

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Cc:
Subject: PDE01172_Site References HG2-12, HG2-41, HG3-2, HG3-3 HG3-4 and HG1-96
Date: 15 November 2015 20:39:16

Dear Sirs

Site References HG2-12, HG2-41, HG3-2, HG3-3 HG3-4 and HG1-96

As a resident of Rawdon LS19, I wish to raise my objections to the above referred development proposals and their potential allocation for housing.

If these proposals were carried out they would forever change the landscape and historic character of our village. The beautiful open views and rural character of our village would be lost forever. Elements of the proposals would lead to areas within the Conservation Area and vital areas would be lost. This raises the question as to whether all brownfield sites have been fully developed and exhausted within and around Leeds?

Despite alterations having recently been completed to the Horsforth roundabout, this has not dealt with the traffic control - traffic is still heavy and gridlocks. If the proposed developments were to take place, how would the road or area have anywhere near sufficient capacity to take higher volumes of traffic which would result from new housing developments in the area (bearing in mind not only the proposed number of new dwellings but the fact that the majority of households own 2 cars).

The development would have such a detrimental affect on wildlife habits - HG2-12, HG3-3 and HG3-4 are UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats. Ancient Ghyll Beck runs next to the HG3-4 files and through HG3-3 and HG2-41. All sites contain protected mature trees and woodland. HG3-3 has a native bluebell wood. HG3-2 is adjacent to UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat pond with placate newts also found in HG2-12.

If the developments were to take place then farmland would be lost. The village has a rich farming heritage and this would have a detrimental affect on not only the visual environment in which we are bringing up our children but on local employment and livelihoods. Surely we should be supporting farmers, encourage our local community to produce and ultimately shop local, know where our food comes from (and in the eyes of children who will be our future, see how it is actually produced) and save on environmental miles and pollution.

There are not enough schools in the area to fulfil the potential increase in numbers required if more than 400 houses were built in Rawdon. There are only 2 schools in Rawdon. My children attend Rawdon St Peter's School. The only way the school could cater for more pupils would be for the school to be virtually rebuilt to increase class sizes. Has that cost been factored in - where would the money come from? And even if that were to happen, there is not sufficient infrastructure in place for such work to be feasible - parking for staff and for parents is minimal and already dangerous (people abandon their cars already in places which are illegal - as a resident of Far Well Road I witness this daily. Parking space is incredibly limited for those who need to drive to school, with the local pub having recently removed its facility of allowing parents to park in its car park at school drop off and pick up times.

I understand that the Council's housing target in response to revised ONS

projections has not been altered from 70,000 to 45,000 and therefore, in fact, the reduction of 15,000 would remove the need to use any greenbelt land.

In addition, the infrastructure (and most particularly the roads, schools, medical centres) are already stretched and have insufficient capacity to cope with more. I refer above to being a resident of Far Well Road. As well as my concerned referred to above, I am particularly concerned about the impact the potential increase of traffic would have on our local roads running through the village. Already traffic bypasses the ring road (coming from Guiseley direction) by cutting up Over Land or Canada Road and driving through Rawdon Town Street to get to Horsforth. A 20MPH limit was imposed on that road due to it being near the school but in practice that speed limit is far from adhered too by cut through traffic and that is despite the speed humps having been added. The average car I would estimate travels through at least 30MPH which is highly dangerous in a village environment and more particularly for the children who attend the school to which is fronts. There is ignorance because those cutting through generally do not live locally, do not have children at that school.

Rawdon is a beautiful part of Leeds. Its greenbelt land epitomises the area and its natural beauty. It is a special area whereby children can grow up feeling like they are living in the country and village surroundings yet have city life and all its attractions and facilities a very shortly distance away. If this were to be lost, so would Rawdon and it would become just another suburb or realistically an extension to the City itself.

It is clear, as a resident, there are serious wide spread concerns about the proposals in the community and no doubt you will have or will be receiving similar concerns and objections from other residents.

Yours faithfully

Helen Gregory
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