14th. June 2012

Core Strategy Consultation,
Ribble Valley Borough Council,
Church Walk,
Clitheroe BB7 2RA

Dear Sirs,

RIBBLE VALLEY CORE STRATEGY

In response to your request for comments on the recently published Core Strategy in respect of future potential development of the Ribble Valley area, we wish to state our views as follows:

1. A prime consideration of critical importance is the conservation of the visual amenity within each community of the Ribble Valley. Our principal concern is for the sensitive development of any future development within the town of Longridge.

2. It is understood that future residential provision will be necessary over years to come, but not at the expense of the violation of the unique natural heritage of the town. Green spaces, both existing and proposed, public and private – i.e. G6 essential open spaces - must be evaluated in relation to their inestimable value to their resident communities both existing and those foreseen in the years to come.

3. Precision in the estimated number and sizes of all new homes is impossible, especially at the present time of economic uncertainty. Balance is essential with consideration of neighbouring housing authorities targets of considerable importance before any decision is taken. A minimum quinquennial review of future housing need is recommended.

4. The future of development in Longridge should be determined only after a specific local plan has been investigated and thoroughly ‘tested’ by way of consultation and a possible referendum. Future housing of all kinds, for example, must be strictly controlled according to real need.

5. Special care must be taken in respect of proposed local development within the aegis of the City of Preston. Continuous and regular joint consultation between the City and the town of Longridge will be of vital importance.

Yours faithfully,