

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Cc: [Stuart Andrew.MP](#)
Subject: PDE01973_Re: Objection to Rawdon Housing Developments
Date: 12 November 2015 16:29:03

To whom it may concern,
I wish to vehemently object to the proposed housing developments on sites HG2-12, Woodlands Drive, HG2-41, Rawdon Crematorium to Horsforth Roundabout, HG3-2 Knott lane West, HG3-3 Knott Lane East, and HG3-4 Layton Lane. As a resident of Layton Lane all of these development sites will massively and negatively impact on my families lives . Firstly I have concerns over increased risks to health. More cars on the already congested A65 will only contribute further to increased risks of lead poisoning the effects of which will not be known until my children are adults. Secondly recreational enjoyment of the green belt will be reduced for my family. We often walk our dog in the locality and choose to live in Rawdon because of its proximity to green spaces and wildlife habitats and will be devastated if this is lost. In addition access to services and places of work will be massively affected. Increased numbers of cars will lead to increased journey time. I am presently employed as a teacher at Priesthorpe school and accessing school via the A65 and ring road is becoming more and more difficult. I now leave home at 7am to ensure that I arrive at school in time to teach at 8.30am. Housing developments in the above locations as well as those now being built on the ring road called Mulberry Manor is only going to exacerbate the problem. Finally the impact to my family will also be loss of school places. My seventeen year old daughter was able to attend her local high school, Horsforth High, however her 7 year old siblings will not get places as the houses as Horsforth Vale push us outside the catchment area. Again more housing in Rawdon will only reduce their chance of getting a high school place at a 'Good' local school.

This objection should not however be focused solely on the future impact to my family. It has to be questioned as to whether the plans proposed are beneficial for any of the families living in the locality including those who may buy here in the future. Have the plans been positively prepared and are they in fact legal? We as residents trust our council to have our best interests at heart but I sadly fear that this trust has been misplaced as a number of issues have been identified with the plans. Firstly It appears from research that no comprehensive Greenbelt review, as required by the previous inspector has in fact been undertaken. This is unacceptable, makes the plans unsound and has to be addressed. The surrounding Greenbelt hosts a wealth of wildlife habitats and a comprehensive study of the impact of housing on these habitats must be carried out as a matter of urgency. It has to be questioned as to whether the need for unmet housing justifies inappropriate development on site within the Greenbelt (update to the Nation Planning Framework In 2014). Secondly it has become apparent that there has been no consultations on site HG2-12, Woodland Drive and this site was not included in the Issues and Options Consultation in June. It is

therefore not compliant with the statement of community involvement and is not legal. Furthermore highway access to site HG2-12 is undeliverable as it requires development of safeguarded site HG3-2 and Hg3-3 however HG2-12 is allocated to be built on before these phases. There is only one access point to HG2-12 via Southlands Avenue as the other roads are private. Southlands Avenue seems woefully inadequate as an access route for 130 houses and would require the removal of two ancient trees. Has it been recognised that primarily Knott lane is the exit route for the Crematorium and frequently slow moving traffic use this route? Access onto the A65 from Knott Lane is at present difficult and the addition of traffic lights would only further congest the road. For these reasons this HG2-12, HG3-2, and HG3-3 should be withdrawn from the plans immediately.

It is also for a plethora of reasons that developments on all of the site are unjustified. Rawdon Cragg Conservation area will be lost forever as its setting and view will be destroyed. Loss of habitat will also result in loss of food sources so resulting in an irrecoverable loss of species diversity in the area. The species that may be affected that I have personally seen on or near site HG3-4 include deer, bats and rare species of fungi including King Alfred's cake.

Others reasons why building these housing is not justified include loss of agricultural land, where are our food crops going to be grown? and reduction in access to services.

To conclude it is crucial that housing plans must not be a knee-jerk political reaction to a government policy and must have the wealth fare of the community at the heart of them. It is my firm belief that the developments are not justified, not effective, not legally compliant and not positively prepared and therefore must not proceed. Rawdon's unique identity must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Ingham

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On behalf of



***Actively defending the
special character of our village***

www.rgag.org.uk

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We are trying to raise funds for vital legal advice and to support ongoing campaign costs.

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