**OUR VISION FOR BAILDON (DRAFT)**

**THE HILL**

Baildon is an unusual place. Stretching from the River Aire in the south, up to Baildon Moor in the north, Baildon is built on a steep hill, rising to 925 feet at the trig point. This has many consequences for everyday life, especially transport

**THE SPACE**

Baildon is surrounded on 3 sides by open countryside, which makes the quality of life superb.

**OUR HERITAGE**

Baildon benefits from being directly adjacent to the World Heritage site at Saltaire with all it has to offer, whilst also having its own local history stretching back around 3,000 years.

**OUR COMMUNITY**

With a population of approximately 16,000, Baildon offers a wide range of housing and a warm and inclusive community. It provides for a variety of desirable lifestyles for people of all ages – families with children, older people, young people starting out.

**OUR ECONOMY**

Whilst Baildon is ideally placed for those who commute to Leeds and Bradford (and further..), Baildon retains a vibrant local economy which includes:-

* A vibrant and characterful hospitality sector
* A modest retail centre in the centre of Baildon
* A wealth of self-employed/ small businesses, many working from home
* Some large employers along the Otley Road corridor

**GETTING AROUND**

Baildon is fortunate to have retained its local railway station, although the service is infrequent. Bus services are limited. Leeds Bradford Airport is 4 miles away. The Airedale corridor along Otley Road is a main arterial route for the Aire valley but is very heavily congested with road traffic.

The steep gradient of Baildon Hill means that for many, transport (both public and private) underpins their ability to enjoy community facilities

**Our Vision for Baildon**

**Our vision is to ensure that over future decades, Baildon retains its semi-rural character, and conserves it’s many historical features, whilst allowing the community to thrive.**

**Baildon Moor** must be protected from development, as well as other surrounding special open spaces, such as Shipley Glen, Ghyll Beck Valley and Tong Park, Baildon Riverside

**Historic Baildon** should be conserved for future generations, and good design should be paramount in new development

**Baildon community** is strong. Priority must be given to the further development of facilities to meet the needs of the many neighbourhoods across Baildon

**Baildon Economy –** Over recent years facilities for small businesses have been lost from Baildon. Priority should be given to creation of small business units to enable “step-up” accommodation for growing businesses, so retaining them in the Baildon Community and reducing unnecessary travel.

**Baildon transport –**Baildon would like to see significant improvements in connectivity so that its many assets provide real benefit to local residents. Baildon welcomes creative approaches to reduce carbon emissions whilst still promoting independent travel for all

Gill Dixon

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