

OXSPRING NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROJECT

LOCAL ECONOMY SUB-GROUP: KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Small farm-based developments** such as barn conversions, with the twin aim of (i) sustaining family farms across the generations; and (ii) helping small local building firms.
2. **Sympathetic housing developments** of a scale that the village can cope with without unbalancing the local economy and local infrastructure. Emphasis to be on in-filling and affordability rather than on big new developments, and the housing mix should cater for all ages and income brackets.
3. The provision of '**super-fast Broadband**' is considered essential, to facilitate Web-based sustainable home working.
4. Better **mobile telephone coverage** as needed, as current provision is patchy and unreliable. Once again, this would help deliver sustainable home working.
5. **Tourism development**, based on the proximity of the Trans-Pennine Trail which is highly used by cyclists, walkers and equestrians. The Group see this as particularly promising given Britain's recent successes in cycling and next year's arrival of the Tour de France in Yorkshire. This to have several strands, as follows:
 - 5.1 upgrade of the **sports ground** to incorporate a cycle support centre (possibly similar to the one at Fairfields in the Derwent Valley);
 - 5.2 provision of a high quality **camping and caravan site** with shower facilities, aimed at users of the Trail, to stimulate the local pubs and shops (the sports ground area could include such a site). NB it will be important that adequate litter containers are provided, in order to avoid litter pollution.
 - 5.3 extensive **promotion** of the new facilities among the cycling community once they are operational.
6. **Local produce development.** The Plan should encourage the development of local farm shops selling fresh produce at farm gate prices without the need for purchasers to visit supermarkets. Plan should also seek to acquire land for allotments, in line with clear local demand.
7. An **improved, expanded local shop**, carrying a much larger range of items, should feature in the Plan. The current facility is too small scale and not open often enough, meaning that residents often have to travel to Penistone even for just one or two small items.
8. **Community energy.** The Group is very keen to explore local hydro or solar energy

development as a community initiative, to outflank the big power companies and obtain long term, lower cost, greener energy for the village. Plan should feature a feasibility study along these lines.

9. **Improved public transport.** At present, many working age villagers drive to work in either Leeds or Sheffield, which is of course highly energy intensive. Plan should encourage:

9.1 either an extension of the Supertram to Stocksbridge or an extension of the Supertram link bus from Stocksbridge to Oxspring and Penistone. This would encourage Sheffield workers to leave the car at home and connect with the Supertram at Middlewood;

9.2 more frequent fast bus services into Barnsley, with better connections to fast Leeds trains.

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9-8-13