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28 Micklefield Lane, Rawdon, Leeds LS19 6AZ

DEVELOPMENT			
To	Action	Info	File
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LDF Publication Draft Consultation,
 Forward Planning and Implementation, Leonardo Building,
 2 Rossington St.
 Leeds LS2 8HD

Rawdon and Horsforth Building Plans

Dear Planners,

I wish to register my objections to the housing developments detailed in your proposals for the area where I live. I want in particular to object to the use of Green Belt land for some of these proposed developments, notably the sites HG2-41, the strawberry fields south of the A65, HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4, fields off the A65 and HG2-12, fields off Woodlands Drive. The proposal to build on these sites is not consistent with national policy about Green Belt land, nor is it consistent with the stated policy of Leeds City Council, which has in the past committed itself to the preservation of the Green Belt. National policy states that green Belt land can only be released 'in exceptional circumstances', and I do not believe that the Council's desire to build more housing to meet targets that are based on extremely dubious numbers can be regarded as 'exceptional circumstances'.

The Green Belt divides Horsforth from Rawdon, and allows the two communities to retain some sense of individual identity. The proposed developments would fill in most of the space between them, and create an undifferentiated blur of housing that would amount to mere urban sprawl. The Green Belt is vital for preventing such sprawl, and vital for air quality, freshness, recreation and visual pleasure in an area where encroachment is an ever-present threat.

The vast development proposed on the strawberry fields HG2-41 would be particularly damaging, for it is so large and would totally destroy the space between Horsforth and Rawdon. When thinking about all these proposed developments, one must realise that the infrastructure is totally incapable of accommodating them. All these sites would bring in hundreds – indeed thousands – more cars to the neighbourhood, and they would all have to use the A65. The A65 is already vastly overcrowded and slow-moving. The congestion at the roundabout with the ring road is notorious, and the recent installation of traffic lights there has only slightly improved the situation. The ring road down to Calverley cannot cope with the present amount of traffic. To add more traffic to the already overcrowded scene would be a totally irresponsible policy on the part of the Council.

Finally, I would ask you, where have the numbers that drive these proposed developments come from? The Council says it needs to build 70,000 more houses – but the population of Leeds is somewhere around 750,000, so this is a totally disproportionate increase of the city's population. The 70,000 number is based on a 2008 projection which was challenged by a 2011 calculation that indicated that the

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figures needed to be revised downwards by a very considerable amount. Why have the erroneous earlier figures been retained when it is obvious that they are excessive?

Above all, there is no justification for building on Green Belt land. It is against national policy, and against Council policy. There are plenty of brown field sites in Leeds which have not been drawn into the plan – look at the south side of the Kirkstall Road for example - and these areas should be looked at first for any further development.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Graham Parry