

From: [Sian Williams](#)
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Subject: PDE03172_FW: Sites EG1-5, HG3-2, HG3-3, HG2-12, HG2-41, HG2-42 and HG2-43
Date: 16 November 2015 08:34:20

Dears Sirs

I understand the following sites are earmarked for development; yet these are all green belt sites which national policy acknowledges has multiple benefits for health and well-being and should not be developed if there are alternative brownfield sites available.

They are all part of an area which is a Special Landscape Character.

HG2-12 Field at Woodlands Drive, Rawdon

This was NOT included in the Issues and Options document so how can it be legal?

HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4, Fields off A65 Rawdon

HG2-41 Fields south of A65, Horsforth roundabout to the crematorium

HG2-43 Fields at Horsforth College Campus

This should be allocated for a school – not housing!

Please explain the grounds on which Leeds City Council has decided to act against national policy in the NPPF and against its own Core Strategy which identifies these very sites as Strategic Green Infrastructure that enhances its green belt status?

We are told that 70,000 new homes are needed but that this figure might not be accurate and might be closer to 45,000. Both are large numbers but the difference is significant. Given the scale of the exercise and the difficulties in providing infrastructure that will follow from either number, surely using the lower number is better?

Please explain the justification for using the higher number, when use of the lower projected figure would mean that no development on green belt land would be necessary?

As someone whose circumstances have changed in the last 6 years such that I now spend the majority of my working week based from home, I see how important local communities are and that individuals who are motivated to look after their neighbours and local environment are essential contributors to care of the young, the elderly and the vulnerable, keeping them out of hospitals and need of social care and attention. The same is true for the local natural environment, where an appreciation for maintaining species richness and diversity is not simply a hobby but an increasingly important element for humanity's survival. Speaking as a professional in this area, every person who values and cares for their local natural environment, observing change, being vigilant against pests and disease etc. is playing their part in addressing the challenges of providing enough food for a growing global population in a period of climate change.

Loss of green belt leads to loss of habitats and urban sprawl. Loss of green belt disturbs and can

destroy communities; new ones take time to establish.

Please explain why new housing could not be built on existing brownfield sites in the Leeds area, meaning that no development on these green belt sites would be necessary?

I appreciate the current pressures on the public purse and the need to address housing issues, but the lack of effective consultation with the Parish Councils is a missed opportunity. The Localism Act enabling individuals to engage with their communities in the preparation of Neighbourhood plans has already strengthened local communities. I think we could achieve so much more towards common goals with better consultation with LCC.

Please explain why LCC have not regularly consulted with Parish Councils, community groups, neighbourhood forums to draw up its Local Plan?

I did not know anything about your 2013 'Public Consultation' yet I live and work in Leeds and am frequently in the city centre and surrounding suburbs. I had seen nothing from the Council – not a single piece of information to alert me to this public consultation!. Why was and are your communications so poor? I did not know you have a Core Strategy or a Site Allocations Plan – why?

I did not know that you were holding THIS Public Consultation. It was only through the local campaign groups in our area who have dedicate so much of their personal time to raising awareness about what is at risk in our city that I became aware of the severity of this plan.

How can the Council create a plan which has such MASSIVE impact on the city and it's communities and not ensure that they do it as thoroughly as possible?. The previous inspector said that the plan was unsound because you did not carry out a a comprehensive greenbelt review (by PROFESSIONAL consultants)and you appear to have ignored it!

Regards

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