

Comment

Consultee	Miss Joanne Evans (1175450)
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Event Name	Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Modifications
Comment by	Miss Joanne Evans (1175450)
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Question 1	

Which document/modification does this representation relate to?	Main Modification Schedule *
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* Please provide the reference number (where applicable), for example MM1, PM1, MIN1	Policy H10
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Question 2

What best describes the nature of your representation?	Object
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Question 3 Legally Compliant and Sound

Do you consider the Plan, incorporating the proposed Modification is Legally Compliant?	No
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Do you consider the Plan, incorporating the proposed Modification is Sound?	No
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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 wish to write to formally object to the Darlington local plan, including the modifications, on the grounds that it is not a legally compliant plan and has not been actioned according to the real requirement of housing needs and alternative solutions.

My main reason for my objection is that the Skernigham Garden Village is not a sound proposal and goes against everything that the government is trying to introduce to safeguard our natural world and future for generations to come. This scheme will not only destroy acres of natural woodland and green open spaces for future generations to enjoy, instead replacing it with tarmac and increasing emissions as it will be a car dependent site. I for one do not wish my child to grow up in an environment where he cannot access any green spaces with clean fresh air to breathe. And then what about our wildlife and protecting their habitat, which is rapidly deteriorating and the government should be doing all it can to protect these areas for everyone's future. This development will not contribute to reducing carbon and greenhouse emissions, it will increase them, going against the target of reducing emissions by 2050.

I grew up in the Whinfield area, which is why I am passionate about supporting the exclusion of the Skernigham development from the local plan. My grandad too lived in Whinfield and used to tell us stories of his days playing in the fields and woods around the area. How nice would it be, to keep this alive for future generations and not tarmac one of the few green spaces left in Darlington. Indeed, it was not so long ago, that this area was described as Darlington's "jewel in the crown". I am not sure it will have the same ring if it is just one big concrete housing estate.

Practically, the expected number of vehicles cannot be supported along Barmpton Lane. This is not an access route that can be widened so how does the council expect to accommodate an estimated 5,500 additional vehicles per day and not cause daily disruption and more pollution on the already overcrowded roads. It is my understanding that the National planning policy framework July 2021 paragraph 104 outlines that transport issues should be considered at the earliest stages so they are properly addressed. This has not been the case.

Added to this pressure, the Northern Link Road is now not happening (thank goodness), but this was to alleviate transport pressures down the A1150 which flows into the Whinfield road network. How does then adding 4,500 houses with an estimated 5,400 additional cars help with this congested area of the town? This is not a sustainable option and even despite the issues of building on greenbelt land, how will any one of working age want to sit in that traffic daily to try and get to work.

This development does not comply with the Healthy new town initiative or the Garden Communities principles, let alone go anywhere to support the reduction in carbon and greenhouse gases. There is considerable building all across Darlington and much more could be undertaken with old housing stock or some of the existing brownfield sites that have just been left, which would be ripe for development.

Our green spaces and wildlife need our protection from unsustainable developments such as this as once the first bit of tarmac is laid, we cannot re-grow Darlington's "jewel in the crown".

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.

I would therefore like to recommend that to make the plan sound and legally compliant that the Skernigham development is removed in full and allow us all to continue to enjoy our green and open spaces for future generations to come.