

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Cc: [Stuart Andrew.MP](#)
Subject: PDE00162_Objections to the Development of the Green Belt in Rawdon.
Date: 28 October 2015 19:29:52

12, Southlands Avenue,
Rawdon,
Leeds.
LS19 6JN.

28th October 2015.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to register my objections to the proposed building of new housing in Rawdon on sites HG2-12, HG2-41, HG3-2, HG3-3 and HG3-4. All of these sites are on greenbelt land and therefore should not be under consideration for development. According to government guidelines, brown field sites should be developed wherever possible before greenbelt land is considered. All the sites mentioned are within LCC's own designated landscape area and, in particular, building on areas HG2-12 and HG2-41 would have a detrimental effect on the surrounding landscape.

There is no viable access to site HG2-12, Woodlands Drive and New York Lane being private roads and Southlands Avenue being extremely narrow and lined with long established woodland trees. With regard to Site HD2-12, this was not included in the Issues and Options consultations in June 2015 and there is no record of any consultation being held prior to it being approved for housing in the Site Allocations Plan.

The loss of these greenbelt sites would also mean the loss of habitat of the many wild life species currently to be found in the area, such as wild deer, sparrow hawks, tawny owls, curlew, lapwing and fieldfare; these are all UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, supposedly protected. Also, the entire site contains mature woodland and HG3-3, in particular, a native bluebell wood; there are palmate newts in a UK BAP Priority Habitat Pond immediately next to site HG3-2, and these are also to be found on site HG2-12. The Leeds Country Way, which is a main regional recreation route runs through HG2-12 and alongside HG3-2 and HG3-3 and this is included in LCC's designated Strategic Green Infrastructure Area. In addition to damaging the ecology of the area, outdoor activities which currently take place there, such as horse-riding, cycling and walking would be impossible. All these sites are classified as Grade 3 agricultural land and the farms in Rawdon provide much employment in the village, as they have done for generations. Their loss would be a devastating blow to the community.

With regard to Knott Lane, which would presumably become the main entrance and exit route for Sites HG2-12, HG3-2 and HG3-3, this extremely narrow country lane could not possibly cope with traffic from a further 246 houses which could mean approximately another 500 vehicles. In addition to all this, Knott Lane is the only exit point for cars leaving Rawdon crematorium and even now this causes huge problems to traffic entering and leaving the A65 at the Knott Lane junction as there are always cars parked at the roadside, which often cause gridlock.

Despite the recent work carried out at Horsforth roundabout, the colossal amount of traffic using the A65 still poses a huge problem for local residents. Further development in close proximity to this road, i.e. on Site HG2-41, would be the final straw, particularly if a school is built, as would need to be the case for such an enormous development of 777 houses. Building on this latter site would turn Rawdon and Horsforth into one continuous urban sprawl rather

than keeping the separate identities of the two villages, and would directly contravene the Government's Green Belt policy of protecting open spaces. Furthermore, should the proposed new link road to the airport from opposite the Crematorium on the A65 go ahead, this would only further compound the problem.

There are brownfield sites available in the Leeds area, which LCC Core Strategy states should be developed before any green belt land is considered. Why, therefore, is this not being done? In addition, the Council is still working on out-of-date statistics which projected the need for 70,000 new houses to be built, whereas in fact the figure is nearer 45,000.

I sincerely hope that when considering plans for future development, Leeds City Council will adhere to both the relevant government laws and guidelines and also respect the wishes of the local inhabitants.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Feather