies requiring new green spaces, information on the location of the lowlands, and suggested reference be made to joined up mitigation strategies. They also asked if the policy only applied to the area outside the Peak District.	<p>References to the deficiencies are contained in supporting paragraphs 1–15, particularly 1 and 7.</p> <p>Reference has been made to the Green Infrastructure Strategy which looks at needs across Oldham’s planning boundary.</p> <p>The Saddleworth lowlands is not a fixed defined space. Oldham Council has set approaches to not planting new trees at heights above 800m. The City of Trees initiative and the GM Blue and Green infrastructure documents under which this is carried out are reference.</p> <p>Information on Mitigation Strategies has been incorporated as a footnote.</p> <p>The policy covers the area as a whole.</p>
Policy 2 – Character and quality of land adjacent to the National Park (now Policy 5)	<p>Supported the policy. Requested more detail on the map of the area</p> <p>Paragraph 20 – text of the act has been updated.</p>	<p>The map has now been redrawn using Oldham Council’s GIS systems, which is provided in the Neighbourhood Plan in the main body and as Appendix 1.</p> <p>Updated text to reflect.</p>
Policy 3 – conversion of agricultural buildings (barn conversions) (now Policy 6)	This policy was agreed to not apply to the Peak District.	Presentation of this made consistent – as text at the end of the policy, not as footnote.
Policy 4– Protection of important views (now policy 7)	Requested detail of valued views.	Detail given in paragraphs 57 and 58.
Policy 5 – erosion and flooding (now policy 8)	Asked if this added anything to national policy.	While in outline this reflects national policy, it was felt that the policy in full was required to frame the call for Flood Risk Assessments (8.2), and given the extreme concerns voiced by residents (see supporting text).
Policy 7– Design, character and heritage	It was noted that some of this text was written more as an objective than as a policy.	The text was redrafted to avoid this.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 8 – Design masterplans (now policy 11)	Requested a clear statement that major development was never appropriate in the National Park.	Text added to the plan.
Policy 9 – Chew Brook Vale (now policy 12)	PDNPA have fed back to the Places for Everyone consultation.	Their feedback has been reviewed and, where agreed, added to Places for Everyone.
Policy 10 – Safety and Wellbeing (now policy 13)	Major development is not appropriate in the National Park other than in exceptional circumstances. It may be pertinent to state this somewhere in the text of the document so that this position is clear.	Added to plans & legislation section, and as footnote here.
Policy 11 – Health, social care and education (now Policy 14)	Asked whether this added to the requirements outlined in Oldham’s local plan.	It was considered that Saddleworth does have different priorities to the whole of Oldham, and that this should be reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan.
Policy 15 – Community and self-build sites (now policy 18)	Requested that the policy needs to align to PDNP local connection test (see DMH2 and DMH3 in Development Management Policies)	The policy does not apply to the area covered by the Peak District.
Policy 17 – Homeworking and connectivity (now policy 20)	Suggested amending the text to read Home working is supported provided that it is at an appropriate scale.	Text amended to incorporate.
Policies 20–25 (now policies 23–28)	Supportive of the policy.	
Canal and River Trust		
Paragraph 5 on page 16 (now policy 4 – Local Green Spaces)	Concern was expressed that Local Green Space designations might encroach on Canal and River Trust land	None of the proposed designations in the updated document cover Canal and River Trust property. In particular, the site at Diggle Fields has been planned to cover the land around the Canal and River Trust-owned land, but not the land itself.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 8 – Design masterplans (now policy 11)	Observed that the policy might be subject to misinterpretation, and suggested new text at the end of the policy – “Create an accessible multi-functional green infrastructure network. Integrate existing areas of blue and green infrastructure in development with consideration being given to the provision of access, surveillance and the orientation of buildings to promote positive engagement with the wider blue/green infrastructure network.”	New text added to policy.
Policy 10 –safety and wellbeing (now policy 13)	Suggested reference be made to the provision of off-site cycle and footpath provision.	New text added to this effect.
Holme Valley Parish Council		
Overall	Strongly commended the overall Neighbourhood Plan, with particular note given to the definition of sustainable development, the clear statement of development not supported, the approach to the land adjacent to the National Park, the preservation of peatland, the approach to consultation, and the role of farming and agriculture.	Noted.
Marine Maritime Organisation		
	The Marine Management Organisation provided a default response, with no suggested changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No action taken
Historic England		
	Historic England provided a default response, with no suggested changes to the Neighbourhood Plan.	No action taken
Sport England		
Policies 1, 8, 9 and 18 (now policies 1, 11, 12 and 21)	Sport England noted the importance of their Playing Fields Policy, to protect playing fields and the presumption against the loss of playing field land.	Oldham Council has carried out an update of its Playing Field Policy, which was published in early 2025. It was considered that no update was required to the Neighbourhood Plan as it was covered in this document.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policies 1, 8 and 18 (now policies 1, 11 and 21)	<p>Sport England noted that any new facilities should be designed in accordance with their design guidance notes.</p> <p>Should this not exist, relevant planning policies in a neighbourhood plan should be based on a proportionate assessment of the need for sporting provision in its area</p>	Oldham Council has carried out an update of its Playing Field Policy, which was published in early 2025. It was considered that no update was required to the Neighbourhood Plan as it was covered in this document.
Policies 12, 18 and 20 (now policies 15, 21 and 23)	Sport England noted that any new developments should ensure new sporting facilities should be delivered to accommodate demand if there were new developments.	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any new land for development. Oldham's forthcoming local plan will have policies covering this.
Policies 8, 10, 18, 20, 22 and 23 (now Policies 11, 13, 21, 23, 25 and 26)	Sport England noted the importance of active design to promote and encourage participation.	It was noted that in particular, Policy 13 sets out criteria for developments to promote and encourage active pursuits and participation, and that the Neighbourhood Plan should be read as a whole. In addition Oldham's forthcoming Local Plan is incorporating references to active design guidance
Internal review		
Plans and legislation	More clarity needed about site allocation.	Moved site allocation text to boxout, and reword text. Additional minor corrections for grammar and deleted repeated text from earlier section.
Policy 14 – Derelict and empty properties and sites (now policy 17)	Policy lacks clarity on partially empty properties	Reference to partially empty properties added
Policy 21 – Parking standards for housing (now policy 24)	References at end need updating.	References to two policies removed, as they have now been incorporated into the transport section.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS		
Policy	Comment	Action taken
Policy 23 – Accessibility to transport (now Policy 26)	Reference to policies on charging points unclear	Text revised for clarity.
Policy 25 – Clean fuel vehicles (now policy 28)-	Building regulations (Part S) updated during development of plan.	Footnote added with reference.
Recommendation 1	This is really a request to developers	Moved to boxout
Recommendations 2–7	Recommendations could be viewed as a misleading term.	Changed named to Parish Actions, and moved to Appendix
Recommendation 8	This requires action by developers, and therefore should be a Policy	Changed to Policy 28, amended language to be consistent with presentation of policies, and added supporting text
Addendum	Uppermill is not the largest village by population.	Reference removed.
Public consultation		
Policies and recommendations	More clarity needed about site allocation. Extensive feedback given requesting more information on healthcare requirements for the area.	Additional narrative given about site allocations, including explanation that policy 12 (Chew Brook Vale) is to add policy detail to an existing site allocation. Narrative included to explain creation of health, wellbeing and education section, and provide clarity on which healthcare elements could be addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan, and which could not.
Policy 3	Residents wanted to see more protection of green spaces	Following the drafting of a new report on Local Green Spaces (policy 4), provided as an additional document, four sites have been added, with additional supporting text.
Policy 18 – Tourism and leisure (now policy 21)	Policy should require meeting the criteria, not contributing to it. Additional detail requested on public transport as an alternative to parking provision. Charity and voluntary work should be added to community activities. Concerns raised over balance of tourism versus protection of habitats.	Opening paragraph amended to “meets”. New text on public transport connections. Charity and voluntary work added. Reference added to policies 1–3, and protected habitats.
Policy 22 – Cycling, pedestrian and leisure infrastructure (now Policy 25)	More protection required for existing rights of way. References at end need updating.	Default position established of not supporting a loss of quality or provision of rights of way. Reference updated.

Details of all feedback from each respondent following statutory consultation is provided in Appendix 11. Where statutory consultees provided specific feedback on policies, they were sent a detailed response breaking down all changes to policies as a result of their feedback, or if the Committee decided not to make changes to the document as a result of the feedback, they were given an explanation as to why not.

A very consistent response throughout the public consultation was that the Parish Council needed to ensure the provision of additional healthcare facilities. This clearly falls outwith the ability of the Parish Council to provide beyond the policies outlined in the Health, wellbeing and education section, so the Parish Council passed a motion to write to the Secretary of State raising this issue, and proposing that there should be more latitude in planning law to deliver further healthcare facilities with major developments.

As a result of the feedback, 71 changes were made to the consultation version of the Neighbourhood Plan, to create our draft plan for submission (version 2.1). These are summarised in the preceding table.

Appendix 13 gives all the details of changes made as a result of the regulation 14 consultation.

There are no material changes following review of policies that would require a second consultation. There have been four Local Green Spaces designated in this plan (under Policy 3.3) following feedback from residents, which resulted in the Parish Council carrying out an exercise to evaluate suggested locations from our first consultation against the Local Green Space criteria. This is well supported by the feedback from all stages of consultation. Oldham Council and the PDNPA will consult on on this as part of regulation 16 consultation.

The Neighbourhood Plan being presented to the LPA shows the changes identified in Appendix 13.

Conclusion

This Consultation Statement and the supporting consultation reports are considered to comply with Section 15(2) of part 5 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.