

KIRKBY LONSDALE TOWN COUNCIL 9 SEPTEMBER, 2020

SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL PLAN 2025 – 2040

1. The current Local Plan for South Lakeland runs until 2025 and this covers most of the Town Council area. A small part of the Council's area lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and at the moment is covered by the policies set out in the South Lakeland Local Plan.
2. South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) are starting a review of the Local Plan, which will result in a new plan that will run from 2025 until 2040. The Yorkshire Dales National Park will be developing their own plan which will cover areas of the Town around the river and areas around Kestwick.
3. The first stage of the South Lakeland Local Plan is to seek general views from key stakeholders and the public as to what policy areas the Plan should cover and what issues it should address. A series of local drop in sessions were due to be held (the Kirkby Lonsdale session was held on 27 February in the Lunesdale Hall). However due to the Covid 19 pandemic other public consultation events were cancelled.
4. South Lakeland District Council (SLDC), the plan making authority, have suggested that the Plan should address 6 key areas: housing; the economy and employment; the environment; health and wellbeing; the historic environment; and design in new development.
5. Initially SLDC had asked that views be submitted by 15 May, 2020. Because of Covid 19 however the consultation date has now been extended until 18 September. Following the completion of the consultation process, there will be an 'Issues and Options Consultation', followed by the publication of a Draft Plan for consultation in Autumn 2021. Following a formal representations period and Public Examination it is anticipated that the new Local Plan will be adopted at the end of 2023.
6. In parallel to the current consultation process, SLDC have also made a 'Call for Sites', essentially asking landowners and developers to identify sites they wish to see developed for a variety of uses over the next Plan period. This Call for Sites also closes on 18 September.
7. At its meeting on 11 March the Town Council had resolved to seek the views of interested parties in the Town and have a Councillors' workshop, prior to submitting formal views to SLDC. However, this was not possible over the last few months.
8. Nevertheless, it is important that the Town Council take a clear lead on the new Local Plan and from discussions that have taken place within the Town Council over recent years it is suggested that the following issues and concerns be passed to the District Council for consideration as the plan process is taken forward.

- 9. NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT** – the current Local Plan identifies Kirkby Lonsdale as a Key Service Centre and as such an area which should accommodate new housing development to meet the Plan’s targets. As a result of this the major new development at Kendal Road (the Russel Armer scheme of 80 units) was identified and granted planning permission.
- 10.** The development of the Kendal Road scheme played a large part in meeting the District Council’s new build housing targets and given the potential impact on the Town’s services (see below) it is considered that a very much smaller contribution should be made during the next plan period.
- 11.** If new housing development is to be accommodated in the Town, it is considered that the conclusions reached by the 2017 Mickeldore Economic Assessment of Kirkby Lonsdale (commissioned and accepted by SLDC) should be adhered to. The Study concluded that any further development of the Town should not take a linear form through development to the south of the A65.
- 12. EMPLOYMENT LAND** – the current Local Plan identified the need for a further 1 hectare of employment land and as a result of this an area of land was identified at the entrance to the Russell Armer, Kendal Road housing scheme. The Town Council did not support this allocation and it has not yet been developed for this purpose.
- 13.** It is suggested that the Town Council re-iterate this view and advise SLDC that this land should either be used for further housing, to meet any target in the next plan period, or be used for community purposes, such as a children’s day nursery.
- 14.** Scope for extending the two existing employment parks on the A65 exists and these should be explored before any allocations of employment land are made within the Town.
- 15. LOCAL SERVICES** – as part of the plan making process, and prior to the setting of any targets, such as new housing development, a full review needs to be made of existing capacity in the Town and whether it is capable of accommodating further development. The services that need to be examined include: drainage and sewerage capacity; primary and secondary school capacity; and medical and dental services. Localised flooding and the continued erosion of the river bank need to be examined.
- 16. TRANSPORT** – The aspirations of the Town Council to make the Town more user friendly for pedestrians, those with disabilities and cyclists needs to be recognised, together with the need to reduce speed limits within the Town and make the Town more pedestrian friendly through improvements to the public realm.
- 17. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF STAKEHOLDERS** – the new Local Plan must provide further impetus to the development of the Town Centre and its traders, particularly after the difficult recent period. Key stakeholders such as the Chamber of Trade, the Community Interest Company, the two schools, the Rugby

Club and the Churches/Big Vision, will no doubt be making their views known and as major players in the Town their views should be fully considered.

18. TOWN ENVIRONMENT – the key aim of the Town Council is ‘to ensure that Kirkby Lonsdale is a clean, tidy and well-maintained Town and that it is safe and accessible’. The Town Council would look to see this objective fully recognised in the new Local Plan.

19. CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING - SLDC have asked for consultees to comment on these areas. Both are considered extremely important, some elements of which can be addressed by a land use plan, others by wider policies and initiatives that can be taken at a national level or by the County and District Councils. The Council would support such initiatives and will comment further as draft policies are brought forward at the next stage of the plan making process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the contents of this report be submitted to South Lakeland District Council as the Town Council’s response to the consultation on the South Lakeland Local Plan 2040 and the Council asks to be advised as soon as possible of the sites which are submitted by developers and landowners as part of the Call for Sites.