

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE02461_Fw: Response to LCC Site Allocations Plan Public Consultation
Date: 16 November 2015 16:58:34

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the sites which are either allocated or reserved for housing development in my area of Rawdon, and also those nearby in Horsforth.

Sites HG2-12 (Woodlands Drive) and HG2-41 (Rawdon Crematorium to Horsforth Roundabout)

Sites HG3-2 (Knott Lane West), HG3-3 (Knott Lane East) and HG3-4 (Layton Lane)

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of the above proposed sites being developed for housing. Both sites are green belt, and are a very important part of the special character and appeal of Rawdon and its surrounding area. When we moved to Rawdon 9 years ago, we had been considering all areas of North West Leeds (between Headingley and Pudsey) in our initial search, before eventually choosing Rawdon due to its very special nature. It's a beautiful part of the city, and despite the fact that it's only 7 or 8 miles out of the centre it has managed to retain the feel of being a 'village' with all of the benefits that go along with that - a close-knit community and a stunning landscape to get outdoors in. The reason that Rawdon feels like a special place is very much down to its geography I feel, the fact that we haven't been over-developed, we do not simply merge into the surrounding areas and there's plenty of green belt land all around us - fields, woodland, Ghyll Beck and the river Aire. I feel that the beauty of this area will be lost forever if the above-mentioned developments go ahead, and I'm particularly concerned about the Cragg Wood conservation area. My family and I walk in that area regularly and it is such a stunning and historic area, it feels like a magical 'hidden' place, even my children comment on that every time we're there. I don't think there'll be a trace of the Cragg Wood that we know left, if the HG2-12 and HG2-41 sites go ahead, as the existing ongoing development at the old Clariant site plus these two new proposed sites will join up and simply swallow all of the green belt land on that side of the A65. To my mind that would be a travesty.

And what would the destruction of this special area be for? I cannot see any justification for the proposed developments on greenbelt land, and the plan seems very badly thought out by Leeds City Council. In fact, practically all of the proposed sites in Rawdon and the surrounding areas are on green belt land (not just those closest to me which I've highlighted), and how can this be justified when there are brownfield sites in the city which have been overlooked? This goes against the National Planning Policy Framework and also LCC's own core strategy. It seems to me to be a very cynical move by LCC, which is more about financial gain and doing what the housing developers want - i.e. building in the areas that are more attractive due to the average house price there. I cannot see any other reason for this land being selected, so that said there really is no reasonable and legal justification.

I understand that the population growth figures that LCC has used for its wider target of 70,000 houses by 2028 are not accurate or up to date. The target of 70,000 seems incredibly over-ambitious and a folly.

Plus I haven't even mentioned the problems with infrastructure that we already have to deal with in this area - very heavily congested roads (a journey time of at least 1 hour to drive the 7 miles into town is usual), very over-subscribed schools etc... On this front, LCC's site allocations actually beggar belief! Everyone in Rawdon and Horsforth who I've spoken to is horrified at the prospect of over 1000 additional houses (and it's actually more than that because the ongoing Clariant site is not finished yet) right next to what is possibly the busiest roundabout in Leeds - the Horsforth roundabout at the A65 and ring road.

Please Leeds City Council, see sense and admit that you haven't adhered to your own core strategy or the national planning framework in deciding these site allocations. Please do not ruin Rawdon, Horsforth and Aireborough and make life harder for the people in these communities.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Burrows
(22 Larkfield Road, Rawdon, Leeds LS19 6EQ)