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2, Springbank
Apperley Lane
Rawdon

Leeds LS19 6BL

Tuesday 10th November
2015.

To:
The Forward Planning
Department
At Leeds City Council.

Dear Draft Consultation
Staff Members,

I have before me the recently delivered Rawdon Greenbelt Action Group leaflet, and although I continue to read it, feel I must now take up the invitation to write my most serious concerns about the various building proposals being planned for my immediate local area of Rawdon - even though my only qualification for consideration may be the fact that I have lived in the same house at the above address for the last fifty-nine years, and the changes I have observed and experienced. I am sure you will receive a huge number of letters and

emails, each with personal viewpoints and an array of observations to place before your department. Please may I include in this letter, some of my own experiences already and viewpoints of what may be to come... if allowed to happen...?

My own street (which is residential but a public road) is each day being used as a short-cut by vehicles and drivers not prepared to wait at the nearby Micklesfield Lane / Apperley Lane traffic lights and my only real chance of driving out of my street (Springwood Road) is into Micklesfield Lane and nearly always with cars illegally and dangerously parked opposite my seat.

Travelling westwards from Rawden Lights there is a roadside speed camera, mainly I guess for the benefit of the pupils and other pedestrians to the nice new Littermow School, but further down and for a stretch of about one hundred yards cars are parked (for workers at a nearby medical firm?) as there is nowhere else to accommodate them. They also at one time 'swamped' my own neighbourhood - they keep being moved on as no-one can find any realistic parking area for them during the day time.

I recall many years ago, there being

only two sets of traffic lights from Rawden, along the three mile stretch of main road to White Cross roundabout and the famous fish & chips restaurant - now there are eight or nine, including pedestrian lights and again towards the cricket club area a continuous line of parked cars by the main road during the daytime (perhaps for the much-used railway station?). My dentist has been situated along this road for as long as I have lived at my present home, and for quite a few years I could easily find a car parking space for my visits - along the station Road cobbles, but now, and for some time, I have to park at least two-thirds of a mile away.

I work with someone in the early mornings in some offices at Yeaden Airport Industrial Estate. His home is along Queensway in Yeaden, and his Doctor is based at Netherfield Road Medical Centre (fairly near my Dentist). One day I saw him driving off to the Medical Centre at 8 AM, and later remarked about his fortunate early appointment, to which he replied that he was only just going to look in to see his doctor. When I asked why he didn't just use one of the office telephones for that? he said, he would never get through on the phone! Well, such is a snapshot of how things are in our area today?

Yeader has been quite an industrial area (though with less cars) for as long as I can remember - and before of course, when the airport was the aerodrome, and Lancaster Bombers being built nearby, taxied along a short link road (still in existence) then flown away from the main runway.

I can remember, though many years ago Leeds + Bradford Parachute Club being based at Yeader, operating at weekends. Folks would park-up in their cars and watch the (novice) jumpers parachuting. Alas, there would be the odd tragedy, and also a few cases of jumpers landing on car roofs etc. Not surprisingly then, and as the airport developed, the Parachute Club had to move-on, at least twice - first to Elvington, York, then to Kettlewell, I think. I have, believe it or not -? parachuted myself from both places, and in the case of Elvington, noticed what a fabulous runway the old airfield had there and have often thought what a good airport that would have made instead of Yeader...?

Well for whatever the reasons - probably commercial ones, being situated between two major cities, Yeader has been the choice for action and development.

- and very handy it is too, for those wishing to fly to all sorts of destinations and as one would expect for a busy airport, much of the surrounding area is now already taken up with supporting facilities:- Yeaden Steeps restaurant and hotel, a Travelodge, another (new) restaurant some new office blocks, and now so many car parks. Extra car parking desperately borrowed during the summer months from a nearby cardboard manufacturers.

All very busy and interesting then... but I did learn that the Yeaden runway is not particularly popular with the pilots and there is not really much anyone can do about that now. In short, Yeaden Airport is rather close on the limits of its possibilities for any further development. It just doesn't have the space or suitable terrain for anything more.

As I have already highlighted how busy the major roads have become, I do use them myself, and one or two of the smaller and narrower local ones too. Many other cars do the same, often doing so for short cuts or to try avoiding congestion nearby. The thought runs through my mind, how the difficulties

of scraping past other cars and the roadside hedges and shoulders, might be relieved by some road widening projects, only has already been discovered elsewhere, this doesn't so much relieve a problem, it just encourages more cars! Such is life these days.

The proposed new link road seems to be planned (perhaps in desperation?) across meadow land areas, notoriously unstable (as can be observed in the nearby Crematorium sacred grounds on the Horsforth side of the still 'Red' Beck).

As for the housing projects, they are all proposed for our presently much-treasured green fields, with the now usual close proximity to each other, banishing what is left of the rural appearance. The green belt action group leaflet does make many good points and suggests other alternatives to explore, and as with the roads, when more are built, more are wanted soon afterwards -- until no more possibilities are left...?

I realize all these problems are not of your making, and that you are only trying to relieve an increasingly serious situation which we can only hope our government and leaders will successfully be able to find a cure for. I have taken a day off work to write this and do my bit! Yours most sincerely,