

KIRKLEES LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

Representation by Cllrs Andrew Pinnock, Kath Pinnock and John Lawson, representing Cleckheaton Ward, on Site E1831: Land to the North of Whitechapel Road, Cleckheaton.

This representation is lodged separately from the hearings because of a misunderstanding about the date of the hearing into the above site (which was on a date separate from most of the other Cleckheaton sites). This meant that we missed the hearing date, but hope that the Inspector will be able to take into consideration what we have to say.

When the Local Plan maps were first produced local members were surprised to see a number of sites with development designations, none of which we had heard about before. Amongst them was this site, allocating a large expanse of agricultural land as land for business and industry. It would have been helpful to us, as elected representatives, if we had been kept informed about what was being proposed on this land.

As it is we, as local members for Cleckheaton, are totally opposed to this allocation. Our reasons are set out below;

1. The current designation of the land is Green Belt. It is worth restating the reason for including land in this designation. That is to stop the coalescence of built-up areas. Taking such a large piece of land out of the Green Belt means that the land acting as this buffer between Cleckheaton and Bradford, and more particularly between Cleckheaton and Scholes, is greatly reduced. This eating away at the Green Belt in this location would be a disaster for existing local residents.
2. Opposite the southern boundary of the site is a row of semi-detached houses which extends from the M62 bridge all the way into Scholes. Whitechapel Road is most unsuitable for heavy traffic, because any such traffic using it would be drawn through built-up areas in both directions. There is already traffic calming on this road, put there in an effort to slow speeding vehicles. Therefore any vehicular access onto the site from Whitechapel Road is quite unacceptable.

3. The proximity of the site to M62 junction 26 (Chain Bar) is usually put forward as a point to favour the development of the site. However, because of the already-existing poor air quality around this junction, any additional traffic generated by new development will only make the situation worse. On the other side of Chain Bar, there is a housing site H69 (Merchant Fields), and this has a note attached to it in the Local Plan proposals. This note indicates that development should not take place on this site until the M62E/M606 link road is built. This Hunsworth site is further away from Chain Bar than E1831. Current information suggests that this link road is unlikely to be built in the near future.

Cllr Andrew Pinnock

Cllr Kath Pinnock

Cllr John Lawson