

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE01120_Objections to the planning proposals in Rawdon and Horsforth
Date: 15 November 2015 22:02:12

Dear Sir/Madam,


I am writing to make you aware of my objections to the proposed plans to build houses in Rawdon and Horsforth (HG3-4, HG3-2, HG3-3, HG2-41, HG2-12, HG1-96 and HG1-96). As a pupil at Horsforth High School and a resident of Rawdon, I strongly disagree with your development plans. Every morning, I travel along Layton Road and Brownberrie Lane and I am finding an ever increasing number of people travelling this route, causing me problems at school regularly. People may be forced to take this route as it is more bearable than the A65. The queueing on the A65 is frequently from Horsforth Roundabout all the way back to Well Lane, Rawdon which is a distance of approximately two miles. This queueing causes delays of up to an hour which is already a disgraceful amount of time. The fact that more families will be adding to the chaos is despicable. The plan for our area includes over 2000 houses in Aireborough (414 in Rawdon and 2050 in Horsforth). This will make the A65 even more unbearable to travel along, even with the recent 'improvements' the traffic is often at a standstill during rush hour, which makes getting to destinations on time a large challenge. I go to climbing at The Leeds Wall which involves going along the A65, even though we try and avoid it. My brother swims at John Charles Centre for Sport and on a morning, travelling along the A5 at 4:30 am and the journey takes twenty minutes. When I make a shorter journey to nearly the same destination at around 4 pm, the journey can take one hour.

There are many species of wildlife that will be put at great risk if your development plans go ahead. I have attached some photos to show you some of the wide variety of wildlife that will be made homeless and probably killed because of these plans, the thought of which greatly upsets me. I often see baby animals, such as deer, just discovering the world and minding their own business. Their lives may be destroyed. There are also bats, which are protected. More houses mean more light. More light means disturbed bats. Trees would be cut down, which is where the bats live, destroying their habitat. Hedgehogs can also be seen around the fields and as they are becoming increasingly endangered, building houses will create more probability of them not having a home and also being hit by cars. HG2-12, HG3-3 and HG3-4 are UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats as it is host to many species of bird such as Sparrowhawks, Curlews, Red Kites, Yellowhammers and Tawny Owls, all of which will be disturbed by more housing. HG3-3 also has a native bluebell wood, which you may argue will not be impacted upon, but I can guarantee that it they will be trampled and destroyed by the increased number of people. All of the sites contain protected and mature trees and woodland.

The many families and couples that will move to Rawdon if your plans go ahead will add more traffic, but they will also have children. These children will need to go to school, schools which are already oversubscribed. Local residents are already not being given their first choice of school so I cannot even begin to think about how the council will struggle to place all these new children into schools.

I do not think that this area is the most appropriate place to build new houses because of the many issues I have stated and also due to the fact that there are more areas around Leeds that do not have protected wildlife, already busy motorways and schools that even local residents struggle to enrol in. I also do not think your scheme will be effective. You want to provide more houses for people within five years? When they hear of the horrendous traffic and that their

children will not be able to go to a school that is under ten minutes away, do you think they will move here? I do not. I would like to suggest, if the building is imperative, that you consider your options and build on brown field land, e.g. The Mill on Green Lane or near to Kirkstall Forge. I think that building houses there would still not be ideal, but it would create less issues for the community. Building on greenbelt land is forbidden, by the Leeds City Council Core Policy, when there is still brown field that can be built on. What you are planning is urban sprawl. There will be no gap between Leeds and Bradford and Rawdon particularly will lose its village identity and charming characteristics. Site Allocations are not based on a Comprehensive Greenbelt Review as required by the previous Inspector when he passed your Core Strategy as sound. This means that the Core Strategy and Site Allocations are unsound. By not building on brown field land first, you have proved that there is no need to build on greenbelt as these are not 'exceptional circumstances'. I do not believe that you have been compliant with the Statement of Community Involvement as my family was not aware of the fact that you held a 'public' consultation about this issue in 2013. HG3-2, HG3-3 and HG3-4 are stated, by the Council, as being Strategic Green Infrastructure in the Leeds Core Strategy.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Yours faithfully,
Laura Yeomans 

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(Please find attached photos taken in and of the fields behind my house (HG3-4)).