

PDH01251

Hillgarth  
Canada Crescent  
Rawdon  
Leeds  
LS19 6LT  
11 November 2015

LDF Publication Draft Consultation  
Forward Planning and Implementation  
The Leonardo Building  
2 Rossington Street  
Leeds  
LS28HD

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT			
To	Action	Info	File
13 NOV 2015			

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you with regard to Leeds City Councils' consultation regarding the Site Allocation Plan.

I believe that the plan is fundamentally unsound in many respects. The Plan contradicts both National Policy as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework and it also contradicts Leeds City Council's own Core Strategy. Both of these state very clearly that greenbelt land should not be used except in exceptional circumstances and yet Leeds, in its Site Allocation Plan would appear to be intending to use Greenbelt land in this area when there are brownfield sites throughout the city which are not being used. The NPPF clearly states that meeting housing targets is not an acceptable justification for using Greenbelt. Leeds plans to build 70,000 – a target which is unacceptably high and which is based upon outdated and therefore incorrect data. These figures are based upon data collected in 2008 and have been superseded by the 2011 census which indicates a slower rate of population increase and would indicate that something in the region of 45,000 is a more reasonable target. Yet Leeds persists in pursuing the higher and unreasonable target.

I believe that the Plan is unsound because there has been no consultation with neighbouring authorities or with designated Neighbourhood Planning bodies. There has been little or no consultation with local residents and indeed some sites have recently been added to the Site Allocation Plan without any consultation.

Site HG2-12 and Sites HG3 2/3/4 are all in Rawdon and are all in the Greenbelt. They are all also identified as part of the "Strategic Green Infrastructure" within Leeds Core Strategy. Any development on these sites would have severe consequences for wildlife and the biodiversity infrastructure. Additionally my family and I have enjoyed walking the footpaths in these areas and others around Rawdon since we moved here 40 years ago. To my knowledge there has been no consultation on site HG2-12.

Site HG2-41, Site HG-43 and Site HG-10

Although not in Rawdon, any development of these sites on the scale envisaged would have serious consequences for the village. Again all these sites are within the Greenbelt, which, once lost, will be lost forever. They are also part of the Strategic Green Infrastructure as identified in Leeds Core Strategy. These sites also serve to prevent urban sprawl by preserving the natural boundaries between communities. Development of these sites would also significantly add to the infrastructure problems that already exist in the area.

In conclusion, apart from the self-evident fact that this strategy goes against Leeds' own Core Strategy, and also the NPPF, I find it extraordinary that a plan which will impact so heavily on the people of the areas involved, the so-called consultation process has amounted to nothing more than a display of maps in various locations. The impression given is that the plan is more or less a 'done deal', and the suggested questions for public response, such as 'Is the plan prepared positively?' mean little to most people and seem designed to confuse.

In addition, the proposed building on Greenbelt land in the first phase of the plan seems like a ploy to push it through quickly before any review is possible.

In short, strength of feeling among the residents is high, and I hope that as an elected body, Leeds City Council will take note of this.

Yours sincerely

Lynne Davies