

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 November 2015 14:13
To: Planning Policy
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: resident response: homes planned for Ilkley and environs

Sir/Madam,

Further to your email which keeps me in the loop regarding the revised number of houses planned within the next 10 – 15 years in the Ilkley area and environs.

I am sadly not a lawyer, nor am I familiar with planning legislation. But I have lived and worked in Ilkley for most of my 54 years, as too have my extended family.

I would like to respond with GRAVE CONCERNS:

I understand that the proposal at present is to build 1000 new houses in Ilkley. Based on the census data I can see (2011) this means something like a 15% increase of households.

How will the current infrastructure cope? SCHOOLS already are overflowing – both Primary and Secondary.

The LOCAL DOCTOR surgeries offer great service.. can they increase their loads by 15%?

Ditto the HOSPITAL SERVICES, THE POLICING, THE EMERGENCY SERVICES. Is their funding being extended to enable them to cope with the increase?

CAR PARKING: already the town heaves. How will 15% more cars fit in?

TRAIN SERVICES: I understand that bigger trains are not possible due to platform lengths. Are extending these to be part of the plan?

COMMUTING: is additional car parking at railway stations also to be funded?

In short, we know that life in Ilkley is quite privileged. Indeed, house prices reflect this. As does Ilkley's tourism. It is a beautiful spot amongst some outstanding countryside. It seems that it is easy to point a finger and say: build there – let them take some of the strain.

But: what else will be ruined in the process? If all the above points are not acknowledged and solved, then life in Ilkley will undoubtedly be tarnished, but that is certainly not my main issue: of graver concern is the impact on the natural habitats which surround Ilkley. Priceless woodland and moorland, where care strategies have been evolved over many decades to ensure that it is enjoyed by many: cyclists, ramblers, runners, holiday makers.. and yet protected too. If Ilkley is to continue to welcome visitors and be offered as a glorious rural counterfoil to Bradford's urban attractions, it is critical that the balance is maintained. From what I understand, AMMENDMENTS TO HABITAT SURVEYS have been created to UNDERMINE THEIR PROTECTIVE POWERS. Hardly the careful maintenance of balance that is required.

Green belt restrictions may be old-fashioned, but that is because they have been recognised as precious. I hear no talk of using brown field sites and infill sites – presumably because these would be more expensive for development? I would ask that all such spaces are used to maximum effect first. I wait to hear that this is the case.

Mrs [REDACTED] Smith
Yorkshire Dales Artist and Resident of Ilkley

30/11/2015