

Housing : Trisha Conroy

There has been much discussion on the topic of housing in High Lane over the last few years with firstly the proposal of 4000 houses under the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) on the Greenbelt, which then reduced to 500 houses, and now Stockport has been removed from the GMSF completely.

Following Stockport's removal from the GMSF, a local SMBC plan is being developed for the Borough... This plan will include a review and projection of the borough's housing need and potential sites for such development. Sites in High Lane have recently been rejected as unsuitable for housing because of : lack of infrastructure; the A6 is already at saturation point, in consequence traffic is worsening and air pollution is already at maximum allowable levels in some places; also, because of the threat to our village community and its character, and because proposed development was on the Greenbelt. It is important that the surrounding landscape, habitats and vistas are protected and enhanced through any future development.

With the High Lane Neighbourhood Forum nearing the final stages of completion, we now have the opportunity to have a huge influence over the future of building houses in High Lane, that is: where, how many, how big and what design..... and not on the Greenbelt! Our plan details, our proposed design codes, please take a look at them.

It is important therefore that the High Lane community has its say and its voice be heard on how our area develops over the next few years. Once our Plan is ready for Referendum, it will hold weight for the Forum to be formally consulted on all local planning by SMBC and developers.

Community surveys undertaken by the HLVNF have indicated whilst the High Lane community recognise there is a need for some development in our village, they have also made clear that any development needs to be kept to much smaller sites, and be the right size and in the right location. Most respondents said developments of 10 houses or less would be preferable with an emphasis on small infill sites, Brownfield sites and existing sites which have outlived their current use and could be redeployed in accordance with current demand. The Forum committee now receives notification of all planning applications in the village and we have the opportunity to comment upon them.

HLVNF is developing a Neighbourhood Plan which reflects the voices and views of the High Lane community and are seeking community support to enable our plan to become a legal document.