

DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION			
To	Action	Info	File
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29 West end Lane
Horsforth, Leeds
LS185JP
November 10th 2015

LDF Publication Draft Consultation
Leeds LS2 8HD

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to my express my strong opposition to the proposals put forward in the Leeds Site Allocation Plan.

I am a resident of Horsforth and am opposed to the proposal to construct housing on a number of green belt sites in my area.

The following proposed sites are of particular concern to me:

- HG2-41 – the area south of the A65 known as the “strawberry fields”
- HG2-42 – fields at Broadway and Calverly Lane
- HG2-43 – fields at Horsforth Campus
- HG2-12 – fields at Woodlands Drive Rawdon
- HG-2, HG3 and HG4 – fields to the north and south of the A65 in Rawdon

I am of the strong opinion that these proposed sites should not be built on and should be left in their current state as Green Belt sites. It is clear from the government’s own National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that the core purposes of designation Green Belt Land are:

1. to check unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas
2. to prevent the merging of neighbouring towns
3. to assist in preserving the countryside from encroachment
4. to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns
5. to assist in urban regeneration by encouraging recycling of derelict and other urban land

In my opinion, the current proposals do not conform to these objectives.

Furthermore, the NPPF also makes these points:

1. The importance of Green Belt in the prevention of urban spread and in keeping land permanently open.
2. That Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances.
3. That inappropriate development is harmful to Green Belt and should not be approved except in very exceptional circumstances.

I am particularly concerned about the proposal to build on the “strawberry fields” (HG-41). I have often picked strawberries in these fields with my grandchildren. These fields not only provide a delightful seasonal activity for our community but they also constitute a much needed green space south of the highly congested A65. I do not accept the there are “exceptional circumstances” that necessitate the exploitation of these much loved and appreciated green fields which contribute to the individual character of Horsforth.

I believe that all of the sites identified above breach the NPPF’s core purpose of “preserving the setting and special character of historic towns”. I moved to Horsforth several years ago and one of the factors that drew me to this town was the fact that it is not just part of the general,

undistinguished urban sprawl around Leeds, but a vibrant and proud historic community with distinct character and identity. If these proposals go ahead, then I fear that this character and distinct identity will be lost and Horsforth will simply be subsumed into the characterless urban sprawl that is all too evident in the Leeds area.

Another of the reasons I moved to Horsforth was the fact that I could walk from my front door into attractive countryside and could introduce my grandchildren (who also live in Horsforth) to the delights of living in a semi-rural setting. If the above proposals go ahead, this easy access to pleasant countryside will no longer be possible and it will be necessary to travel much further afield to access such amenities. This certainly goes against the NPPF's core purpose of "preserving the countryside from encroachment".

I hope you will take these concerns into account when making decisions ^{about} the future of my community.

Yours f

Pauline Macmillan

