

From: .
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE01363_Proposed development on Green Belt land in Horsforth/Rawdon
Date: 15 November 2015 16:00:07

Dears Sir,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed plans to build on Green Belt land at various sites in Horsforth and Rawdon. I am particularly concerned about the following sites:-

HG2-41 Fields south of A65, Horsforth roundabout to the crematorium

HG2-42 Fields at Broadway and Calverley Lane

HG2-43 Fields at Horsforth College campus

HG12 Fields at Woodlands Drive, Rawdon

HG3-2, HG3-3 and HG3-4 Fields off A65 Rawdon

The inclusion of these development sites in the Local Plan is NOT consistent with the national policy.

The Local Plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF clearly states that "the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence" and that "once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances". Further, it stipulates that "as with previous Green Belt policy, inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances". The proposed developments are inconsistent with these provisions.

In addition the NPPF obliges the Local Planning authority to "set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure". Leeds City Council have done this within the Leeds Core Strategy document which has subsequently been reviewed and approved by an independent inspector. The land between the A65 and the River Aire has been identified as 'strategic green infrastructure', enhancing it's Green Belt status. Despite this Leeds City Council is now proposing to build on this land in clear contravention of the NPPF.

The NPPF states that the purpose of the Green Belt is "to prevent the sprawl of large built up areas" and to "prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another". The proposed developments would mean Horsforth and Rawdon would merge and the surrounding countryside would be significantly encroached upon.

Further, there are several brownfield sites within Leeds, some of which already benefit from planning permission for housing, which if built upon would remove any need to build upon the Green Belt. This would assist in urban regeneration, another stated purpose of the Green Belt.

I have lived in Horsforth for many years and take my children to pick strawberries every year on proposed site HG2-41. The development of the Green Belt will not only harm wildlife and their habitat but will also impact significantly upon the biodiversity. This is detrimental not just for our generation, but for generations to come.

In conclusion, I ask Leeds City Council to reconsider its development plans and to protect the Green Belt as they are required to in line with National Policy.

Yours faithfully,

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Sent from my iPad