

Comment

Consultee	Mr Tim Ellis (1170309)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Mr Tim Ellis (1170309)
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Consultation Point	Darlington Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Submission Local Plan August 2020 (View)
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Question 1a	
Do you consider that the Local Plan is Legally compliant?	No
Question 1b	
Do you consider that the Local Plan sound?	No
Question 1c	
Do you consider that the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Cooperate?	No
Question 2	
Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">. Positively prepared. Effective. Justified. Consistent with national policy
Question 3a	
Your Comments	

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

I have lived in the town all my life and have seen the town change year by year.

The town was originally laid out prior to the Railways, however, when the railway came this created narrow bridges and underpasses which have never been improved or modernised. This creates pinch points all round the town and the traffic is now at it's full capacity. The roads cannot cope now with the amount of traffic on the roads and you cannot just keep adding even more houses, people and cars.

This fact cannot be ignored, however, it seems that you are happy to ignore this fact.

Over the past 20 years the town has roughly doubled in population, every last piece of land has been developed or is in the process of being developed. Yet you still intend to persist in developing more and more greenfield and arable land for more and more housing. This is totally unsustainable, as last time I checked God has no plans to create any more land. The council and government talk about projects related to developments up until 2050 and beyond, how do you not realise that there is no more land around Darlington as it has all been destroyed by over development. Darlington now merges into Aycliffe, Middleton St. George, Hurworth, Croft, Sadberge, Stockton and the list just goes on.

What we have learnt in the last six months, is that there is an even greater need for green outdoor spaces, Covid has brought home the fact that people need more open spaces, somewhere to exercise and find some peace which allows them to remove themselves from their every day worries, be it Covid, health worries or any other problems they may have.

Covid has changed the world we live in, more changes in 6 months than anything in my lifetime. You seem to be using facts and figure representations that are all based on BC (Before Covid). The world has changed, travel has changed, working practice has changed, schooling and just about everything else has changed. What has not changed is the peoples need to exercise, spend time outdoors and enjoy the wildlife, flowers, scenery, peace and partake in outdoor hobbies. Your plan totally ignores ONS housing requirement figures, simply in order to justify your scheme. All the while using my council tax money for this purpose.

Government and Councils constantly going on about carbon zero green policies, but only when it suits them.

The planned development does comply in my opinion with your 2018 Climate Change Emergency, in fact this plan will not minimise Climate Change but actually increase its effects further.

Your own previous assessment and reviews of Skertingham in 2015 stated that there is a contaminated landfill site, the greenfields are part of a flood protection area, protected species are found on the site and potential for archaeological interest.

All of the above now seem to have no meaning, as once a developer turns up with a money making idea the councils eyes light up!

More council tax for the council to spend/waste on idiotic roundabouts etc. And then ignore the real needs of the towns population.

Question 5

Attendance at Examination Hearings

If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate in the examination hearings?

No, I do not wish to participate at the examination hearings

Question 6

Do you request to be notified that the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination under section 22(3) of the

Yes, I request to be notified

**regulations and to be notified of the adoption of the
Local Plan?**