
  
Huddersfield  
HD7   
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Mr Reeves

LDF Core Strategy Representation

I am writing to you as Vice Chairman of Yorkshire Greenspace Alliance and in response to Bradford Council's recent call for public representations on the LDF Core Strategy Publication Draft. For your further information, a brief description of YGA and its aims is attached as Appendix A.

Further information can be found on our website: <http://www.yorkshiregreenspacealliance.org.uk/>

As YGA was only formed in September 2013, we were not directly involved, as an organisation, in the previous stages of LDF development in Bradford. However a number of local action groups and individuals from the Bradford District, who have now joined the Alliance, have been involved in previous stages. The purpose of this letter is fourfold:

1. To make you aware of YGA and our wish to be involved with Bradford MDC in the future development and management of the Bradford Local Plan. In this context we are making a formal request for registration as an appropriate body to be involved in Local Plan development under the terms of section 18(2) of Statutory Instrument No 767; meaning "The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012".
2. To make you aware that we are intending to facilitate a combined response by the many local action groups within the Bradford area, to the Core Strategy Publication Draft. We are holding a public meeting in Menston next Saturday (15<sup>th</sup> March) to do exactly that. We make no presumptions as to what that meeting will decide, but will contact you again, if appropriate, after the meeting.
3. To inform you that we do not consider the current six week "representation" period to be an adequate length of time for members of the public to properly consider and make comment on such a complex and far- reaching document at this penultimate stage of Local Plan development. We are therefore formally asking you to extend the representation period from six weeks to a minimum of twelve weeks in accordance with Government guidelines on public consultations. **An urgent response to this point would be appreciated.**
4. To register Yorkshire Greenspace Alliance as a body that wishes to be actively involved in the formal LDF Core Strategy inspection hearings, irrespective of whether we are able to produce a detailed written response to the Core Strategy Publication Draft in the short time before your deadline date for representations or not. In that sense you should treat this letter as a formal representation concerning the Core Strategy Publication Draft.

YGA is a responsible organisation that includes many professionals including architects, barristers, business managers, engineers, lawyers, management consultants, marketing professionals, planners, politicians and statisticians. We are therefore fully conversant with the changes that have been made to the planning system over the past few years and recognise the importance, to everyone, of having a Local Plan in place as quickly as possible. However, as I am sure you are aware from experience at other neighbouring Councils, it is equally important that the Plan and Plan Process are robust enough to satisfy the demands of the Inspection process AND widespread public concerns about unnecessary or premature building on green field land. It is simply not appropriate to cut corners.

We also appreciate that an extension of the "representation" period beyond the end of March may well conflict with the requirement to hold public consultations outside formal election periods. In our view, if this causes the "representation" period to be suspended until after the election period, then that is what has to be done.

Yours Sincerely

 Bamforth

Vice Chairman, Yorkshire Greenspace Alliance

  
CC to: Bradford Local Plan Group  
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
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## Appendix A

In September 2013 West Yorkshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Kirklees Community Action Network (KCAN), and Wharfedale & Airedale Review Development (WARD) jointly formed a new “planning & development” campaign group, called the

### *Yorkshire Greenspace Alliance (YGA).*

We took this important step because we strongly believe that by working together; sharing knowledge, expertise and resources; we will collectively have a much stronger influence on planning issues at Local, Regional and National level. Around 40 Local action groups across West Yorkshire have already joined the Alliance and groups in other parts of Yorkshire, who share our aims, are already being inspired to join us.

### AIMS

As a starting point we decided to adopt, as our aims, the key demands of CPRE’s National “Save Our Countryside” Charter:-

- **Don’t sacrifice our countryside and natural Greenspace.** Our open (green) spaces are being destroyed unnecessarily. Previously developed brownfield land MUST be re-used first to protect the tranquillity of our countryside and to breathe new life in to our towns and cities.
- **A fair say for local communities.** Local people are increasingly unable to stop the destruction of their towns and countryside. The cards are stacked in favour of powerful developers. We want a democratic planning system that gives communities a much stronger say in the future of their area.
- **More housing in the right places.** The country urgently needs more affordable homes for our rising population, including in towns and villages. But they must be sensitively located with excellent environmental standards and high quality design that enhances local character. (They must also be located in the right parts of the country, instead of failing to recognise the radically different planning issues in the North and South of England.

We also decided to adopt two more specific “Local” aims

- **Beneficial Changes to the Planning System.** The planning system has changed radically over the last couple of years but not all the changes are beneficial or being implemented fairly. We intend to press for changes which will rectify the problems locally and nationally, including a rebalancing of the appeals process and powers of the Planning Inspectorate.
- **Sustainable LDF Core Strategies.** Councils in West Yorkshire are at various stages of preparing their LDF Core Strategies. We aim to ensure that Core Strategies are practical, realistic, sustainable and relevant to local areas across Yorkshire.