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25 MAR 2014

[Redacted]  
Ilkley  
West Yorkshire  
LS29 [Redacted]

25<sup>th</sup> March 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to register my grave concern at the implications for housing development in my hometown of Ilkley as outlined in Bradford District's Core Strategy.

I have lived in Ilkley for much of my life – attending schools here myself in the 70's and 80's, settling here with my family in the 90's; and living and working here ever since. Over the years I have been a **School Governor** and have taken part in much **community work**. I therefore consider myself to be knowledgeable about the town, the way it works now, and the way it has responded to necessary change over many decades.

I believe that within the Bradford District, Ilkley has a unique profile, and therefore will require a different handling within any blanket approach.

The current proposal for the town – a growth of 800 houses – appears to have come from a whole-district strategy, without taking the many and various considerations for this specific town into account. **I strongly oppose any proposal which forces building on green belt.** I believe that the green spaces between the towns and villages in this part of Wharfedale are vital in many ways, including its attraction as a successful tourist destination.

There are many other factors, which, when taken together, indicate that the plan has substantial flaws, is not JUSTIFIED and not CONSISTENT with my understanding of national policy:

**Justification:**

- Is there a demand for this number of houses in this town?
- It is more of a commuter centre than an employment centre.
- Overall, the district's population growth is 50% higher than Ilkley's.
- Has pertinent data been collected about current local need?
- How was the figure of 800 calculated?

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**Infrastructure:**

Ikley's schools are full. Two recent studies show that the A65 is congested and there are limited opportunities to increase highway capacity. Parking space is limited. There are no plans to increase railway capacity.

**Brownfield and windfall build:**

There is very little land for brownfield development within Ikley, some space is currently being taken up by delayed Tesco plans. However, there are small pockets, plus a steady, quiet growth of housing due to windfall sites. The town copes well with this organic type of growth.

Where does the plan take this windfall growth into consideration?

I believe there are far more brownfield sites in other locations of the district – why build on green belt when these could be used?

**Green belt protection:**


Finally, national policy states that measures must always be taken to minimise green belt releases, and I cannot work out how this sits with this plan. Furthermore, the whole of Ikley comes within the habitats protection zone under the Habitats Regulation Assessment. Why build here?

**STANDING UP AND BEING COUNTED, the technical process:**

I hope that my serious concern with this plan can be counted.

I have spent considerable time looking at the documents, and as I am not a lawyer or town planner, have found the technical language and specific forms very off putting. I am, however, determined to be counted in this opposition and hope that this letter, and my signature, can be added to the rising, palpable voice of concern from the town's residents.



 Smith

[REDACTED]  
Ilkley  
West Yorkshire  
LS29 [REDACTED]

25<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Councillor Kitching,

Further to your plea in last week's Ilkley Gazette, I attach my letter of opposition against the Bradford Core Strategy plan to build 800 new houses in Ilkley.

I have read many of the documents available via the Ben Rhydding group's website, and taken advice from the Civic Society too.

Although I have tried to use the 'proper' form I am afraid it was very frustrating and eventually so off-putting that I ground to a halt. I am very concerned that many others will have felt the same. I do hope that my letter, in your hands, can go towards the numbers being counted, and hope that you can find a way to help others do the same.

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