

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Cc: [Stuart Andrew.MP](#);
Subject: PDE01977_Objections to Leeds City Council Housing plans for Rawdon
Date: 12 November 2015 15:51:50

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in objection to Leeds City Council plans to consider using the greenbelt countryside of the Rawdon and Horsforth areas for housing development. The site reference numbers that I object to are:

HG2-12

HG2-41

HG3-2

HG3-3

HG3-4

Firstly I have been dismayed at the lack of transparency in the whole process. All of the green space around my area and available to my 3 children to enjoy appears to be under consideration for housing development. Yet I would not have had the slightest idea this was occurring if it was not for the excellent job my neighbours have done in advertising the councils plans. It seems the council have done the bare minimum, or even less than that, to alert their residents of their plans. I find this most disappointing, borderline incompetent and potentially very underhand.

I have been alerted to this round of public consultation by the excellent work of local campaigners. Yet I have recently learned that a separate round of public consultation took place in 2013. Again, this was poorly advertised by the council to the point that I was not even aware this took place. This despite the topic of that consultation concerned all of the greenbelt in my local area.

I simply cannot believe plans of such massive scope and potential impact have been advertised in such a discrete manor by the council.

Local infrastructure simply will not scale with these overambitious plans. I cannot see how any development can be justified at ANY of the sights listed above. My twin girls started school in September and we were only allocated with our 3rd choice school out of 5! The local schools are under massive strain and I fail to see how they could cope with any additional housing in the area. My son is 1 week old and I cannot overestimate the stress and inconvenience it would cause if he was not able to attend the same school as his sisters due to overcrowding.

The roads in the area are extremely congested at peak hours and pretty much the entire weekend. The A65 is still gridlocked despite the recent completion of a road improvement plan at major roundabouts in Horsforth and Rodley. I work in Harrogate at the moment and my commute to work is a manageable 30 minutes. I have considered job offers in Leeds in the past and still would do so in the future as things stand. However if traffic into Leeds got any worse than it is now, then working in Leeds Centre would be off the agenda for me.

I am encouraging my young family to be healthy by taking them on walks around the local greenbelt. I find it ironic that the government are at pains to encourage the nation to be more health to relieve the strain on the NHS, yet local councils are happy to turnover area's

that people can use to help maintain a health lifestyle. It upsets me as a parent that local open areas are under threat. I moved to the Rawdon area specifically to take advantage of its semi-rural location when bringing up my children.

I am a keen runner and run almost exclusively "off-road" using the various bridle-ways and footpaths around the area to enjoy the Greenbelt. This is specifically to avoid buildup areas. This is safer, avoids running in areas that are polluted with vehicles and provides a very relaxing and stress-free environment in which to exercise. Areas like this in suburbs of big cities need to be preserved. Ironically I'd have to drive to find areas in which to exercise if these plans went ahead. Compounding what would be chronic traffic issues and burning diesel, contributing to pollution levels.

Another major attraction of the area, specifically HG2-12, where I live, are the unspoiled views across the valley to Bradford. These views are designated Special Landscape Areas. Development proposals will drastically alter this landscape and the spectacular views across the valley. The proposed sites are far too visible and have no chance of being discrete in order to protect this special view. They will literally be a "blot on the landscape".

Rawdon's local greenbelt is also a haven for wildlife. HG2-12 backs directly onto a conservation area. Indeed trees from that conservation area bleed out onto HG2-12.

Urban sprawl also worries me. I cannot see how the village of Rawdon would survive if the current plans were to go ahead. The bleed into Bradford and Horsforth would essentially bind these areas together. Rawdon's ancient village identity would be lost.

Brownfield alternatives are available in the Leeds area and should be considered before any greenbelt is developed. The Clariant (HG1-96) site is a very recent example of how an undesirable site can be transformed. This type of development should be pursued at all costs before Greenbelt is lost forever.

I am also most concerned to learn that proposals are based on a very selective Greenbelt review and that they do not seem to be in accordance with the NPPF. The "Exceptional Circumstances" recommended before considering these types of proposals simply do not exist.

The whole proposal smacks of the council attempting to take the easy way out, rather than talking up the challenge of solving housing issues in a more creative or challenging fashion. This in itself is extremely disappointing and is not doing justice to the good folk of Leeds. Do we really want to be seen by the nation as the region that gave away its Greenfield's and prime land to developers, before trying to solve our issues in a more unconventional or challenging way?

Regards,

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