

## Comment

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Sensei ( Richard Boyle - 1251908)
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Consultation Point	Policy H 10 Skerningham - Strategic Site Allocation (Strategic Policy) ( <a href="#">View</a> )
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.11
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 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 would just like to express my utter disgust at the plans for development around the Haughton area of the town. The proposed Skerningham village and associated developments will not only decimate

an area of outstanding natural beauty which is enjoyed by many families in Darlington, it will also needlessly increase the amount of congestion in the town and surrounding areas.

It appears to me that the development of Darlington is being rushed through far too quickly without the proper consideration on how it will affect the town's infrastructure. Schools are already over-subscribed; our hospital is in dire straits and struggling to cope with the town's current needs. It was only last year that there were talks of closing the memorial hospital's A and E department and diverting services to James Cook or Durham. Obviously, this did not happen (due to significant protesting from the local population) but I wonder what will happen next time when some cretinous manager decides to re-visit the idea and the town's population has swollen to even greater numbers? I can't help thinking that these developments will go ahead regardless of what residents want as ultimately money talks. My main concern is that it will go ahead without futureproofing the town, adding to its infrastructure and considering the benefits of green spaces.

I have no first-hand knowledge of how other essential services are coping currently, but I can only assume that they are also stretched beyond their means. How will this new development, not just at Skertingham but at every corner of our town affect the services that the people of Darlington need?

Faverdale, Blackwell and now Haughton are to become a toy town of generic housing like many places around Darlington at the expense of future generations. I have grown up my whole life walking around the beautiful fields and woodlands around Haughton and throughout the recent lockdown it was my only source of exercise. At a time when mental health issues and suicide is at an all-time high I think it is imperative that we save our green spaces for people to enjoy, take in fresh air and escape the drudgery of modern office life. There are numerous studies which prove beyond doubt that walking and getting outdoors, keeps people healthy both mentally and physically yet you seem intent on making this impossible for local families by building on any green space you can find.

I like many parents in Darlington would like my children to grow up in a town where they can run free, climb trees, forage for food, walk dogs and enjoy the great outdoors on their doorstep. To take away these basic human rights in favour of creating another generic housing estate is absolutely baffling to me, especially when young people can't afford the current 20-30% deposit needed to even get on the property ladder.

#### 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