

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE02065_Horsforth and Rawdon site allocations: HG2-12; HG2-41.; HG2-43; HG3-2; HG3-3, HG3-4
Date: 11 November 2015 20:57:50

I would like to raise my objection to the proposed housing allocations on the following sites:

HG2-12 Woodlands Drive Rawdon

HG2-41 South of the A65 from Horsforth Roundabout to Rawdon Crematorium

HG2-43 Horsforth Campus

HG3-2, HG-3, HG3-4 Land adjacent to Knott Lane and to the rear of Layton Lane Rawdon.

The reasons are as follows:

Leeds City council has not carried out an adequate public consultation. I only heard about these site allocations via a flyer from a local residents group. Leeds city council should have contacted residents to make them aware of the consultation, but they did not. I was told by word of mouth from the same residents group that there were some drop in sessions at local town halls and libraries. This does not count as an adequate substitute for contacting individuals; and anyway, Leeds city council didn't even inform me in any way about the drop in sessions. If there were drop in sessions, most people can't get to them anyway as they either work or have other commitments. The public were not adequately consulted regarding the use of these sites. This means the plan is not legal.

Allocation to these sites is not consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF dedicates a whole section to Green Belt. It states that in Section 9 'The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of the 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 NPPF also makes reference to one of the purposes of green belts being to prevent neighbouring towns from merging. On February 3rd 2015 Brandon Lewis, the Housing Minister, stated in parliament to answer a question from Stuart Andrew MP 'Unmet housing needs should not exceed maintaining the greenbelt, and this is put forward in the National Planning Policy Framework'. As you are aware from the proposed plan, sites HG2-12 and HG2-41 are both greenfield, as are sites HG3-2; HG3-3 and HG3-4. In the Leeds core strategy, under paragraph 4.11 there is a map of Leeds Green Belt which shows many of the sites proposed for housing development are in Green Belt.

By building on these sites, green belt land would be lost permanently, the towns of Horsforth and Rawdon would merge and this would be urban sprawl, this is in

direct contravention of the NPPF.

The traffic on the A65 is already unbearable. The vast scale of additional housing would lead to 1000s more vehicles on the road. The road networks in this part of Leeds are insufficient to cope with this increased volume of traffic. I note that in addition to the housing proposals in the sites I am objecting to, there are a number of other sites proposed for housing in very close proximity to the A65. This will have a cumulative effect. Putting the train station in place at kirstall forge will not help as people will drive in to horsforth to park their cars near the train station.

The area behind Knott lane HG2-12 contains much biodiversity including at risk species such as voles and weasels, and protected species such as bats. Consideration should be given to the ecological damage that would be done by allocating housing these sites.

Of particular concern is the large number of houses that are proposed on site HG2-41 which would create significant problems for the infrastructure of the area given its vast scale.

It has been suggested to use part of this site for a large school to assist with the school place crisis in this area (shortage of primary school places as evidenced by the last minute balloon year at west end primary school in 2014, as children literally metres away from the school were unable to gain a place). This is an unsound plan as this plan is not justified: there is already an alternative site (HG2-43, the Horsforth Campus site) available. This is my main objection to the site HG2-43, I appreciate this site is part brownfield and the brownfield part of it may be suitable for development, but the priority should surely be to use this as an educational facility given this already exists for this purpose?

Yours sincerely

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