



## **SPOFFORTH – NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**OPEN MEETING - THURSDAY 22 JUNE  
LONG MEMORIAL HALL - 7.30 p.m.**

With the ever growing demand for housing development in the Harrogate District, it is becoming increasingly important to produce a policy for Spofforth to give guidance and credibility to future planning applications. Many local communities are already preparing their own plans but we remain vulnerable to proposals for piecemeal development.

Recent planning applications have raised concerns which might not otherwise have been identified. We have seen successful reactive responses to unwanted development. We now need a proactive approach to set out what we do want, and a Neighbourhood Development Plan could give more focus in the future.

Please come along to the meeting on 22 June to find out more, and offer your support to this very valuable project.

Shirley Fawcett  
Chairman  
Spofforth with Stockeld Parish Council



# **A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SPOFFORTH**

**LONG MEMORIAL HALL  
THURSDAY 22 JUNE - 7.45 p.m.**

## **AGENDA**

**Shirley Fawcett: Introduction**

**Keith Jackson: The Boston Spa experience**

**June Geddes: Where we go from here**

**Questions and Answers**

**General discussion with drinks and nibbles**

## **Public Meeting 1 - Thursday 22 June 2017**

### **Introduction - Shirley Fawcett**

**Welcome:** On behalf of the Parish Council I'm delighted to welcome you all to join our discussion about future planning policy in our village.

**Purpose of the meeting:** This evening we are hoping to get an idea of how many are interested in the subject, who would be available to participate in the process, and what level of support we can expect.

**Context:** Recent legislation has included the Localism Act which aims to delegate some policy making and decision taking down to communities. Harrogate Council is preparing a district wide Local Plan, and we have the opportunity to create a Neighbourhood Plan to set out what sort of environment we want for Spofforth. Housing is one significant part of this process. There is a national need for more housing and we have to accept that Spofforth will continue to develop - the question is what form that development will take.

**Harrogate Council:** I have been a Councillor for many years and been very involved with the planning process. As such I can see the benefit for us in developing our own local policy to complement the Harrogate Local Plan. To that end we would liaise and work closely with Harrogate Council to ensure mutually acceptable development proposals.

**Objectives:** So our principal objective here is to create a planning policy document for Spofforth. Currently developers can take advantage of the lack of a plan. We are vulnerable to piecemeal development as there is no framework and each proposal is judged on its merits. A couple of recent proposals have caused great interest and many formal written objections - there was a proposal for housing in the village centre, and before that, a wind turbine to the south-west of the village. We could become proactive rather than just reactive by setting out what we do want rather than simply reacting to what others propose.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Will cover a whole range of planning issues, not just housing, to determine the future shape of our community and environment. When complete the document has to be agreed with villagers and Harrogate Council, and then becomes a statement of policy with which proposed development must comply, giving where necessary an additional layer of protection to prevent unwanted opportunistic piecemeal development.

**Registration:** We hope everyone here this evening will register their interest on the forms now being distributed so that we can work together to research the subject to find out your views. Your active interest will assist in the process, and will contribute positively to the outcome.

**Boston Spa** have recently produced what is probably the best example that any of us have seen. So it is my pleasure to introduce **Keith Jackson** who was one of the many contributors. He has kindly offered to share with us his experience and that of the wider Boston Spa community.

**Hand over to Keith Jackson**