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Forward Planning & Implementation
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| DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT | | | |
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46 Victoria Close
Horsforth
LEEDS LS18 4PS
West Yorkshire

04.11.2015

Dear Sirs

I am writing in response to the Leeds City Council Site Allocation plan and the Aire Valley Leeds Action plan to advise you of my objection to your proposed developments for Horsforth & Rawdon.

The sites in Horsforth & Rawdon that I am objecting to being developed are as follows.

- HG2-41 – the fields to the south of the A65 from the Horsforth roundabout to the Rawdon crematorium, including the strawberry fields.
- HG2-42 – the fields at Broadway and Calverley Lane adjacent to the Horsforth roundabout and Calverley Lane.
- HG2-43 – the conservation area fields at Park Lane College Campus near to the Horsforth roundabout and cemetery.
- HG2-12 – the fields to the south of the A65 and adjacent to Woodlands Drive and the Rawdon crematorium.
- HG2-46 – the site of the former waste water treatment works located to the south of the A65 near to the old Kirkstall Forge.
- HG3-2, HG3-3 & HG3-4 – the fields to the north and south of the A65 adjacent to Knott Lane and to the rear of Layton Lane in Rawdon

All of these sites are areas of land which is designated as GREEN BELT land.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) includes a whole section dedicated to the definition of Green Belt land and its protection. It also requires local authorities to produce local plans for development within their own respective areas of the country based on the Green Belt policies contained within the framework document.

The Leeds Local Plan includes a 'Core Strategy' which defines green belt as areas of open land around cities and large built up areas where strict planning controls apply to keep the land permanently open or undeveloped as well as re-stating the purposes of Green Belt.

The main reason for my objection to your development plans for the above listed Green Belt sites in Horsforth & Rawdon is that to include them in the Leeds Local Plan is in direct contravention of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for areas of land designated as Green Belt land which are to be kept permanently open or undeveloped and not built on in any way. Also, it goes against statements made in the 'Core Strategy' of the Leeds Local Plan which identifies the above listed areas of Green Belt land in Horsforth & Rawdon as 'Strategic Green Infrastructure'.

Your development proposals for Horsforth & Rawdon included in the Leeds Local Plan raise the following comments and reasoning for my objection to your plans.

- Why is it deemed necessary and justifiable for the development of Green Belt land for housing development in preference to Brownfield or other land which could be developed for the same purpose?
- Why is it considered suitable to include Green Belt land for development in the Leeds Local Plan when it contravenes the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for the protection and preservation of Green Belt land?
- The Leeds Local Plan 'Core Strategy' identifies the above listed areas of Green Belt land in Horsforth & Rawdon as 'Strategic Green Infrastructure'. Why therefore does the Leeds Local Plan contradict its own 'Core Strategy' by considering these areas of land for development when they have already been designated to be kept permanently open and not to be developed?
- If the Green Belt land at the fields HG2-12, HG3-2, HG3-3, and HG3-4 in Rawdon and HG2-46 in Horsforth were to be developed, this would only serve to increase the urban sprawl between Horsforth & Rawdon and Horsforth & Kirkstall at the expense of these village areas losing their respective identities
- To develop Green Belt land anywhere impacts on the environment and destroys forever the habitat that we share with local wildlife. This would be no different for the proposals currently being considered in the Leeds Local Plan for Horsforth & Rawdon. Why therefore is Green Belt land continually being developed when the consequences to the environment are known?
- Even though Horsforth & Rawdon are busy urbanised suburbs of Leeds, to develop the Green Belt land proposed in the Leeds Local Plan will destroy a lot of the open rural aspect of the area which I and my family and also a lot of other people enjoy through walking and cycling in the area.
- To say at this moment that Horsforth & Rawdon are full is very much an understatement. The local infrastructure of roads, schools, transport and local amenities just about copes with the current demands placed upon it. Traffic at morning and evening rush hour times for work and schools is to say the least manic and very chaotic. Hence to introduce the amount of additional people that is being proposed into Horsforth and to a lesser extent Rawdon, with all the additional requirements for school places, transport, car usage and local amenities is only going to serve to make the current situation much worse than it already is and very much to the detriment of the people that currently live in these areas.

In conclusion therefore, as I and many others do not wish to see these areas swamped by yet more houses, people and cars, there has to be a point where enough is enough, a point where it's time to think again and come up with a better plan for Leeds. Therefore for the reasons given above I wish to lodge my objection to your development plans for each of the above listed Green Belt sites in Horsforth & Rawdon that are currently being considered in the Leeds Local Plan.

