

Comment

Consultee	Mrs Laura Gardner (1175560)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Mrs Laura Gardner (1175560)
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Question 2	

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

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 object to the building of new houses at the end of Sparrowhall Drive and larger Skerningham development in Darlington. My main reason for objection is increased traffic 165 new dwellings would create a significant increase of traffic on Sparrowhall drive, and on to Whinbush Way. There was a nasty accident recently where a boy was knocked over and nearly died. I would hate to see an increased risk of road traffic accidents with extra traffic. Access to the doctors surgery for ambulances could also be negatively effected with the extra traffic, which could cost lives. Sparrow Hall Drive is simply not able to cope with volume of traffic of extra houses, things are bad enough now, with extra traffic comes increased risk to people. Having a four year old son whom I have to cross the road daily to Asda, doctors surgery and Whinfield school. The traffic on these roads is already extremely busy. Crossing the road is already a worry for me and many parents and elderly residents. As cars are parked on both sides of Sparrow Hall Drive. The traffic going into the doctors surgery car park, already makes the end of Sparrowhall Drive dangerous to cross. Increased housing will make this worse. Also there will be an increase in pollution from car fumes, I have asthma as well as many other local residents. I cant understand why when there will be record numbers of shops and retail spaces shutting In the town centre over the next few years we can't repurpose those building / brown field sites for housing. We

are desperate to have people in our town centres why not have them live there? We need to save the green spaces for people to enjoy and use. It's a proven fact spending time in green spaces helps mental and physical health. It's also doing our bit for climate change and protecting the planet. We also need to save as many established trees and wildlife for future generations to benefit. Whilst walking in the green space at the of Sparrowhall Drive there are many bats around that area, are these creatures and their habit not protected? I have also seen newts, in the Marsh area in front of the farm house. Again these creatures and their habit must be protected.

I would also like to query where Darlington Borough Council gets it figures from for this extra large demand for housing, when it has already built many houses in the last few years and is building more? Darlington's roads simply cannot deal with this extra load, they are already struggling now to cope.

Surely if the Burtree Gate Garden Village is going ahead we don't need two! At least Burtree has better access to the A1.

Also the fact of increased traffic in and out of Amazon (the outer ring road will be even more congested) and the northern ring road extension not built. Surely any considered extension to the north east side of Darlington, the new ring road would have to be built and traffic flow monitored before any new developments be built. With the chance of no deal Brexit, further Covid out breaks, failing and consumer confidence being reduced will this not negatively hit the housing market and therefore house prices? Will this even make the development sustainable or viable?