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Micklefield Park Lodge
Micklefield Lane
Rawdon
Leeds LS19 6AZ

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

7 November 2015

Dear Sir / Madam

SITE ALLOCATION CONSULTATION

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

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

My reasons for objecting are:

1. Although these sites are within the existing Green Belt, adequate reasons have not been given for developing these sites. These housing developments are also 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. More specifically, Horsforth and Rawdon would be separated only by the grounds of the crematorium, and there would be clear encroachment into open countryside. Furthermore, 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 A65 corridor is already an area where air quality is known to be poor because of the volume of traffic, the number of older diesel-engined taxis that use the main road and the frequent standing queues of traffic. A feature of the A65 is the absence of park-and-ride areas. Because all of these proposed developments straddle the A65, 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.

To summarise, 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

Yours faithfully

Alan Parkes

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