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24 FEB 2014

The Parish Clerk, Ilkley Parish Council, Town Hall, Ilkley LS29

My Comments on the Bradford Local Plan. Re. Ilkley

My principal concern is that this plan will have deleterious effects on existing and future residents if existing problems with the infrastructure are not addressed in the first place. What is proposed now is like building a house with the roof first and the foundations last. The planners have not taken into account:-

- 1 There is much road congestion that can only be made worse by the addition of 800 homes for existing and future residents until bottlenecks have been removed and for the next 15 years builders' lorries in narrow and steep streets will bring additional traffic and noise. There is not enough parking in town for existing traffic demands.
- 2 Schools cannot cope with existing children now and to allow for new houses children would need the equivalent of one large new school. Apart from this, the anticipated congestion would make it even more difficult for children to attend at distant schools.
- 3 Brown field sites exist in areas where roads and utilities are linked-up, and there is local need for housing and inward investment. The plan does not address these and it seems as if they are being banked for some future purpose. If the need is now, the use of these assets should be assessed before there is intention to invade green belt areas.

There are other concerns:-

- 1 Local councillors who have had access to the plan have questioned the independence of a company whose role is to support planning development and have been commissioned by Bradford to make Bradford's case. Local councillors have questioned the methodology in calculating the number of planned houses and although the first number was reduced to 800, councillors have been unable to find out the basis for calculation and cannot challenge it.
- 2 Notwithstanding proposals for Green belt development, there are inconsistencies with regard to commitments to environment and wild-life habitat.
- 3 It is compelling that Minister Kris Hopkins, with responsibility including building, has added his public comments to the importance of infrastructure and the impact on residents. Other elected representatives have questioned the proposed developments.

How things are done elsewhere?

In comparison, I have just returned from Pockitzing, Germany. I had opportunity to discuss how farming land is released for housing- development. The guiding principle seems to be an assessment of how the development may impact on local needs and may be addressed. Once a prospect has been identified, the local authority ensures that the infrastructure is upgraded, including roads and utilities. I hope this is helpful.

Chinque, 21 February 2014,
Address: [redacted] Ilkley LS29 [redacted]

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My Comments on the Bradford Local Plan.

Re. Ilkley

I have discussed the local presentation in Clarke Foley Centre and my comments are related to what was said there as well as views of local teachers. Children are our future and it is very disturbing to know that our local schools have reached saturation point. If schools cannot take local children now what will parents do in the future and travelling by bus, train or car will be so much worse?

If travelling is worse for children it will also be bad for the elderly in Ilkley and for commuters and for visitors.

Ilkley has been referred to as a green and pleasant place for residents and tourists. What is being planned is quite the opposite. It is important that rather than focus on just where houses can be built, a full assessment is made of what the advantages and drawbacks are so that a final decision can be understood by all and be more acceptable.

██████████ Morley,

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Ilkley LS29 ██████████