

Protect our Town from 800 extra houses by submitting your core strategy comments by the 30 March 2014

Cllr [REDACTED] Smith's comments based on the lack of cohesiveness of the arguments put forward in the Core Strategy Policies WD are as follows:-

I am sending this to the Authority in this email/letter form as the Council's form is unnecessarily complex and requests irrelevant information and ask that it is received as my comments and that I will be seeking an oral examination during the Inspector's taking of comments.

The document does not give a full cohesive analysis of the number, location, work placements, education, transport, health and infrastructure needs either in Bradford or Ilkley and especially not in relation to the approved Leeds Core Strategy.

Bradford's plan was carried out on a purely percentage basis for where the houses are needed and is therefore incomplete.

Growing population is in Bradford City/Shipley and there are 2-3000 homes not occupied. This must be the first priority and then building on the Brownfield sites to those centres which are close to the work opportunities and not a bus or train ride away. Sites in Ilkley suggested in the SHLAA are at serious traffic stress points and could not be safely developed and no solution to this has been put forward. The sites proposed are a considerable distance from new employment sites. There has also been little understanding of the number of windfall sites carried out over the last 10 years. The DCLG latest comments regarding inclusion of these windfalls should be set against these figures for homes required.

On the A65, especially now, with the Leeds Approval the car, bus, lorry use of the already busy main road will increasingly become stagnant without a transport policy to relate to causing huge commercial damage. It is clear there is a need to provide a Park and Ride near the Addingham bypass to remove the all day parking in Ilkley. This would serve the Train stations [which have inadequate parking]. These parking issues will be exacerbated by the proposed increase in homes to the frustration of residents who live close to the centre of Town causing noise and nuisance and stress to the occupants.

Education is already at full capacity in Primary and Secondary schools but there seems to be scant understanding of the infrastructure needed for an increase in homes of the scale suggested.

Similarly, the Health provision in Ilkley, the GP practices are already over-committed.

Although the Habitats Regulations have reduced the number of homes for Ilkley, there has been no allowance made for the many green routes through town to the River Wharfe i.e., Ben Rhydding Drive, Ben Rhydding Road, Backstone Beck, Heber's Ghyll and Abbeyfield links to the Moor.

There is no understanding of this relative to the environment. Valuable grass land for farming will be lost when more food is needed.

As you will see from the above there is much to say about how and why this Core Strategy document is incomplete and we reflect on its poor cohesiveness and of the community's ability to accommodate the proposed number of homes. There is little understanding between the various Council's Directorates and also relative to the resident's needs and little or no relation to the Localism Bill.

I have the full document with many yellow stickers of interest to raise but I will save those for the Inspection.

Cllr [REDACTED] Smith, [REDACTED] Ilkley LS29 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]