

PDH00170.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT			
To	Action	Info	File
28 OCT 2015			
File Number			

47 West End Rise
Horsforth
LEEDS
LS 18 5 JL

24 October 2015

T.N.

Dear Sir

Having examined the Leeds City Council's Site Allocation Plans relative to proposed housing development, I wish to register my extremely strong objections to any building taking place on the undermentioned sites:-

- HG2-41 Fields South of A65, Horsforth Roundabout to the crematorium
- HG2-42 Fields at Broadway and Calverley Lane, Horsforth
- HG2-43 Fields at Horsforth College Campus
- HG2-12 Fields at Woodlands Drive, Rawdon
- HG3-2, HG3-3 & HG3-4 Fields off A65, Rawdon

All these are protected "green belt" land and is quite clearly contrary to both the National Planning Policy Framework and Leeds Council's own decided policy of keeping such land "permanently open or largely undeveloped."

It is quite apparent that there are no exceptional circumstances for the release of these parcels of the designated "green belt" for housing purposes and it appears that this proposal has been made just to meet housing targets - a view with which, I am sure, any Housing Inspector would agree!

The "green belt" sites I have itemised above form part of the Aire Valley where I take enjoyable walks on a regular basis and the proposed housing would tarnish its natural beauty. Leeds should cherish its river and in my view its valley and environs which teem with wildlife and is rich in diverse forms of flora and fauna should be preserved at all costs. The railway, canal and river which pass along it are of immense value to wildlife and with green belt running from it in a northerly direction towards the Leeds/Bradford Airport form a corridor allowing creatures to migrate or safely expand their territories - something which I greatly enjoy watching.

Representatives of Leeds City Council regularly extol the virtue of the Aire Valley and the need to ensure its sustainability. Much of the population are grateful for the access points, footpaths, cycle ways, information boards, picnic areas, waymarks and land maintenance which they undertake to enhance and retain its unique beauty and appeal and which their plans to which I object seem to be at odds with and are somewhat perverse!

I am especially concerned about the inclusion of the large "strawberry picking fields (HG2-41) in the plans, for they provide an extremely popular, healthy, attractive and educational facility for myself and my family and the reasonably priced asparagus and soft fruits they produce are delicious! Surely this must be retained as green belt - its use for housing cannot be justified!

Finally and most importantly, it is now recognised that the Leeds target figure of 70,000 new houses by 2028 is based on out-of-date statistics of which the Council are fully aware and the much-respected National Housing Federation suggest that a figure of approximately 25,000 fewer new properties would be fair. So, surely, it would be logical to review the target and reverse the extremely controversial plan to destroy "green belt" land.

Yours faithfully

ALAN K. STONELEY