



CRIGGLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Pre-Main Modifications Spring 2022 – Response by Crigglestone Parish Council

Thank you for giving Crigglestone Parish Council the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

Can we begin by restating and underlining our continued serious concerns and objections to the process by which the Local Plan was prepared and many of its key proposals, specifically in relation to the proposed allocation of the major development sites Broad Cut Farm/Calder Grove and land at Asdale Road, both in the parish of Crigglestone.

It remains the Parish Council's position, and that of many others, that the proposals are unsound, based on flawed evidence and unjustified. They are also contrary to national planning policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, particularly in light of the exceptional circumstances required to justify the permanent release of Green Belt land.

We have no comments to make on the sites included in the Pre-main Modifications document. We do, however, seek clarification and confirmation that, should there be an increase in deliverable housing sites following the proposed modifications, sites will be deleted that it was originally proposed to be released from the Green Belt but are now not necessary to meet the housing requirement for the Plan period.

Wakefield MDC (officers and members) has given repeated assurances through the plan preparation process and more widely that the Local Plan would only identify sufficient housing land needed to be released from the Green Belt to meet the housing requirement.

This is also in accordance with National Planning Guidance, in particular section 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework which states 'Before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, the strategic policy-making authority should be able to demonstrate that it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development'.

It is also an approach that was quite rightly adopted in the development of other Local Plans. Leeds just to name one good example.

We note that on page 4 at Appendix 1 (Stage 2 and Stage 3 Analysis: Wakefield) which forms part of the document 'EX.WDC49 Pre-Main Modifications Site Selection Stage 2 and Stage 3 Analysis Note Update' it makes the statement in respect of LP1411 'IF REJECTED FOR PROPOSED USE, CONSIDER AS SAFEGUARDED LAND AT STAGE 3? - YES, CONSIDER'. We appreciate that this statement does not form part of the official documents/evidence but wish to lodge our continued objection to the removal of this site from the Green Belt. A view shared by many others. We have previously supplied compelling evidence on why it should remain in the Green Belt. This includes the important Green Belt role and function it continues to perform, there are better options for development and the absence of the exceptional circumstances required for its removal from the Green Belt. We have also set out in our evidence re LP1332 the reasons why Safeguarded land designations are not sound.

We also noted this Appendix makes numerous references in support (or not) of proposed allocations to "Special Policy Area LP1411 is sufficient to meet housing need on Green Belt land in Wakefield, as well as meeting employment need". See LP361 Land at Church View, Agbrigg on page 4, for example. The vast majority of these sites were rejected for inclusion/allocation in the Plan prior to the first public consultation on the Plan. The reasons why they were rejected or included were provided at that stage. It is manifestly wrong, incorrect and flawed to state that one of the main reasons why a site was rejected or included is that Special Policy Area LP1411 is sufficient to meet housing need on Green Belt land as the proposed allocation of the site was only considered after the Stage 1 consultation.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Knowles
Clerk/RFO to Crigglestone Parish Council