

Comment

Consultee	Mrs Diana Clark (1300580)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
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Event Name	Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Modifications
Comment by	Mrs Diana Clark (1300580)
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Question 1	

Which document/modification does this representation relate to? Main Modification Schedule *

* Please provide the reference number (where applicable), for example MM1, PM1, MIN1 MM61 & MM62

Question 2

What best describes the nature of your representation? Object

Question 3 Legally Compliant and Sound

Do you consider the Plan, incorporating the proposed Modification is Legally Compliant? No

Do you consider the Plan, incorporating the proposed Modification is Sound? No

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.

Why are we even proposing destroying existing publicly accessible green open space, community woodland that is now becoming established and thriving with lots of wildlife then try to reproduce it elsewhere it makes no sense instead we should be protecting this accessible environment.

Having access to the likes of Skerningham is good for our mental and physical health this has become even more evident during this pandemic.

Skerningham is a large accessible nature reserve that thousands in local communities cherish our Local Plan proposes to lose this to make way for a unsustainable Garden Village of 4,500 new homes that we cause additional traffic congestion onto already busy local roads while neglected brownfield sites in need of development already exist within the town's current boundaries there is no need for so much urban expansion into the surrounding countryside we should first build from within the existing town's boundaries.

Developing Skerningham is not an effective use of farm land as it will just produce low density car dependent urban sprawl that will be remote from existing urban development in North Darlington forcing the residents into a lot of vehicle usage while we should be trying to encourage less vehicle emissions to help towards the countries net zero by 2050 commitment.

What happened to the proper community engagement from an early stage that the MHCLG Garden Community prospectus states should happen the first we heard about this large Garden Village was in a Northern Echo newspaper article in 2017.

We have not been given any meaningful say about why Skerningham has been allocated in our Local Plan in 2015 it was stated not to suitable for housing then that changed for some unknown reason in 2017.

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.

Remove Skerningham from the Draft Local Plan its surplus to requirements without it the Council could still achieve its new dwellings target of just under 10,000 and give the accessible woodlands its rightful green space status.