

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Cc: [Stuart Andrew.MP](#)
Subject: PDE00965_Rawdon, Yeadon, Horsforth
Date: 16 November 2015 10:43:02

West Bourne
Gladstone Road
Rawdon
Leeds
LS19 6HZ

16 November 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Rawdon, Yeadon, Horsforth Green Belt Areas

As a Rawdon resident and having family who commute on a daily basis into and through Leeds, I am especially concerned about:

HG2-12 fields at Woodlands Drive, Rawdon

HG2-10 fields on Gill Lane

HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4 fields off A65, Rawdon

HG2-41 fields south of A65, Horsforth roundabout to Rawdon crematorium

HG2-43 fields at Horsforth college campus

I know that traffic surveys have been carried out but understand that these were done during school holiday time. This absolutely gives a wrong impression- indeed commuters look forward to school holidays when their journeys are considerably shortened. We are all aware that work has been carried out along the A65 on the bus route and at Horsforth roundabout, but these works have had little impact on making marked improvements to travelling times.

My concerns are not only for road users but there seems to be no thought as to plans for increasing provision, which would include the above and other local areas, under this threat with regard to:

.doctors and dentists (NHS)

.schools-we are fortunate in this area to have good schools, but they already have enough pressures put upon them. Also Benton Park School, for example, has a catchment area including Bradford, leaving "local" children struggling for school places near their homes

.new jobs in the area. Current employment will be lost from the traditional rural economy along the A65 including historic pastureland, currently still in use at site 1221, Gill Lane fields.

As locals we have been advised that the proposal to include these Green Belt sites is not consistent with National policy and to use Green Belt before brownfield sites is not justified-how can it be! Furthermore, the proposal to use this Strategic Green Infrastructure goes against Leeds Core Strategy-which says

itself that brownfield sites must be developed before Greenbelt land.

Another issue, close to my home and my heart and one which helps to retain a rural feeling, (which was a huge factor in our choice of where to live when we moved into the area nearly thirty years ago) is Site 1221, Gill Lane fields, a Greenbelt site (successfully defended in 1994) adjacent to a conservation area, which according to Historic England, should actually be part of that conservation area. We have been advised that there are many mature and rare English trees, giving home to protected species such as bats as well as owls and woodpeckers.

Also there are several listed buildings in this area-a listed building surely can't be ignored just to suit the Council? If we had wanted to live in a more urban environment we would have chosen to live nearer the heart of Leeds. Nearer the city centre there are better undeveloped sites, which, if properly developed could improve some very run down areas of a city my family is proud of.

As already stated, we consciously made the decision to live in an area with rural features and lovely views over the Aire valley from our home and surrounding areas. We consider ourselves very lucky to be close to the city and going the other way, on the A65 for example, close to beautiful countryside-via green, unspoilt and very importantly uncluttered areas. These routes are already very heavily used, especially at the weekend and in good weather. We are keen walkers and often choose to walk locally, enjoying and appreciating our surroundings as we go-our walks take in various sections of the proposed sites for example HG3-3 and HG2-12. We do not want to lose these beautiful recreational areas. We also like to walk and explore in HG3-4 and HG2-41.

These sites are included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and indeed there are ponds with protected palmate newts living there. There is also a bee-keeper's apiary and we have been hearing in recent years how threatened bees are-again, these details cannot be ignored just to suit these plans. We are not alone in these activities and I'm sure our sentiments are shared by many, many local people.

I urge you to fully consider all these points and keep our beautiful Greenbelt as it is and as it should be.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Child

Sent from my iPad