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| File Number | | | | | |

**5 Town Close
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 5BR**

**Leeds City Council
LDF Publication Draft Consultation, Forward planning &
Consultation
2 Rossington St.
Leeds
LS2 8HD**

16.10.15

Re Site allocation proposals - Horsforth

Dear Sirs,

We sympathise with the Council's dilemma- you have had an unwanted burden thrust upon you by central Government, to provide what we believe is an unrealistic (impossible) amount of housing for the city of Leeds, and you have the unenviable task of trying to be seen to please everyone. Our conviction is that it is possible to do the right thing here.

As a couple we have lived in Horsforth for over 25 years and have 4 grown children who have progressed through primary and secondary schools here, so we care about this place and are very concerned that the Council's proposals will have a detrimental effect on community life and the environment in which we live. We are concerned that the town will be unable to support the burden of extra housing of the magnitude that is proposed and its infrastructure (particular schools) will simply be unable to cope with the huge influx of new people: that standards will inevitably slip and pupils will suffer. And that the road system, which is already congested enough, will not be able to take the strain. Take the situation of parking (or lack of) around Horsforth station, and the difficulties that is causing, as an example. (We are not against new people per se; we were once newcomers here and were back then (thankfully) made to feel extremely welcome by a close neighbour, which made all the difference), and we do feel for people who are having to share unsuitable accommodation or can't get onto the housing ladder/ whatever, though no fault of their own.

We have a major concern for the proposed sacrifice of so many green spaces. These lands, within and around Horsforth, are not just empty or dead spaces but form part of a "living lung" for the city. They are, and provide, an essential back drop to our daily lives where we can be invigorated. Once we have lost them they are gone forever. Do we really want to live in a world composed only of man-made structures which feels the direction it is going in ? Local people rely on these places for recreation, exercise, appreciation of wild and beautiful things, for contact with the natural world. We all need this therapy, all ages.

Here we are in a highly –developed, industrialized society with a high population density and very concentrated transport network. Surely we have enough brown spaces to develop to more than meet and satisfy the housing demand? We should do everything we can to protect the green belt (that we thought was inviolate by act of Parliament).

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth and Dr.John Bargh MB ChB