

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE00331_Green belt land in Horsforth
Date: 19 October 2015 12:22:27

74 West End Drive

Horsforth

LS185JZ

19/10/2015

Dear Leeds City Council

I am emailing you regarding the Leeds Site Allocation Plans which include proposals to build large numbers of houses at several Green Belt sites in and around Horsforth including HG 41,42 and 43 (4240, 1061, 5009).

I object to these plans which I believe contravene the National Planning Policy Framework. Obviously we need more houses to be built but I would like to know whether the circumstances are so 'exceptional' that these houses must be built on green belt land, and also why so many houses need to be built close to one small town?

We already have the Horsforth Vale and Kirkstall Forge developments underway with the consequent increase of traffic on local roads, and despite the traffic light works at Horsforth Roundabout and the construction of the new railway station I think further increasing the housing density in this area will result in gridlock on the roads for large parts of the day. It often takes me an hour and a half already to travel by bus the short distance from Park Lane College to Horsforth Town Street. In addition children crossing the roads to get to local schools are being put at risk.

If it can be proved that the circumstances are exceptional and that houses must be built on these sites I would urge Councillors to consider a number of points.

The no. 30 bus service that runs between Horsforth Vale and Horsforth Railway Station should take in the new sites. The sites should include a good proportion of houses for rent at an affordable level, not just houses for sale. The houses should not cover such large areas that there is no space for recreation or that wildlife areas are completely eliminated.

Green belt land is important for its amenity value (and consequent reduction of mental health issues) and because natural ecosystems provide us with various important 'services'.

Plants and soil organisms take up significant amounts of carbon dioxide as they grow and so reduce the greenhouse effect that contributes to climate change - with its attendant problems of drought and flooding. At the same time they release oxygen which benefits the immediate area and the nearby City. A huge range of food plants rely on pollinating insects, including wild bees, beetles and wasps, for their survival - including carrots, onions, lettuce, beets, leeks, turnips, oil seed rape, pears, plums, strawberries raspberries and blackberries. Please do not 'plan out' the habitats for these insects.

The 'natural infrastructure' is as important as the man-made infrastructure of roads etc.; we need the benefits it provides even if we don't yet know how to properly put a value on them.

I would also urge LCC to consider how urban green spaces can be utilized for their community cohesion value. Local residents can be encouraged to plant up and maintain community gardens or orchards and to harvest what they need from them. A communal space like this is even more important if new developments do not include a 'village centre'

with local shops. Please do not allow the houses to be built so densely that there is no space to allow for such initiatives.

Yours sincerely

Anne Quarmby