

## Comment

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Valerie Hauxwell (1250526)
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Consultation Point	Skerningham Strategic Allocation ( <a href="#">View</a> )
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Question 1a	
Do you consider that the Local Plan is Legally compliant?	Yes
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)	<input type="checkbox"/> Justified
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 am extremely concerned about the housing development proposed for the green site by Skerningham, at the top of Glebe Rd to Barmpton and Burdon in the Local Plan. It has been a Community Woodland for years and I believe it should remain a woodland for our community. We do not have many!

Calling it 'garden villages' makes it sound open and quaint, but in reality it will be devastating to the residents across the north of Darlington, the wildlife habitats which will be completely destroyed, and the health of the Skerne river in general.

I am also aware that Darlington has vast areas of brown land which could be developed, without reducing the accessible green spaces to this extent. To see the discussion about taking away this lovely part of our town when we could actually improve so much of its derelict and dilapidated eyesores and keep this green space is extremely frustrating.

I am appalled that this lovely area for walking, photography and cycling is to be lost for ever, with no alternative green space provided. I have seen deer, rabbits, hares, birds of prey, kingfishers, and the trees are always alive with birdsong. The blossom and beautiful birches especially have been fantastic this spring. To choose to dig this up and cover it in concrete and tarmac is despicable.

North Road, Whessoe Road, Salters Lane and Whinfield Road are busy roads already, which struggle to cope with everyday traffic. By adding 4000+ more houses and businesses across the area, the routes into Darlington and supermarkets in the area will be at a standstill longer than they already are. Public transport in the area is already unreliable, and I have found it unsuitable for use for work as a result. More people using services which will have to use the same routes will be problematic.

Named after the river which flows around it, this area of fields and woods around the Skerne have a huge impact on flow rate and water levels in the river as it approaches the town. By removing water retaining vegetation and land from the banks, the impact on water levels in the area and further downstream will be impacted negatively. We have been seeing more frequent flooding where the Skerne breaches its banks for periods of time, just one example being the Five Arches and Rockwell area, how will this improve by taking away the existing habitat upstream which slows the river and holds back so much rainfall?

I am deeply concerned about losing this space, especially when it has been so amazing to have during this difficult Lockdown period.

I am deeply concerned about the impact it will have on the town as a whole, especially the traffic in my already congested area.

I am deeply concerned about the loss of nature, and the possible effects on the river Skerne.

I am appalled that this development has been supported so far, and would like your response to my concerns. No one who believes it is right for the people living in Darlington will get my vote in the future.

There is so much more to living in Darlington, which I am proud to do, than seeing it spend money on unnecessary development driven by greed not by need.

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

Yes, I request to be notified