

**From:**  
**To:** [Site Allocations Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [Stuart Andrew.MP](#)  
**Subject:** PDE00201\_Opposition to building  
**Date:** 27 October 2015 13:16:52

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**Ref(s):** HG2-12

**HG2-41**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We moved to Southlands Avenue in Rawdon recently in 2013. We had previously lived in Apperley Bridge and was very concerned about the amount of traffic that was building up and the large amount of building that was occurring in the area that was only going to make this worse.

When looking for somewhere to live, we looked at a large amount of places in the area - mostly in Rawdon. When we saw Southlands Avenue, we fell in love with the area immediately. The thing that most appealed to us, was the fact that we were only a few miles from Leeds, however, walking around the area, you could almost be in the countryside due to the lovely green area around. We have a dog and walking around the area is important. As is the fact that we also have kids and the area, and specifically Southlands Avenue, provided a wonderful safe area, free from major roads that allowed them to play out.

The negative to the area was that we were so close to the A65 - a very busy road. However, the A65 allowed us to easily reach Leeds and Bingley where my wife and me work.

Walking around the area, with friends, family and pets, we have encountered all sorts of wildlife in the area. There are always squirrels in the area. However, we never cease to be impressed when we see the wild deer roaming in the local crematorium, the foxes that are in the area, the frogs that are often found in the back garden - although we are glad that the cat grew out of bringing us mice home as a present. Most impressive is when we went walking with friends and saw a huge migration of tadpoles - tens of thousands of them, trying to make their way to a local pond.

However, news of the suggested plans to build a huge number of houses in the area has obviously caused a huge amount of concern to us. The whole reason that we chose this area around Southlands Avenue is due to its unique character. Living here - it feels very semi-rural. You are minutes away from a major town, however, the area has the feel of being very much in the countryside. Walking for just a minute around the area, you can see a huge amount of countryside - something that this plan will remove.

The mock up pictures of how the area could change is particularly alarming. The plan will immediately and irreversibly change the look and feel of the Rawdon area. What was previously a beautiful countryside, with views of the valley will be removed - forever! Who knows what effect all the removal of this green land will have on the wildlife that has been seen in the area.

The other important issue is the effect that this will have on the A65. At 7am in

the morning, it often takes my wife 5 minutes to turn right out of Knott Lane onto the A65 - at 7am. What effect is over 1000 new homes over 5 sites (HG2-12, HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4, HG2-41) in the area going to have. 3 of these sites could be into a single road - Knott Lane - a road as described that already is very busy. Between 4pm - 6pm, this road is OFTEN backed up towards the lights at Rawdon centre. More and more traffic is going to mean that this issue will only get worse. It will also mean many people using alternative back streets such as Town Street/Layton Road to avoid the A65, meaning an impact on these areas also. The road is already unsustainable and will obviously only get worse with additional housing in the area. In addition, attempting to get down Knott Lane on a daytime where a service is occurring at the local crematorium is particularly hard. A very narrow lane, with parked cars on one side and a stream of cars from the crematorium blocking the road. This issue will only be made worse with additional housing in the area.

Our children go to Rawdon Littlemoor in the area. This, and other schools in the area are already oversubscribed, meaning that people have to travel further to reach school (with impact on roads!) - adding additional housing will increase this issue significantly. This will also likely be an issue when they reach an age to go to the oversubscribed high schools in the area.

The building on these sites does not at all seem a sensible approach. There must be better, more sensible alternative solutions to the need for this housing to be built. I have read recently, that the need for this building is based on outdated figures of 70,000, and that the Office for National Statistics have revised this figure to 45,000 and this reduced figure would remove the need to impact greenbelt. There must surely be plenty of brownfield sites in the city that would mean that these areas of beauty do not need to be impacted.

As I stated at the beginning, the reason for us choosing to move to this area, is because of its uniqueness and the fact that we could be in the countryside. As a family, we love walking our dog in the area, going for bike rides, running in the area. All of which will be impacted by the proposed building work.

I hope that sense prevails and that you choose to resolve any housing shortages using available brownfield sites rather than removing an area of beauty that can never be returned once it has gone.

Yours faithfully

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