



Indeed, as you will be aware, consultation on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and the LDF was intended to run in parallel. However, as a result of delays, consultation on the NDP closed before consultation on the LDF, and the Executive approved the NDP in isolation from the LDF. This effectively prejudged the evidence base of the LDF as regards the strategic need for an “urban extension” on this scale in south east Bradford. I have also been informed that the Tong and Holme Wood Partnership Board, a body that was overseeing the formation of the NDP, had produced a Minority Report signed by all of the Board’s local community representatives that rejected the plan to encroach on the greenbelt in this way.

As the evidence base suggests a much reduced need for housing than that anticipated when the NDP was approved, it is a huge disappointment that Bradford’s Core Strategy proposes an urban extension at Holme Wood, which would result in the loss of a very extensive area of protected greenbelt land. Unless it can be shown that housing targets have an accurate foundation then the circumstances necessary to prevent damaging and unsuitable development will not exist; I fear that this is the situation we are currently in with the proposed development at Holme Wood.

I believe that the building of such a substantial amount of new housing on a sensitive site that has already been opposed by Leeds City Council is ill conceived and stands as a clear contradiction to earlier plans contained in Bradford’s Unitary Development Plan, as well as those proposed in the Regional Spatial Strategy. I am also convinced that by approving these proposals, Bradford would be failing to meet national planning requirements and expectations that relate to green belt protected land, flying in the face of localism.

Indeed, I have been involved in the recent hearing sessions concerning Leeds City Council’s Core Strategy and, during these sessions, it was noted that the NPPF emphasises that the balance between enabling sustainable development and conserving/enhancing the green belt should be “a truly local one”. It is clear to me that local communities think the balance is wrong, therefore emphasising the need for caution when considering the development at Holme Wood.


Furthermore, I am convinced that this development will permanently destroy valuable countryside and greenbelt land, as well as having a negative impact on local communities and their environment. This section of greenbelt land is a very important part of the surrounding community and I believe it will remain of value to future generations, if it is preserved. Coupled with this, there are already traffic congestion problems in the area and the proposed housing development will only add to this.

Moreover, it is wrong for the economy of Bradford as, rather than alleviate the city’s own need for new homes, the development will instead create a dormitory fringe of householders drawn mainly from Leeds and Kirklees whose focus will not be on the regeneration of economic and social activity in Holme Wood. A development on this scale would also be unsustainable without massive infrastructural works, particularly for highways, which would divert efforts to focus regeneration and employment opportunities on the existing needs of Holme Wood.

Bearing this information in mind, I feel it is vital that the Council rethink these proposals and instead provide a more suitable alternative that takes into account the view of local communities and is in the best interests of all parties involved. I would therefore appreciate it if these concerns are taken into account as part of the examination process.

I have also submitted a copy of this letter by email.

Yours faithfully

 Andrew MP