

## Comment

Consultee	Ms Susan Rycroft (1300454)
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Event Name	Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Modifications
Comment by	Ms Susan Rycroft (1300454)
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Question 1	
Which document/modification does this representation relate to?	Main Modification Schedule *
Question 2	
What best describes the nature of your representation?	Object
Question 4	

**Please give details of why you consider the Darlington Local Plan, incorporating the proposed Modifications to which your representation relates, is not legally compliant or is unsound. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the Plan or comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum/Habitats Regulations Screening please also use this box to set out your comments.**

I want to object to the plans concerning the Skerningham Garden village as it will have a very negative impact on the existing residents, air quality, and the environment, and destroy a beautiful piece of countryside. I am particularly concerned about the ill-considered and poorly thought out transport plans.

I live on the Cromarty Close and my elderly father lives on Barmpton Lane. Barmpton Lane is a residential street and already suffers a heavy traffic flow. The new development would add thousands of extra vehicles a day ( I believe council studies suggest an extra 5.437 vehicles per day), and the road is simply unsuitable for this level of traffic. My understanding was that national guidelines required the impact of traffic considerations be addressed and resolved in the early stages of planning. This has clearly not happened here as the "solution" is to dump thousands more vehicles on an already overused residential street.

I thought the Council was committed to improving the environment, the quality of air Darlington residents enjoy and generally working towards a greener future. This development flies in the face of all this, and is impossible to reconcile with national commitments to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.

I have admired efforts made to bring new housing to the town by "infilling" as demonstrated by the housing round the college etc. Residents have the opportunity to access existing bus routes and walk or cycle into town for work, leisure and education. The Skerningham development on the other hand seems to me to result in a heavily car-dependant community which will only increase pollution and add an unjustifiable traffic burden to Barmpton Lane and the wider Whinfield community.

My objections therefore boil down to:

- The plans do not reflect national guidelines as traffic issues have not been properly issued and resolved;
- Decimating an area of countryside that is a valuable resource and leisure area flies in the face of improving the environment, and working to a greener future which are both Council and Government commitments;
- This development, if it goes ahead, will have a hugely negative impact on a large part of the town that the Council is supposed to care for and support. Residents of Whinfield have been hugely let down by the failure to address the traffic issues properly.

### **Question 5**

**Please set out what changes you consider necessary to make the Plan legally compliant or sound and why, thinking about what you identified in Question 4. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording or any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.**

n/a