

**From:**  
**To:** [Site Allocations Plan](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** PDE00608\_Leeds Site Allocation Plans Consultation  
**Date:** 08 November 2015 13:52:49

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I write regarding the Leeds City Council Site Allocations with a number of concerns.

From the outset of hearing the new proposals, I have been conscious not to appear as a NIMBY. I know I am fortunate to live in a beautiful green location, which I acknowledge every time I drive past Trinity University along Layton Road close to my home. I understand completely that new housing is needed, that young people need help to buy their own homes, that building employment opportunities in the area is good for the economy and that some disruption to my local environment may be inevitable. Sadly however, I am totally unconvinced that the proposed plans will address these issues without in themselves creating more and expensive problems.

I understand the following sites are earmarked for development; yet these are all green belt sites which national policy acknowledges has multiple benefits for health and well-being and should not be developed if there are alternative brownfield sites available.

HG2-12 Fields at Woodlands Drive, Rawdon  
HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4, Fields off A65 Rawdon  
HG2-41 Fields south of A65, Horsforth roundabout to the crematorium  
HG2-43 Fields at Horsforth College Campus

**Please explain the grounds on which Leeds City Council has decided to act against national policy in the NPPF and against its own Core Strategy which identifies these very sites as Strategic Green Infrastructure that enhances its green belt status?**

We are told that 70,000 new homes are needed but that this figure might not be accurate and might be closer to 45,000. Both are large numbers but the difference is significant. Given the scale of the exercise and the difficulties in providing infrastructure that will follow from either number, surely using the lower number is better?

**Please explain the justification for using the higher number, when use of the lower projected figure would mean that no development on green belt land would be necessary?**

As someone whose circumstances have changed in the last 6 years such that I now spend the majority of my working week based from home, I see how important local communities are and that individuals who are motivated to look after their neighbours and local environment are essential contributors to care of the young, the elderly and the vulnerable, keeping them out of hospitals and need of social care and attention. The same is true for the local natural environment, where an appreciation for maintaining species richness and diversity is not simply a hobby but an increasingly important element for humanity's survival. Speaking as a professional in this area, every person who values and cares for their local natural environment, observing change, being vigilant against pests and disease etc. is playing their part in addressing the challenges of providing enough food for a growing global population in a period of climate change. Loss of green belt leads to loss of habitats and urban sprawl. Loss of green belt disturbs and can destroy communities; new ones take time to establish.

**Please explain why new housing could not be built on existing brownfield sites in the Leeds area, meaning that no development on these green belt sites would be necessary?**

I appreciate the current pressures on the public purse and the need to address housing issues, but the lack of effective consultation with the Parish Councils is a missed opportunity. The Localism Act enabling individuals to engage with their communities in the preparation of Neighbourhood plans has already strengthened local communities. I think we could achieve so much more towards common goals with better consultation with LCC.

**Please explain why LCC are not working with Parish Councils to build its Local Plan?**

I love Leeds and where I live. I also care about doing the right thing and want to be proud of my community's administration. Your challenges are vast I know, but please have the courage not to proceed with these plans unless my and many others' concerns can be answered.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Celia Knight

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