

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE00930_Re: Objection to building proposals in Rawdon (LS19) & Horsforth (LS18) areas
Date: 16 November 2015 11:33:33

To whom it may concern,

I wish to raise my concerns & objections with you regarding the proposed use of land in both Rawdon (LS19) & Horsforth (LS18) for further housing development. These areas are coded in your plans as follows:

- HG2-12 - Woodlands Drive, Rawdon
- HG2-41 - South of A65 from Horsforth & Rawdon RA to Crematorium
- HG3-2 - Land to West of Knott Lane, Rawdon
- HG3-3 - Land at Rawdon, Leeds
- HG3-4 - Layton Wood, Rawdon

I personally feel that the threat of future development of the areas highlighted will likely have a number of unfavourable consequences to various local concerns, such as the landscape, natural habitat for the wildlife in the wooded & green areas, local conservation & heritage areas (eg. Cragg Wood, Rawdon Farm), the overall desirability of the area & potential congestion to an area that is already barely meeting the various demands placed upon it.

I have been a resident of Rawdon virtually all of my life & I simply cannot see myself wanting to live anywhere else beyond the Horsforth & Rawdon area. In my opinion, nothing compares to our naturally beautiful surroundings & amenities, especially when you consider our close proximity to both Leeds & Bradford City Centres.

To further this, my partner has recently moved into the area with me as she too can see our future together in this area in the long term. You may argue that we are *exactly* the kind of people that you are targeting with these proposed housing developments, but it is quite clear that such developments will only overcrowd the area & make it lose the natural charm that has both attracted her to move here with me & for myself to want our lives together to be in the area I grew up in.

My father, grandfather & great-grandfather have also lived in this area throughout their lives. As such, I have heard plenty of stories over the years of their own enjoyment of the fields & wooded areas as well as my own memories of playing in the trees & woods alongside Red Beck, of visiting the horses in Cragg Wood & riding my bike down the rural paths near Knott Lane/Woodlands Drive.

I currently do not have children of my own, but I feel it is important to preserve such areas that would allow the current & next generations to enjoy them just as much as myself, my father & my other locally-based ancestors. Such developments are a real threat to these areas - frankly, rural spaces like the ones discussed in the housing development plans are becoming frequently rare. I simply cannot see how these developments can be justified - you may gain houses but at the cost of sacrificing a big part of the area's natural attraction that make current residents want to be here & for potential resident want to move here.

It is the landscape that has made Rawdon & Horsforth the desirable areas that they have become, not the generic urban sprawl that barely differentiates built-

up areas. I urge you to seriously reconsider the areas listed above that have been earmarked for development - in fact, why not go to Layton Road & take in the amazing view you get at that point across the Aire Valley? Can you really give the green light to blemishing such natural beauty? Whilst you're there, why not go visit the nearby bluebells in the wood - they're simply stunning & it would be a real shame if this native wood were to be flattened to make way for unnecessary, unsustainable housing in this area.

Additionally, there has been fairly major flooding in the Woodlands Drive area today due to the surge in rainfall over the weekend. If the land cannot cope with such rainfall in the future, then how will it survive when built up with more concrete & less untouched areas for drainage? Add to this the fact that the area is in the lower section of the valley, where water will run to & will flood once saturated - as already evident. Who is going to buy a house that they may not potentially be able to insure easily due to a high flooding risk?

Furthermore, there is a real issue of the additional developments overpopulating an area which already struggles to cope with the demands made upon it in various areas. For example, the A65 is already prone to congestion at certain times of the day, particularly at 'rush hour' when both commuters & parents taking their children to school compete in traffic to get to their destinations. Additional houses & the proposal of a new school will only add to traffic experienced at these times & will simply negate any benefit of your recent amends to the flow of traffic at Horsforth roundabout. Also, it is likely that a single school will not suitable meet the demand for school places in either the local or surrounding areas. This also further questions the availability of local amenities & how they will cope with an increased demand - does that in turn lead to a need of additional development to supply demand & therefore further use of free land?

To conclude, I feel that your plans will be a major disservice to current & potential residents of Rawdon & Horsforth due to the factors outlined above. Your plans simply do not make sense in terms of keeping Rawdon & Horsforth as desirable places to live with wonderful natural amenities on our doorstep. Furthermore, the plans are potentially going to cause more problems than solution for both the current & future generations of local resident & I feel that the areas would not even be under consideration had the review of the green belt areas been fully comprehensive, therefore making their inclusion in such plans unsound.

Once again, I urge you to reconsider the areas highlighted for future development as they are unsuitable in terms of the damage they will do to the area, not only in terms of the land but for the existing residents that do not want to see our local area to suffer from needless development when alternatives are clearly available (eg. brownfield sites).

Kind regards,

Andy Thomas