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LDF Publication Draft Consultation,  
Forward Planning & Implementation,  
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DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT			
To	Action	Info	File
20 OCT 2015			
File Number			

28 October 2015

RE: LEEDS SITE ALLOCATION PLANS - FORMAL OBJECTION

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am responding to the Leeds Site Allocation Plan public consultation process, and would like to formally object to the proposed development of the following sites:

HG2/41 (4240) Fields to the South of the A65 covering Horsforth to the Rawdon Crematorium.

My understanding is that the proposed development sites are not consistent with National Policy, especially with regard to the Green Belt. Leeds must protect our Green Belt and green fields.

I walk regularly down the track from the A65 down towards the old Sandoz site, which is now being built on, with up to 400 houses. Whilst the houses look very nice and tend to blend in, nevertheless they are not being built with any thought to people who are on a low income, being mainly 3-4-5 bedroomed dwellings. Within the last 2 weeks I have come across deer in the fields where planning permission is being sought to build on fields to the left of the said track – this track is not made up and is muddy most of the time. Already the housing on the Sandoz site does not have access from the site – apart from joining the Ring Road, or going on a one-way system which brings cars out just before the Horsforth roundabout. Therefore, if a further 700 (!) houses are to be built on the proposed HG2/41 area where on earth are they expected to exit the site – onto the already very congested A65 ?

I have lived in Horsforth for over 40 years and have enjoyed the green and open aspect that living there has provided. Whilst I appreciate that houses need to be built to accommodate our growing population, why are not more brown field sites being utilised before planners encroach upon our rapidly diminishing green belts. I can walk around Horsforth Park and see and hear birds singing, people walking their dogs and children playing and it lifts our spirits to be able to look across the valley.

Next, what about Schools? The Horsforth Schools are excellent and therefore families want their children to have the best education. My children went there and both are educated to a very high standard. One only has to look across towards Farsley to see the huge conglomeration which is the 'Academy' where buses bring in children from a wide area, surely such large establishments cannot give children the education that smaller schools can. Should all the planned housing go ahead then a further School(s) will be required for Horsforth and where would they then be built – in more green belt land?

Doctors surgeries – Already my surgery has a waiting time of two weeks. When I first moved into Horsforth that waiting time was much shorter. I appreciate that numbers of patients have increased, BUT more housing means more patients. What plans are there for providing either further surgeries or more Doctors?

The traffic problems around Horsforth are already at congestion limits and have been for years. Both the Horsforth and Rodley roundabouts now have traffic lights and this has slightly improved movement. I don't travel in the rush hour so don't know whether this is improved or worse. The problem is the river and canal – there are only 3 crossings – one Apperley Bridge, one Horsforth/Rodley and one at Kirkstall/Armley. When any roadworks need to be carried out on any of these roads then even more chaos results. Road widening is the only way to solve the congestion, but how can any of the 3 crossings be improved and who, more to the point, would be responsible – the Council (ie taxpayers) or the builders?

HG2/43 (5009) Fields at Broadway and Calverley Lane Horsforth

I also object to over 200 houses being built on this site. Again, the environment and traffic issues are paramount. All the above points raised are consistent with my objection to this site being utilised.

Horsforth has been known as the 'largest village in England' for years. A walk around the streets turns up interesting buildings, ginnels and stone cottages and it retains the feeling of a village where most people know each other and help each other. I would hate Horsforth to become a satellite of Leeds and become surrounded by houses and not fields and open views, becoming just part of a suburban sprawl and being engulfed within the Main Urban Area therefore no longer being a separate major settlement of their own. (Ref. Adopted Core Strategy – Map 3 Settlement Hierarchy)

Where this is no infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population and where housing and individuals become just part of a planners scheme, then the world will be a worse place. Help keep Leeds an individual vibrant City and ensure our 'villages' and suburban areas remain apart and yet part of Leeds.

Yours faithfully

Patricia Cowles