

98 Hawksworth Road

Horsforth

LS184JJ

As a Horsforth resident I am writing to protest against some of the housing developments proposed by Leeds City Council's Site Allocation Plans - those on Green Belt land!

According to the NPPF the Government attaches great importance to protecting Green Belt and believes that they serve five purposes (para 80). The Leeds City Council document endorses this in their Green Belt section (para4.8).

However this seems to have been ignored in their current planning with regard to housing developments. Under Leeds City Council's proposals neighbouring suburbs would merge (in this instance Horsforth and Rawdon) resulting in urban sprawl and leaving very little green space between Leeds city and Rawdon (already merged with Guiseley).

This negates two of the reasons for protecting Green Belt as addressed by both NPPF and Leeds Core Strategy documents. The sites in question are HG2-41, HG2-43, HG2-12, HG3-2-3-4.

NPPF also stated that we should protect and enhance valued landscapes and minimise impacts on biodiversity. SITE HG2-43 is a green field site which has a variety of wildlife and vegetation. To build here would contradict the purposes of Green Belt sites as stated in the NPPF.

Whilst recognising the need for more housing (especially affordable) it should also be recognised that Green Belt land, once built on, is lost forever. Green Belt boundaries should therefore be retained. This is clearly emphasised in NPPF guidelines. The LCC plans are so obviously at odds with this guidance.

It is imperative that in order to fulfill its social and economic role (NPPF para 7) the planning systems must minimise the loss of green space. This is not evident in Leeds Site Allocation plans.

By all means build on brown field sites without using green land attached to them (HG2-43 playing fields). Retention of such fields should be put to community use, this being more consistent with national policy.

Under Leeds Allocation Sites proposals the A65 will become an even greater congestion problem than it is now as other major developments along this route will contribute to this (Kirkstall Forge, Clariant).

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Leeds City Council's plans do not sufficiently reflect either NPPF guidelines or in fact are consistent with Leeds Core Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. M. VLAEMINKE