

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE01044_urban development sites HG2-12, HG2-41, HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4
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I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed development plans to the sites listed. I have lived in Rawdon for most of my life (49 years) having been born, grown up and moved back to raise my family. I have seen it change from a quiet village outside Leeds to become the Leeds suburb it is now. It still retains its character and identity though despite that, in no small part due to the green spaces that separate it from its surrounding towns and villages. Enabling these developments would be the final nail in Rawdon's coffin in regards to its individual identity with a gradual descent into urban sprawl. The local infrastructure is at breaking point with schools full up and roads not being far from gridlock, I live in Little London and at times have to abandon my car walk home and retrieve it several hours later. This can be caused by something as simple as an inconveniently broken down vehicle partially flooded roads or as happened recently, the swing bridge being left open at Apperley Bridge. I travel all over Leeds for my work, forget trying to get to the other side of Leeds in the early morning.

HG2-41 This massive number of houses would create mayhem with the A65 (or "the secret motorway" as some call it) I was already wondering what effect the developments at HG1-96 were going to have. Promises of a school cannot be relied upon as failed promises at the Highroyds site in Menston have indicated and would it be a primary school, secondary school or both. Low hall road leads to some beautiful countryside walks in the Cragg Wood conservation area and I fear for the desecration that such numbers in such proximity would bring to this environment with the influx of residents who neither know, love or respect these areas.

HG2-12 The definition of conservation areas is that they not only protect the designated areas but also their surroundings. The number of properties planned and the fact that they extend right to the boundary of the Cragg Wood conservation area, indicates a clear contempt for these areas and what they represent as does the proposed development on HG2-41. Valuable farmland is being eaten into pollution of the conservation area will ensue and how will the traffic that comes with this area exit onto the A65? New York Lane is too narrow, passing some old established properties and if you've ever been to a funeral at the crematorium you will know what a nightmare getting onto the A65 is even if you are trying to go with the flow of traffic, trying to cross the traffic is another matter altogether. Does that mean that a roundabout is planned at the junction of Knott Lane and Layton Lane thus creating yet more problems with traffic flow.

HG3-2 The same arguments could be levelled at this site as well as the query about the number of properties planned, they would have to be crammed in with the subsequent disregard for appropriate design further adding to the "characterless urban sprawl" they would create with their proximity to the gateway to Rawdon. The Airedale Air Conditioning industrial site is not particularly attractive, but its impact is muted by the fact that it is surrounded by greenfield sites, placing houses cheek by jowl with it would only increase its impact.

HG3-3 Again shared arguments can be levelled along with the fact that these properties would impact the peace and tranquillity of the crematorium, its privacy being its main strength. If you compare the size of this site to that of Southlands Avenue the number of properties that are planned to be shoehorned in are far greater just as with HG3-2.

HG3-4 This site does not come right to the main road, not through aesthetic consideration but due to the presence of ancient mining in this area. Red Beck which is regarded fondly along with The Billing by many as a symbol of our village is to get housing built right up to its boundary. Quite apart from the pollution that it will inevitably receive from selfish people who will regard it as just another dumping ground for their rubbish, the plans for this area indicate more to me than any other, the complete lack of regard that is being extended to the local population by the faceless politicians trying to satisfy Whitehall's demands.

And finally to the proposed link road. As stated earlier the roads to North West Leeds are already up to capacity and minor tinkering such as that at Horsforth and Rodley roundabout will only help for a short while. Better transport access is undoubtedly required, but the airport link road is not it. This is a development purely aimed at satisfying business and anyone with a knowledge of this area will know that this link road is a lot of money to improve access which although not ideal, is not as bad and in less need than other areas.

Should you drive around Leeds there are still many brownfield areas that still await redevelopment, redevelopment that would ultimately improve these sites and the potential of their surroundings, although profit margins for the developers wouldn't be as high as they would be in areas like

Rawdon. Kirkstall forge is a perfect example, this site has been sat on for years until the potential profit increased to an acceptable level. As usual with Leeds City Council, short term political expediency always defeats the long term planning that could make Leeds a great city.
Yours Sincerely James Foggit