

Liberal Democrats (Almondbury)

6 September 2017

Dear Sir,

I was contacted by Yvonne Parker in connection with the forthcoming public examination of the Kirklees Local Plan Stage 1 Questions 1- 8 and would like the contents of this letter and my email (copy attached) to be considered by the Planning Inspector.

As stated in my email, I am an elected parish councillor for the Lepton Ward on Kirkburton Parish Council and made a submission on behalf of the Almondbury Ward Liberal Democrats in December 2016 after having canvassed the views of many local residents who were opposed to the proposed developments.

I am aware the local group GAIL (Green Action In Lepton) are making objections under MIQ 1 (d), since they feel that neither they nor the community were adequately consulted by Kirklees. I share their views on the consultation process and raised this in my submission of the 19th December 2016.

I feel the Kirklees Local Plan was very much developer -led and when local people and groups such as GAIL made it clear that the proposed developments in Lepton were inappropriate and would put excessive strain on local facilities, the Planning Department should have made an objective analysis and looked for other sites to replace them in order to fulfil their target. Instead they confusingly re-branded the sites and increased the number of houses on them. There was no opportunity for local groups to comment on these new proposals other than through this Enquiry. Hence the consultation was unsound.

Taken as a whole, the plans in Lepton and Fenay Bridge should have been listed as a “major development” like Bradley Golf course and the Thornhill/Ravensthorpe schemes, triggering additional consideration of infrastructure needs.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Alison Munro

Dear Yvonne,

You recently contacted me in connection with the forthcoming public examination of the Local Plan, Stage 1 Questions 1-8.

I am recorded as one of the people who submitted written comments on the local plan, although Kirklees have not made it clear that my submissions were on behalf of Almondbury Ward Liberal Democrats and that I was elected as Parish Councillor for the Lepton Ward on Kirkburton Parish Council in November 2016. I hope that can be recorded as we did canvas the views of many local residents before making the submission. My interest is primarily in the extensive developments proposed in Lepton and I presume I will get a chance to speak on these next year? However I would appreciate your advice on whether I should make submissions or speak at this stage.

In the first instance I know that the local group GAIL (Green Action in Lepton) are making objections under MIQ 1 (d), since they feel they were not adequately consulted. I share their views on the consultation process and raised this in my submission, but there is probably not much to be gained by me speaking on this matter as well as them. However I would like to write in support of them summarising succinctly my issues with the consultation process, which currently are mentioned piecemeal in comments on individual sites. Would that be appropriate?

Secondly, a key aspect in my view is that Kirklees have dismissed any problems of school places in Lepton as a result of the new developments, but since the Local Plan was published, the schools are much more full in 2017 than they were in 2016. I would like to make the inspector aware of this new data and wonder at what stage I could do this?

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Kind regards,

Alison Munro