

**From:**  
**To:** [Site Allocations Plan](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** PDE00633\_Site Allocation Consultation  
**Date:** 07 November 2015 12:28:43

---

Dear Sirs,

Leeds City Council Site Allocation Consultation

Sites – HG3-2, HG3-3, HG4 – Land adjacent to Knott Lane and Layton Lane, Rawdon.

Site HG2-12 - Woodland Drive, Rawdon.

Site HG2-41 - “ Strawberry Picking Fields”

I would like to voice my strong objection to the proposed housing development of the above areas of land.

These sites are Green Belt and are shown as “Strategic Green Infrastructure” within Leeds Core Strategy.

Leeds Core Strategy, in its glossary defines Green Belt as: “A designation for areas of open land around certain cities and larger built up areas where strict planning controls apply to keep this land permanently open or largely undeveloped.

The Government's policy is to protect Green Belt, as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework. Sustainable development section 9 is entitled “ Protecting Green Belt”

In it paragraph 79 states: The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and permanence.

Paragraph 80 states: Green Belt serves five purposes.

to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas.

to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another.

to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.

to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns.

to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

On 3 February 2015, the Housing Minister stated “Unmet housing needs should not exceed maintaining the greenbelt, and this is put forward in the National Planning Policy Framework”

Leeds City Council have set a target of 70,000 new homes by 2028. This completely ignores the latest housing estimate from the 2014 Office of National Statistics which states a need of only 46,000 houses in Leeds.

Furthermore, Brownfield sites across Leeds could supply 90 % of the housing needs based on volumes identified in the 2014 data.

It is clear from the above, that Leeds City Council are ignoring their own Green Belt policies, and more importantly, those of the Government, and as such these developments should not be allowed to take place.

Finally, getting away from politics – Green Belt was a concept developed by people who had the foresight to protect areas of countryside from urban sprawl. This was for the enjoyment of the population at large, and also to protect wild life environments. We must still protect these areas not only for ourselves but for generations to come.

Once Green Belt is lost – it is lost for good.

Geoff Hargrave.