

Ilkley Parish Council,

Town Hall, Ilkley

*John March John*

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to complain about the plans for 800 new houses in Ilkley. I appreciate the Government is eager to build more houses over the country. However, I feel that Ilkley has provided its fair share of properties over the last few years. I should like to share my reasons for my point of view:

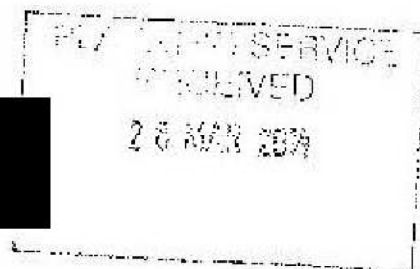
- Schools in Ilkley are oversubscribed. Plans for a new, larger Secondary school were abandoned. Already, children moving into the town cannot find a local place.
- 800 houses might mean 1600 more cars on the local roads. Parking in town is sometimes impossible now. Parking on both sides of narrow roads means that 'Hopper' buses find difficulty in driving some routes. The roads near the station are full of parked cars by 9.00am meaning that it is difficult to find long stay parking. The Car Park in the centre of Ilkley is too small. When TESCO build their new store, their car park on Springs Lane will disappear and we will lose the opportunity to park there (free for 2 hours).
- The A65 is the only east-west road through the town. If this road (only a single lane in each direction) were blocked, the only ways out of town are narrow country roads across the moor to the South and narrow country roads to the North. In a major emergency there would be panic.
- Health Centres have little spare capacity.
- Green Belt to the East of Ilkley should not be built on to preserve the separation of housing from Burley in Wharfedale.

I believe there is a demand for housing. The demand is for low cost housing which is rarely built in Ilkley. The houses need to be built where the jobs are so as to reduce the traffic on the already busy roads. I believe there are still 'brownfield' sites in Bradford which could be built on.

I have lived in Ilkley for 48 years and have seen many changes. I am sure there will be more changes in the future. Before all these houses are built locally, I would suggest that infrastructure needs to be developed to cope with the additional population. We also need to bear in mind that Ilkley is a tourist town, attractive and with an historic importance.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]



[Redacted] Halsall, [Redacted] Ilkley, LS29 [Redacted]