

From: [Feeney, David](#)
To:
Cc: [Gruen, Cllr Peter](#); [Grahame, Cllr Pauleen](#); [Site Allocations Plan](#); [Harvatt, Adam](#)
Subject: PDE02183_RE: Red Hall offices and playing field site (HG2-119(2062)); including site HG1-284 - CURRENT CONSULTATION REGARDING SITE ALLOCATIONS
Date: 10 November 2015 12:24:23

Dear Thomas

Thank you for your email and comments. I have cc'ed this email to the Site Allocation Plan in box to make sure that this is recorded. Please take this email as acknowledgement of receipt.

Regards

David Feeney
Head of Forward Planning & Implementation
City Development
Leeds City Council

0113 2474539

From: THOMAS ALEXANDER
Sent: 10 November 2015 11:39
To: Feeney, David
Cc: Gruen, Cllr Peter; Grahame, Cllr Pauleen
Subject: Red Hall offices and playing field site (HG2-119(2062)); including site HG1-284 - CURRENT CONSULTATION REGARDING SITE ALLOCATIONS

Dear David

I wish to formally respond to the current consultation regarding site allocations.

1) Consultation process

From the email I received from the Council detailing how the consultation has been publicised, it is apparent that the Whinmoor area has extremely limited coverage and I have not seen any of the publicity. Having talked to many people in the area they have all been unaware of the consultation with the exception of the committee of Friends of Red Hall Playing Fields which is now putting considerable endeavour into raising public awareness.

It was disappointing that no drop in meeting was arranged by the Council for this area and yet drop in meetings were arranged in the banqueting room in the city centre, remote and not easily accessible for many local people. A meeting could have been arranged in the local community centre as has been done previously and well attended.

When I sought clarification as to what would constitute a valid response, the official reply from the Council was that it could take any form and did not have to be on the printed Council response form which even with clarification notes is a complex and daunting form and not readily available. Yet at the Crossgates Drop In the officer I spoke to was unaware of this and gave me a copy of the Council response form which I told him could be a deterrent to many people, even just in terms of the time taken to read it and study all the notes. At a previous Consultation, blank sheets were available on which the public could write a Response in their own words.

I am led to the conclusion that this Consultation has democratic limitations.

2) Site Allocations

At the time of writing only final outline approval for the Northern Quadrant is pending and comment in detail on the reserved matters issues will be made at the appropriate time. I am well aware of and share considerable local concern about the allocation and distribution of green space, including the new and remote so called 'country park'.

In particular I refer to the Red Hall offices and playing field site (HG2-119(2062); including site HG1-284. There is considerable local unease which I share about the future allocation of this site for housing.

With the enormous housing development on the adjacent Northern Quadrant - 2000 homes, the ongoing development on Grimesdyke-350 homes and the follow on plans for the Middle and Southern Quadrants-another 2000+ homes, the need is for a view to be taken incorporating all these developments. There is very strong local feeling that the current shortfall in green space is fully recognised and addressed.

For those unfamiliar with Red Hall Playing Fields, the name a reminder of the day when the site was used for formal football, rugby and cricket training and matches, the Fields encompass the parkland of the historic listed Red Hall House. The formal playing fields were taken out of use because of water logging of the Fields in the wet season, I am informed by the older residents owing to poor maintenance of the drainage system

In recent times the ditches have been cleaned out and the historic drains are clearly working. The grass is routinely mown, allowing better evaporation of top soil moisture.

As a consequence, there has been a surge in use from dawn to dusk as walkable green space for young and old. Being flat and open land with roads on two sides and overlooked by new build houses, it is often commented on as a safe area for young and old, the disabled and people on their own, male or female. The use has changed from a

mixture of formal and informal use to a wide range of informal uses such as family activities, individual high intensity sport training, dog walking and training, informal sport by young lads or simply as an area of beauty and tranquillity with an increasing community role. A group has planted a thousand daffodil bulbs and a war memorial bench is being planned.

It can be anticipated that this use will increase to the capacity of the site with the surrounding new build of over 2,000 houses.

There is therefore a very strong case for the retention of Red Hall Playing Fields as green space.

I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge this representation as valid.

Thomas L Alexander

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