

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE00868_Opposition to Development on Green Belt sites in Horsforth and Rawdon
Date: 16 November 2015 12:51:46

Dear Sir, Madam,

Ref:-

HG2-41 Fields south of A65, Horsforth roundabout to the crematorium

HG2-42 Fields at Broadway and Calverley Lane

HG2-43 Fields at Horsforth College campus

HG12 Fields at Woodlands Drive, Rawdon

HG3-2, HG3-3 and HG3-4 Fields off A65 Rawdon

HG2-12 - Southlands Avenue, High Knott

I was extremely concerned to hear about the various proposals to build on Green Belt land at a number of sites in Horsforth and Rawdon. The sites which I am particularly concerned about, and wish to **firmly express my opposition to** are the ones listed above.

The main reason for my opposition is that the inclusion of these development sites in the Local Plan is **NOT consistent with the national policy.**

The Local Plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF clearly states that "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 their permanence" and that "once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances". Further, it stipulates that "as with previous Green Belt policy, inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances". **The proposed developments are inconsistent** with these provisions.

In addition the NPPF obliges the Local Planning authority to "set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure". Leeds City Council have done this within the Leeds Core Strategy document which has subsequently been reviewed and approved by an independent inspector. The land between the A65 and the River Aire has

been identified as 'strategic green infrastructure', enhancing it's Green Belt status. Despite this Leeds City Council is now proposing to build on this land **in clear contravention of the NPPF.**

The NPPF states that the purpose of the Green Belt is "to prevent the sprawl of large built up areas" and to "prevent neighboring towns from merging into one another". The proposed developments would mean Horsforth and Rawdon would merge and the surrounding countryside would be significantly encroached upon.

Further, there are several **brownfield sites** within Leeds, some of which already benefit from planning permission for housing, which if built upon would remove any need to build upon the Green Belt. This would assist in urban regeneration, another stated purpose of the Green Belt.

The **cumulative effect** of all of these sites will put an incredible strain on an already over stretched infrastructure - in particular the volume of traffic using the A65 which, with the recent addition of the Clariant development is under further strain.

As a Horsforth resident, I take my children to pick strawberries and raspberries every year on the proposed site HG2-41 and we enjoy using the bridle paths around HG3-2 and HG3-3 on our bikes. Such richness of countryside on our doorstep is one of the reasons we chose to live in this area, taking this away damages these opportunities for this and future generations, and will gradually erode the reasons/attractions for future residents coming to live in this area.

Further, but no less important, the development of the Green Belt will not only harm wildlife and their habitat but will also impact significantly upon the **biodiversity**. Again, detrimental for our generation, and our future generation, to whom we have a responsibility.

In conclusion, I would ask that Leeds City Council reconsider its development plans and protect the Green Belt as they are required to in line with National Policy.

Yours faithfully,

Linda Hancock
18 West End Close
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 5JN