

**From:** .  
**To:** [Site Allocations Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [Stuart Andrew.MP](#)  
**Subject:** PDE02053\_Planning objection  
**Date:** 11 November 2015 22:37:56

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Lynsey Franks  
50 Leeds Road  
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Leeds  
LS19 6JG

11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Sir / Madam,

Ref: HG2-12, HG42-41, HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed plans to build on the above sites.

First and foremost I am objecting on the grounds that all of the sites referenced are in greenbelt (and within the Council's own 'Special Landscapes Area'). It is my understanding that such areas have been specifically identified to prevent development and to keep land permanently open, something the Council appears to have patently disregarded. Building on greenbelt totally goes against national policy, which places great importance on the planning system 'contributing to and enhancing the natural environment'. If these plans were given the go-ahead they would do the very opposite; the beautiful open valley views currently enjoyed by the thousands of people living, visiting or passing through would be gone forever and instead replaced with house upon house upon house; the detrimental impact on local wildlife habitats would be huge (all sites contain protected mature trees and woodland); and recreational activities such as walking, running, cycling and horse-riding would be significantly restricted.

As a parent of three school-age children whose house is on the A65 I am extremely concerned about the impact any such developments would have on this already over-used and very busy section of road. This road is already grid-locked at rush hour and has no capacity for expansion along the Rawdon/Horsforth corridor. As a consequence traffic starts building up before 7am on weekdays with more and more drivers using side roads to cut through in a bid for a quicker commute. Our local school, Rawdon St. Peter's, is situated on Town Street, which bears the brunt of this excess traffic – unfortunately not everyone keeps to the speed limit and the speed of some of the drivers cutting up Carr Lane while we walk to school is frankly shocking! Without wishing to sound alarmist, this is an accident waiting to happen and will surely worsen due to the increase in cars that inevitably comes with additional homes.

Even the dry-stone walls cannot cope with the heavy volume of traffic; a section 100 yards from our house caved-in last year and had to be repaired, a phenomenon which has occurred at other spots along this corridor of road and one which will surely be more commonplace if the road gets busier still.

In reference to site HG2-12 I cannot understand how the Council envisages the access point via Southlands Avenue being able to cope with the additional traffic 130 houses would generate when Knott Lane (accessed from the A65) is barely suitable for additional development and already accommodates extra parked vehicles?

Unfortunately communication doesn't appear to be one of the Council's strong points. Were it not

for local campaigners, countless numbers of local residents (myself included) would have been oblivious to the Council's proposed plans. Good communication includes listening, something the Council has not done when it comes to the Office of National Statistics revised housing projections; targets have not been revised accordingly and it is still working towards a target figure of 70,000, not the 45,000 figure projected by the ONS, which would remove the need to take any land away from greenbelt. With Brownfield sites available elsewhere across the City why isn't the Council seriously considering these before looking to land that should only be developed on in 'very special circumstances'?

Whilst I accept there has been a shortfall in housing built in the last four years (as identified by the National Housing Federation) I do not accept Leeds City Council's desire to plough ahead and build on sites that are inconsistent not only within the national policy framework but within Leeds' own established policy too.

I love living in Rawdon; it's a great place to bring-up children with plenty of green, open-space that's easily accessible to all who live here and, up until recently, it's something I took for granted. Now the face of this landscape is threatened with being changed forever then it's made me appreciate how much we should treasure where we live and what's on our doorstep.

I sincerely hope that my objections and concerns are given due consideration,

Yours faithfully,

Lynsey Franks