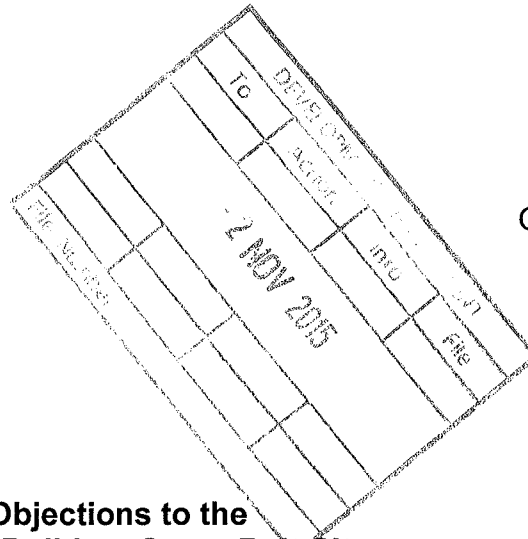


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LDF Publication Draft Consultation  
Forward Planning and Consultation  
Leonardo Building  
2 Rossington Street  
Leeds  
LS2 8HD

**My Objections to the  
Proposals to Build on Green Belt Sites  
Around Horsforth**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposals to build on Green Belt land around Horsforth.

I am responding to the proposals put forward in the Leeds Site Allocation Plans which I have recently viewed and studied.

I **strongly object** to the current proposals to build on green belt sites around Horsforth.

The following sites cause me particular concern:-

- The fields south of the A65 between Horsforth roundabout and the crematorium; popularly known in the area as the strawberry fields: Labelled HG2-41.
- The fields at Broadway and Calverley Lane Horsforth: Labelled HG2-42.
- The fields at Horsforth College Campus. Labelled HG2-43.
- The fields at Woodlands Drive, Rawdon: Labelled HG2-12.
- The fields to the north and south of the A65 in Rawdon: Labelled HG3-2, HG3-3 & HG3-4.

These Green Belt sites should be preserved as they are.

The core purposes of designating Green Belt land are set out clearly in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

Green Belt land serves the following five purposes: -

1. to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
2. to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
3. to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
4. to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
5. to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Three further points are made by the NPPF:-

- A. The fundamental aim of the Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence;
- B. Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES; and
- C. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

These proposed developments appear to run contrary to all the above guidance from the government.

These proposed developments will significantly affect me and my family directly and will undermine their health and well being in the following ways:-

- My work involves travelling to and from my workplace each day. I already experience severe traffic problems and these proposed developments will only serve to increase and exacerbate these problems.
- I am married with three small children. We enjoy the easy access to the open countryside in and around Horsforth. We enjoy walking our dog along lanes through green fields and on paths across farm land. Whilst doing this, we enjoy watching the seasons change, the birds and the animals. All this contributes significantly to health and well being of me and my family. These proposed developments will deny me and my family these benefits.
- Whilst travelling in and around Leeds I see many derelict industrial and commercial sites. It is impossible for Leeds City Council to state that they have exhausted all the "brown field" sites for development around the city and therefore have to make inroads into Green Belt land. There are significant development opportunities visible in many areas of Leeds (particularly the south) where brown field sites are available. Why is Leeds City Council ignoring these opportunities and concentrating on Green Belt sites?
- Horsforth is about to experience another major consultation exercise – the proposed new link road to the airport. This proposed new road will bring additional pressures on this community and every effort should be taken to minimise these pressures by rejecting these current proposals to build on Green Belt land.

Finally, when I married we chose to live in Horsforth. That decision has benefitted me, my wife and my growing family. These proposed developments would seriously diminish the characteristics and benefits of living in Horsforth for me, my family and for its future community. Without doubt, Horsforth would become another part of the urban sprawl of Leeds.

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on these unacceptable proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Smith