

Loss of any Green Belt at this stage of the Local Plan is to be opposed strongly and should be avoided; taking land out of Green Belt should not be done before the Leeds Local Plan has reached its halfway point on 1st April 2020, after a formal review of progress. This is to avoid unnecessary loss of Green Belt if new development, especially the need for dwellings, falls well short of LDF Core Strategy targets. According to the consultation document, development at Haighside should await public transport improvements such as the NGT trolleybus. NGT won't be ready until at least 2021, if at all, underlining the case for putting back consideration of this site until an LDF review in 2020 of all Green Belt sites proposed for release; meanwhile it should be pencilled into phase 3 to allow that delayed assessment to take place, or be rejected outright as development land.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 79 says "the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence"; para 83 says "once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan. At that time, authorities should consider the Green Belt boundaries having regard to their intended permanence in the long term, so that they should be capable of enduring beyond the plan period". Leeds City Council must take this into account, so I object to the release of land at Haighside for development.

(Signed).....

Also, I wish to add personal comments which are set out below.

As a resident of low Steps have since 1976 wildlife diminished when the Castle hodge development was completed and the line of trees with preservation orders on them were cut down. Not all of the few new trees survived. Appreciating the development would happen I did not object though I lost privacy and pleasant views. However the loss of the wooded area and farmland at the end of low Steps have would more seriously affect wildlife. Bats are seen regularly on summer evenings and a Heron has visited the street regularly this year. Thankfully I am retired now and try to avoid peak time travel however peak time on an evening is ever extending and inevitably I get caught up in the horrendous bottle neck spots on my way home from areas in Leeds.

I understand that the landowner of Hope Farm Robin Hood has submitted his land as an alternative site, perhaps the council could reconsider this site which I believe has been rejected.

Note: comments can be sent on-line to www.leeds.co.uk/yourcity, or by e-mail to sap@leeds.gov.uk. Comments, whether electronic or on paper, must be received by Leeds not later than 5pm on Monday 16th November 2015. Preferably, comments should quote the reference number and name of the allocation site to which they refer, if it has any, such as HG2-173, Haghside, Rothwell. There is no limit to the number of sites which can be commented on. Please continue overleaf and add more sheets of paper if needed. Anonymous comments cannot be accepted by Leeds, so always give clearly your name and postal or e-mail address.