

Comment

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Event Name	Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Modifications
Comment by	Ms Simone Hope (1170409)
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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 MM 14, 61, 62, 65, 66, 74, 75

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.

MM14: The development at Skertingham Garden Village is remote from the town centre and therefore will be highly dependent on cars for access, especially as little is proposed for public transport and a lot is proposed to make it as easy as possible for residents to use cars. While this seemed appropriate in the past, in the light of climate change and achieving the national commitment of net zero carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, it is no longer so.

MM61 & 62: Darlington council's transport studies show that over 5,000 extra daily vehicle journeys will be stimulated by this plan, mainly along Barmpton Lane, Whinbush Way & Whinfield Road. While the Plan refers to mitigation of this traffic's impact, no information is provided. Therefore, it is impossible to comment on the sustainability or soundness of the Plan. The A1150 road is apparently close to capacity on most days. Skertingham will place additional pressure on this road. This is clearly not sustainable in any sense of the term.

MM65 & 66: The Plan does not incorporate existing and public woods, wildlife-friendly areas and sport/recreational facilities which are in Whinfield and Skertingham. The Plan proposes that these be destroyed. They could be made part of the Plan instead.

MM74 & 75: If the existing golf club is to remain where it is, then the proposed development will be fragmented without a central point for neighbourhood cohesion. This will inevitably exacerbate the problems caused by residents being dependent on their cars for mobility over longer distances rather than having access to nearby facilities by walking and cycling. As such, this does not meet the NPPF's requirements of sustainability and environmental improvements.

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.

1. Information and details of the proposed traffic mitigation works in Whinbush Way, Barmpton Lane and the A1150.
2. Look again at the Plan regarding the impact on neighbourhood fragmentation if the golf club stays in place. The purpose must be to discourage car use, provide local amenities and encourage walking and cycling.