

From: 333.896@cityofleeds.gov.uk
To: 333.896@cityofleeds.gov.uk
CC: 333.896@cityofleeds.gov.uk
Subject: DE01581 - Proposed Development Objecton
Date: 14 November 2015 18:54:59

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the planned development on Green Belt land in the Rawdon/Horsforth area. The proposed use of sites HG2-41, HG2-12, HG3-2 and HG3-3 would serve to merge Horsforth and Rawdon. **This is inconsistent with both the National Planning Policy Framework and Leeds Core Strategy.**

I am referring to the **National Planning Policy Framework, section 9 "Protecting Green Belt Land"** and the following paragraphs:

"79 The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. 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.
The plan to use large sections of local Green Belt is inconsistent with this paragraph.

80 Green Belt serves Five purposes

- to check the unrestricted urban sprawl of large built-up areas
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns
- to assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

The plan to use local Green Belt ignores several of the above purposes and is therefore inconsistent with national policy. The plan to build on sites HG2-12 and HG2-41 will effectively merge Rawdon with Horsforth.

Chapter 11 of the sustainable development section of the NPPF states

109 The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by
- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.
- Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services
- Minimising impacts on biodiversity
The use of several of the proposed sites is inconsistent with this aspect of national policy.

Leeds Core Strategy defines Green Belt as

A designation for areas of open land around certain cities and large built up areas where the strict planning controls apply to keep this land permanently open or largely undeveloped.

Section 1.8 of the core strategy states

Key priorities therefore include planning for the provision of home and jobs in sustainable locations respecting local character and distinctiveness in the delivery of the Plan's objectives and maximising opportunities to recycle previously developed land (PDL) whilst minimising greenfield and Green Belt release in planning for longer term growth.

Page 60 of the Leeds Core Strategy, paragraph 4.11 contains a map which shows that many of the sites proposed for housing allocation are in Green Belt.

Page 78 of the Leeds Core Strategy titles "Key Diagram" is a map identifying "Strategic Green Infrastructure" many of the proposed sites conflict with this.

Therefore, as well as the plans going against national policy, it is also inconsistent with Leeds' own established policy.

In developing these proposed areas **there would also be a loss of wildlife habitats** and farmland and a marring of the Rawdon Cragg Wood conservation area. It would **also add further pollution to the area** and create a substantial amount of **increased traffic**. It would mean **vital area of greenbelt would be lost** - this is not something that can ever be undone!
It will **blur the gap between Leeds and Bradford**, encroaching into our open countryside. This is unplanned urban sprawl. Rawdon's village identity would be gone.

As someone who commutes daily, the short distance from Rawdon to Horsforth, using the A65, I can safely say there is already an overload of traffic and developing all these new houses, with probably ten cars per house, will worsen this already over saturation.