

HEARING STATEMENT



Kirklees Local Plan Hearings

Matter 41 –: Birdsedge rejected site H177

Date; Jan 2018

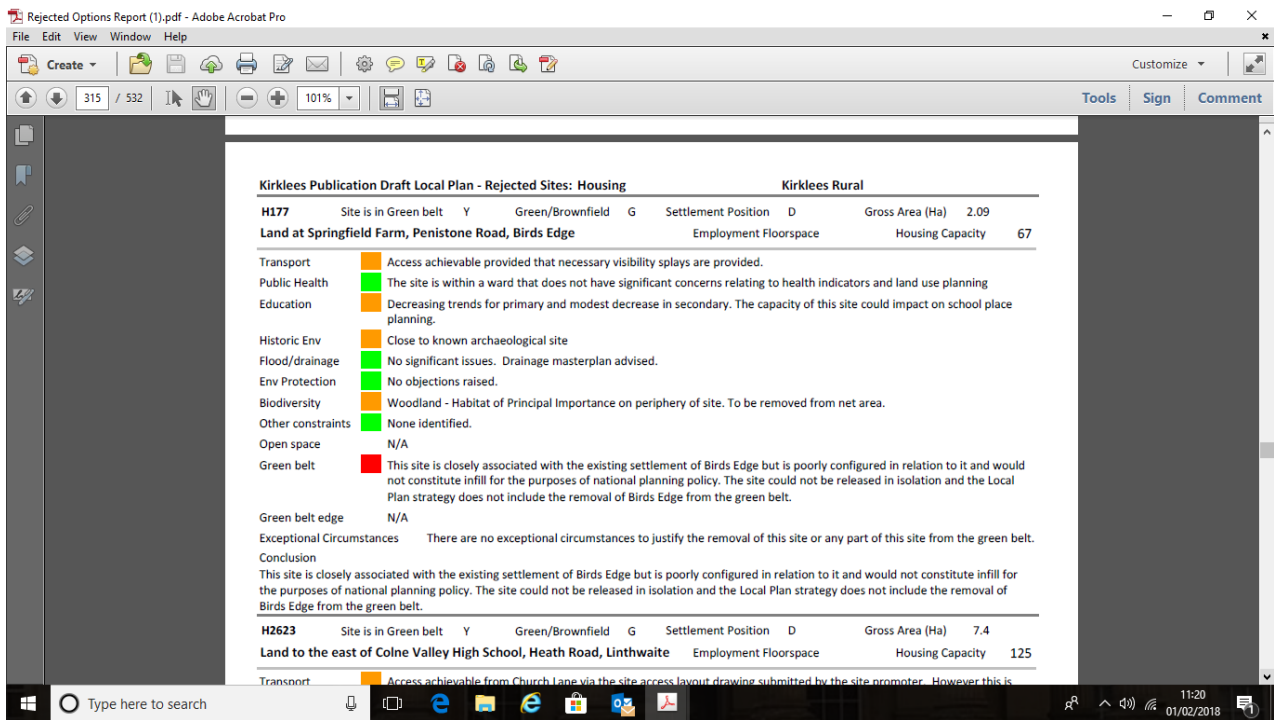
Ref; SP51



1.0 Introduction

Consideration of Rejected Site H177– Land at Birdsedge

- 1.1 These comments are made in respect of the above on behalf of David and Dawn Smith.
- 1.2 The reasons given for rejecting the site are set out below.



- 1.5 It can be seen from the above that the only red relates to the site being in the Green Belt. This is because the Council are making no change to the washed over settlement in the Kirklees Unitary Development plan where some settlements in the district are washed over as Green Belt and some are inset.
- 1.6 During the initial Green Belt Hearings, the Council justified the washing over on



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sustainability grounds. We consider this proposition to be flawed for a number of reasons. Sustainability has many dimensions and we believe that the Council are viewing this too narrowly and denying such settlements an opportunity to have limited growth and remain sustainable.

- 1.7 Birdsedge is primarily a linear development with a number of gaps that could provide some limited development. Site H177 is one such gap. The Council's current approach does not identify Birdsedge as a village thus even denying the opportunity of considering infill development. This is on the back of the settlement being in a remote location with limited facilities. It should be noted that Birdsedge currently has a Junior school.
- 1.8 We find this proposition perverse given the character of Kirklees. Kirklees is a Metropolitan area where major conurbations and services are not too far away from settlements. Birdsedge lies within the rural part of the district. It is illogical to have Birdsedge washed over and Hade Edge inset. There are comparisons between both settlements in terms of services but Birdsedge appears closer to nearby larger settlements and facilities.
- 1.9 Neighbouring Calderdale have similar washed over settlements in their current dated Unitary Development Plan but we understand are proposing to inset all settlements in their emerging Local Plan. Kirklees should do the same with all their washed over settlements to allow for limited development opportunities and assist in sustaining these settlements.
- 1.10 Given the above, we respectfully request that the village of Birdsedge is inset from the





Green Belt and site H177 is allocated for housing in the Kirklees Local Plan



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