

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE01618_Leeds Site Allocation Plan
Date: 14 November 2015 15:14:48

From: Miss Evelyn Friend, 24 Mount Pisgah, OTLEY, LS21 3DX

I would like to make the following observations regarding the above:-

1. Commuting/traffic

Otley is already experiencing serious problems with extremely long traffic queues and consequent lengthy delays in the town centre. One resident on St David's Road told me that it can take her at least 30-40 minutes to get down into Otley from her home. This is totally unacceptable. The new development at Garnett's is already putting more pressure onto already heavy traffic into Otley by generating extra traffic on Pool Road and Bridge Street. **It is therefore imperative that you ensure there is adequate infrastructure to cope with any more traffic before you even contemplate beginning to build any new housing.** Extra dwellings bringing more residents to Otley WILL NOT add to the prosperity of the town as it would be so gridlocked with traffic that those people won't want to come into Otley to shop; they would go to Harrogate instead. Not only would the roads be inadequate, but also the parking facilities.

2. Employment

There is some overlap with the above and this point. Otley has lost a large number of industrial/employment sites to housing, e.g. Garnett's (but there are many more). Otley needs to be a town to live and work in, therefore you should give much more consideration to allocating more brownfield land to industry and/or other employment, as in the admirable case of Pegholme Mills on Ilkley Road. The main route to Leeds is already extremely busy with commuter traffic as there are not enough local jobs. The ODD group commissioned some architecture students to design a living and working area at Ashfield Works. You would do well to consider this idea seriously as it is a wonderful vision which could be repeated on other sites. The roads cannot cope with any more commuter traffic over and above what already exists. I am aware that you have thought about some extra employment provision for Otley, but it is totally inadequate for the number of new residents you are contemplating on foisting on us.

3. Type of housing

You say there is not a need for affordable housing in Otley. This is not true. I have worked in the Housing Department of Leeds City Council for 17 years and there have always been very long waiting lists for social housing in Otley. There is a severe shortage of this type of housing in Otley. You propose to build more expensive dwellings. I do not know where you obtain your figures from when you say there is a shortage of housing in

Otley. You only have to look in our local newspapers, The Wharfedale & Airedale Observer and The Wharfe Valley Times, to see that there are literally HUNDREDS of decent houses for sale. I therefore submit that there is adequate housing in Otley already for the type of person who can afford to buy their own house, therefore all these new houses are surplus to requirement and their existence will seriously impinge on the quality of life of Otley residents by robbing us of our precious green spaces.

4. Environment/Green Belt

The above Point 3 brings me on to this point. The fields east of Otley, and others occupying a smaller area but are still just as precious to us, are important amenities to all residents. They are somewhere to enjoy life: walk our dogs, take exercise, for children to play in. They are not only the lung of Otley, but they play a vital part in the general ecology of our area. I have been told on good authority (a local councillor) that some people in Danefield Terrace have experienced flooding in their homes since the new estate beyond the Cambridge estate was built (e.g Peterhouse Drive area). One October, I think in the early 1990s, we had heavy rain. As a result there was severe flooding on Pool Road around Moor Drive. The route to Harrogate was totally impassable. Earth and trees soak up rain. If the fields in the neighbourhood of east Otley are built upon, this would greatly aggravate this problem which would in turn increase the frequency of flooding. We need farmland as much as industry. Otley is a small market town which was never designed for such a large influx of new housing and this would destroy Otley's character and the well-being of everybody because of the above reasons.

I would implore you most earnestly to build on existing BROWNFIELD sites first before you even think about encroaching on our green belt. In addition, there are many empty properties in the town centre, e.g. flats above shops and empty houses generally which need to be looked into before building yet more houses WHICH WOULD ONLY SERVE TO ADD TO OTLEY'S PROBLEMS that already exist.

Evelyn Friend