

Comment

Consultee	Mr Simeon Hope (1170409)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Mr Simeon Hope (1170409)
Comment ID	DBLPPS6
Response Date	17/08/20 10:41
Consultation Point	Road Network (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.3
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?	Yes
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"/> Positively prepared <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.

Despite the liberal use of the word 'sustainable' throughout this document, there appears to be little or no understanding of its meaning. In a finite world, endless economic growth and endless building of new link roads are unsustainable. It appears that Council officers are paying only lip service to the goals of mitigating climate change, reducing poverty and creating a better life for Darlington residents. New roads bring more road journeys, as that is their purpose. Those journeys bring more air & noise pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases. They are unsustainable and conflict with supposed goals in the Plan of making a better town for all residents. Do those residents also not include non-humans, such as animals and plants? Apparently they aren't important, despite their own intrinsic value and their huge importance to people. New roads destroy the natural world - there is no way to build them in any other way.

Question 4

Changes Sought

Please Note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage. There is the opportunity to attach Word or PDF files before submitting your comment.

After this stage, further submissions will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues identified for examination.

Please set out what change(s) to the Local Plan you consider necessary to make it legally compliant or sound. You will need to say why this change will make the Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording for any policy or text.

Delete all references to new link roads.

Question 5

Attendance at Examination Hearings

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

Question 5a

Participation at Examination Hearings

Please note the inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the examination hearings.

If you wish to participate at the examination hearings, please outline why you consider it to be necessary?

I wish to question the assumptions of Council officers when they compiled this Plan.

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

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Consultee	Mr Simeon Hope (1170409)
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Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Mr Simeon Hope (1170409)
Comment ID	DBLPPS7
Response Date	17/08/20 10:42
Consultation Point	Sustainable Economic Growth (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.2
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"/> Positively prepared <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.

There is an assumption in the Plan that the local area needs so-called "Sustainable Economic Growth" to ensure the well-being of residents. This assumption is increasingly being seriously challenged in a growing body of research. We live on a finite planet; Darlington is a finite area, with finite resources, especially the resource of space. Using an increasing amount of those resources is not sustainable, no matter how many times the word is used. Development is not often a positive change to the natural world or even to human lives, yet it is presented in this Plan as if we must all accede without complaint to the demands of the hallowed Developers who, of course, have lots of money. Yet the changes proposed in parts of this Plan are far-reaching and effectively irreversible, destroying large areas of open countryside in order to build large houses. Those houses are often far from public transport; each house has parking and storage for at least one unsustainable vehicle, the private possession of which is assumed by Developers and by Council planners as a given for all residents. In a world of accelerating climate crisis, this thinking is untenable and must be discarded.

Question 4

Changes Sought

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Remove all mention in the entire Plan of the supposed need for further economic growth. Re-examine the assumptions of what is needed for better lives for Darlington residents in the light of climate change and growing social inequality, such as increasing the proportion of publicly-owned social housing for rent rather than private housing stock; increasing the reach and availability of public transport; restricting the flow of fossil-fuelled private transport in favour of public transport, cycling and walking; discarding plans to build large numbers of private houses on greenfield sites, such as Skertingham; and a complete end to the building of new highways such as the proposed link between the A66 at Great Burdon and the A1(M).

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I wish to question the council officers as to the assumptions they used when compiling the Plan. I would like to understand more of the aims of the planners and how they mesh with the needs of poorer residents and the natural world in the light of the climate crisis.

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Yes, I request to be notified

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Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Mr Simeon Hope (1170409)
Comment ID	DBLPPS8
Response Date	17/08/20 10:56
Consultation Point	Policy H 10 Skertingham - Strategic Site Allocation (Strategic Policy) (View)
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.3
Question 1a	
Do you consider that the Local Plan is Legally compliant?	No
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The Council has failed to demonstrate the need for anything like this number of new homes, particularly as even this Plan states that the population is not expected to substantially increase in the near term. The Skerningham development would permanently destroy a vital and much-used area of green space.

Question 4

Changes Sought

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Delete all references to new development in Skerningham. Re-assess the real needs of existing residents and the realistic smaller increases in population which would be better served by housing - particularly publicly-owned social housing - on brownfield sites across the town. All new houses must have far stricter requirements for public transport links; should not have garages for private cars; and must have dedicated storage space for cycles (which for many poorer residents is not the case). Darlington's private developers must be held to far higher standards, such as including solar panels or other renewable energy sources; providing social amenities such as community centres, pavements (which have been eliminated from many recent housing developments in Darlington), green spaces and areas for small, local shops. Darlington has too many private housing developments which lack any sense of community, and this has been at least in part the fault of the Council's previous Local Plans.

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If you wish to participate at the examination hearings, please outline why you consider it to be necessary?

I would like to question Council planning officials and the developers who will profit from their decisions in this Plan.

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