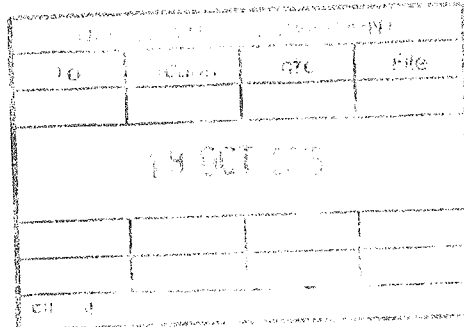


PDH00071

Leeds City Council

LDF Publication Draft Consultation, Forward
Planning and Implementation
The Leonardo Building
2 Rossington Street
Leeds
LS2 8HD

Ian Wilkinson
*Woodbottom Cottage
Low Hall Road
Horsforth
Leeds LS18 4EF*



12 October 2015

Dear Sirs,

Having studied the plans and documents setting out your proposals for the allocation of sites to meet the supposed future requirements for 70,000 new houses in Leeds by the year 2028 I would like to make the following observations with particular reference to the proposed use of green belt land in the areas of Horsforth and Rawdon, although my observations apply equally to other areas.

The target of 70,000 house set by Leeds City Council is, as I understand the situation, based on information which has now been superceeded by more up to date statistics utilising the latest census figures. It would appear that Leeds City Council is intending to totally ignore this, and other new observations in pursuit of it's aims to allocate sites, totally irrationally for more houses than are likely to be required, and to do this at the expense of much needed green belt areas.

Whilst accepting that there is a need for the construction of more housing, my initial concern, based on scrutiny of the draft proposals, is for the massive reduction in areas of farmland and wooded areas around the route of the A65 from Horsforth through to Rawdon and also along the ring road down towards Rodley (areas HG2-41, 2-42, 2-43 and HG2-12).

This general area is currently undergoing a complete transformation due to the construction of 100's of houses on the site of the old Clariant factory and the adjacent Riverside Mills site. These I believe are eminently sensible developments utilising redundant and unsightly brownfield sites to satisfy the urgent need for additional houses in the area. However, the plan to provide sites for huge numbers of houses on the existing farmland surrounding these developments appears at the very least to be ill considered and at worst irresponsible and inept as well as without regard to the intentions of the NPPF document.

The loss of these irreplaceable open spaces will destroy the "village" feel of the area and create one massive urban sprawl as well as depriving Leeds of a valuable amenity much used by walkers, horse riders and others. It must surely be preferable, though I accept not necessarily as economically attractive, to utilise the many redundant and unused industrial sites which exist in abundance in and around Leeds. More importantly the excessive use of green belt sites to meet future housing needs seems to conflict with Government's intentions and declared policy and for these reasons the

attempts by Leeds City Council to get their present proposals accepted should be strenuously resisted.

I would point out that although I currently live in an area likely to be affected by the proposals my objections are not based on "nimbyism". I am approaching 70 years old and as such am unlikely to be affected personally by future events but I fervently feel that the proposals, as presented, are unacceptable and will unnecessarily cause irreparable damage to the affected areas for future generations. I urgently request that these proposals are withdrawn and amended to accord with National Government policy, to more accurately reflect the likely future needs and to provide for these needs by the use of more brownfield sites in order to preserve the limited amounts of green belt land still remaining around Leeds.

Yours Faithfully

Ian Wilkinson

Cc. Dawn Collins