

[REDACTED]
Silsden

BD20 [REDACTED]

Objections to the proposed main modifications in the Core Strategy (DPD)

Dear Sir,

I object to Silsden having to take a further 200 houses under the proposed new modifications for the Core Strategy. It is not sustainable for Silsden to take any more housing as it requires a substantial amount of infrastructure.

Its transports links are not adequate for the amount of housing which is being considered. The A6034, the only main route through Silsden, is heavily congested with traffic backing up in both directions on a daily basis. At peak times, the traffic queues back on to the roundabout on the A629 Aire Valley dual carriageway which is extremely dangerous. A relief road should be considered to alleviate this situation.

Walking to Steeton railway station, by foot from Silsden, is not a realistic option because it means crossing the busy dual carriage way which is simply too dangerous. The long awaited footbridge would help sort this problem.

There is no direct bus service from Silsden to the local town of Skipton which limits employment opportunities for those who need or prefer to use public transport.

The Aireview and Hothfield schools are already full. In 2015, some Silsden families were unable to secure places for their children in these schools. Any further house building will simply compound this problem thus ensuring future Silsden children being unable to attend at their own local Silsden schools. The proposed new school is not imminent and is unlikely to solve the issue of too few school places.

In addition, the electricity substation is now at full capacity, having already exceeded the 100 extra dwellings which it stated was the limit which it could accommodate. There are no plans at the moment to upgrade this substation and any eventual plans to upgrade are not proposed for many years. How can any immediate house building be started if there is no electricity capacity?

Yorkshire Water state the sewers are at full capacity too and yet has a statutory duty to continue to agree to accept further housing. If the sewers are full, where is the capacity to accept any additional foul or surface water?

The latest Boxing Day floods 2015 shows, yet again, that severe flooding is a problem for certain parts of Silsden. A third of the proposed land sites allocated for building are on flood areas. Any further house building increases the flood risk for other areas of the town too. A properly agreed flood plan should be conducted before any further planning is allowed.

I propose that the houses should be built closer to the Bradford centre where they are actually needed. This will meet the demand of the expected rapid growth in population in the areas where housing is required. In particular, in the Bradford South East area, where the results of the Bradford Growth Assessment, identified a particular focus for growth.

Silsden is not a sustainable location and therefore cannot meet the needs in full. Therefore Silsden should no longer be considered as a 'local growth area' but should be downgraded as a 'local service centre'. The modification is not sound.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my objections.

Please acknowledge receipt of my email.

██████████ Whitaker (Miss)