

PDH 00801

10 London Lane
Rawdon
Leeds
LS19 6BR
9th November 2015

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

Re - Site Reference HG2-41 Rawdon Crematorium to Horsforth Roundabout
(also HG2-42 and HG2-43)

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to object to development on the sites referenced above.

I cannot understand how you are able to include so much of our green belt in Leeds City Councils Site Allocations Plans. This is inconsistent with National Policy and as a resident of Rawdon I am astounded that you think that this is positive for residents and future generations. It's not based on recognized and proven housing target figures to start off with and it certainly does not comply with the NPPF.

Our local councillors, local MP and Rawdon Parish Council are all against these developments on our green fields across Aireborough, so how can these views possibly be seen as legal and positive by a Council 7 miles away who know nothing about our community? My reasons are below -

- Plan not Justified - How can Leeds City Council justify the impact on already stretched resources? This impact would be huge - schools, doctors, dentists - not to mention the local roads, traffic levels, and state of, not to mention road safety issues and highways access. Infrastructure should be in place BEFORE housing as per the NPPF and no guaranteed plans have been put forward to accommodate this. I notice reference to a 'school' but no firm promises or timescales - this would invariably not be delivered and yet more houses would be crammed in with developers crying that it is "no longer viable". See High Royds at Menston for the empty promises and misleading lies of a "village" with orchards, school and services.
- Plan not Justified - To develop these sites would create urban sprawl ruining the identity and character of Rawdon, Horsforth and Rodley. We would lose our individual community identities as these areas merge together as one great big housing estate. They are also vital spaces which increase the biodiversity and sustainability of the local area - absorbing noise and providing drainage systems and countering pollution.
- Plan not Justified - How can the Council justify the removal of such an important wildlife rich habitat? A habitat supporting crested newts, wild deer, bats, sparrow hawks and kites. These haven't even been recognized in the inadequate environmental assessments, which have been conducted to date. It also prevents a wildlife corridor vital to survival and species isolation.
- Plan not Justified - These sites offer a recreational space - places proven to improve well-being - for the community to exercise (walking, dog walking, running). HG2-41 is not only used as agricultural land but also as

Pick Your Own Fruit Fields. As a family we have enjoyed using this facility for many years and it has become a local landmark. This connection with our landscape would be lost forever, you would be removing the long distant views that make our areas unique and special.

- Plan not Justified - Leeds should be using existing buildings, premises and land which is currently derelict and empty, and which would be more suitable for housing – the infrastructure is already there to support these. It seems like the Council would rather turn the lights off in Leeds inner city and go for the easy more profitable option in the suburbs. That's not forward thinking as a City, and the Council should be reminded that the Core Strategy states that all **Brownfield sites should be developed before greenbelt land**.
- Plan not Effective or Positively Prepared - There have been inadequate environmental impact assessments done to date. The plans for these sites are not based on a **COMPREHENSIVE** Greenbelt Review as required under the Core Strategy.
- Plan not Effective or Positively Prepared - Without local action groups we would not have been aware of these proposals. The Council has not engaged the community at all; my neighbours were all unaware of these proposals. The Council POP ups were insufficiently advertised locally and there was no literature posted direct to residents. The Councils website is "planning speak", it constantly crashed and it does not allow for objections of greenbelt development across Leeds forcing the user to focus on one site at a time making commenting on more than one objection impossible and not giving a full list of greenbelt sites.
My 16 year old son and his friends had no idea this was being proposed – there was no inclusion in popular social media or local schools – and a huge amount of the population has no doubt been omitted from this consultation because they wont be on line.
- Plan not Legally Compliant and not in Accordance with the NPPF - The housing target of 70,000 on which the Council has based its Core Strategy is inaccurate, over aspirational and the Council has not revised these figures despite ONS projections of 45,000. The Council has also **IGNORED** the NPPF which states that green belt only be used in "exceptional circumstances". The Council cites "Growth" but this isn't measured or proven.

Section 9 of the NPPF serves to protect greenbelt and this is being ignored by Leeds City Council across Aireborough.

I also strongly object to the proposals for HG2-42 Fields at Broadway / Calverley Lane Horsforth and HG2-43 Fields at Horsforth College Campus – for the very same reasons.

Yours faithfully,
Philip Ward