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Micklefield Park Lodge
 Micklefield Lane
 Rawdon
 Leeds LS19 6AZ

9 November 2015

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

Dear Sir / Madam

SITE ALLOCATION CONSULTATION

I am writing to strongly object to a number of the proposed housing sites in the Rawdon and Horsforth area.

They are: HG2-12 Fields at Woodlands Drive
 HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4 Fields off the A65, Rawdon

My reasons are:

1. These sites are within the existing Green Belt and adequate reasons have not been given for the development of these sites. The proposed housing developments are completely unjustified because building on green belts should be approved only in very special circumstances. A shortage of housing land cannot possibly be construed as very special circumstances.

According to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Green Belts serve:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

~~3. Specifically, Horsforth and Rawdon would be separated only by the grounds of the crematorium, and there would be clear progression into open countryside. Also, insufficient effort has been made to ensure that houses are actually built on the extensive sites in the area for which planning permission has already been given.~~

4. Leeds City has ignored the basis of the guidance in the NPPF which states that the construction of new buildings is inappropriate in Green Belt. It has also given insufficient weight to the potential harm of the proposed housing developments which are not clearly outweighed by other considerations.

5. A further significant reason for objecting is that the over burdened A65 corridor is already an area where air quality is known to be poor because of the volume of traffic and the standing queues of traffic. The air quality will deteriorate further along this corridor.

6. These proposals are not sustainable. With the increased traffic and pollution, the loss of countryside and the further sprawl that these proposals would engender, my grandchildren who live in Rawdon, will grow up in an area of the city that will become less attractive.

In short, my responses to LCC's specific questions are:

No, the plans have not been positively prepared as they ignore Leeds City's own Core Strategy;

No, the plans are not justified. The underlying assumptions are fundamentally unsound;

No, the plans will not be effective, relying on a main road that is already overwhelmed by traffic for most of the week; and

No, the plans are not consistent with national policy on Green Belt. They have been drafted without proper regard for the NPPF guidelines

Finally, I grew up in a village surrounded by green fields with wild flowers and country lanes where children would build dens in the hedgerows. Now they have all gone, there is no beauty, only houses. I don't want my grandchildren and their children growing up deprived of the joy of adventure in open fields, country lanes and the wonder of nature in the green belt. Do you?

Yours faithfully

Monica Parkes

Cc: Rawdon GREENBELT Action Group: rawdongreenbelt@gmail.com
