

PDH00501

LDF Publication Draft Consultation
Forward Planning & Implementation
The Leonardo Building
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DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 47			
To	Action	Info	File
- 6 NOV 2015			
Reference Number			

West End Rise
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 5JL

4 November 2015

Dear Sir

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL'S SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN.
REPRESENTOR No. PRS02462

I wish to register my objections to the Leeds City Council's Site Allocations Plan insofar as it relates to the proposed new housing in Horsforth and Rawdon on several grounds.

Firstly and importantly I would point out that the Council's Core Strategy is based on their current target which requires the construction of 70,000 new houses, but this is somewhat perverse as it is founded on out-of-date information and in fact revised figures show that only 45,000 dwellings are required. This is clearly unsound and an elementary error. The target should be reduced accordingly which would allow the controversial and unjustified plans to build on 'green belt' land to be withdrawn.

Secondly i specifically object to the undermentioned plans:-

- HG2-41 (Fields south of A65 from Horsforth Roundabout to the Crematorium - known as the "Strawberry Fields")
- HG2-43 (Fields at Horsforth College Campus)
- HG2-12 (Fields at Woodland Drive, Rawdon)
- HG3-2 HG3-3 HG3-4 (Fields off A65, Rawdon)

as all these sites are on "green belt" land which are the lungs of Leeds and the proposals to include them are not consistent with national policy relative to this matter. Chapter 11 of the sustainable development section of the National Planning Framework states "The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:-

- a) Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes
- b) Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services
- c) Minimising impacts on biodiversity

Surely the City of Leeds must retain the beautiful Aire Valley in its present form and in my view it would amount to sacrilege to build houses within its precincts. Indeed the Council itself designated the Valley as a "Special Landscape Area" and the proposals to use these sites for housing cannot by any means be justified.

The countryside around the Valley abounds with wildlife and my husband and I are regular walkers along its footpaths and are always appreciative of the works carried out by the Council to preserve and enhance its varied flora and fauna - it must be retained

as it is for future generations to enjoy.

I do not accept that there are 'exceptional' circumstances to use the 'green belt' land in question for housing purposes and am strongly of the opinion that the plans should be reconsidered. In support of this view I would refer to the National Planning Policy Framework section 80 - the five purposes of 'green belt'

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

Yours faithfully

Gillian Stoneley
