

Mr James Langler
Principal Planner, Planning &
Development
Harrogate Borough Council
Knapping Mount
West Grove Road
Harrogate HG1 2AE

Mr Robert Wilyman
Chairman,
Weeton Parish Council
9 Huby Park
Strait Lane
Huby
Leeds
LS17 0EE

24th August 2015

Dear Mr Langler,

On behalf of Weeton Parish Council and representing owners and residents in the villages of Weeton and Huby, I would like to register with you the concerns we have regarding the Options 3 & 4 of the new Harrogate District Local Plan.

While we recognise the need for additional housing within the Harrogate district as a whole, we believe any substantial building development here will have a serious negative impact on our Parish. The villages of Huby and Weeton comprise 310 and 60 houses respectively.

Consider the following:-

1. The ethos of the villages would be radically changed.
2. The villages exist totally within the Green Belt. Better opportunities exist for example at Haxby and on the A61 after Pannal which do **not** have Green Belt status.

Also needing consideration are the following:-

1. The Parish has no medical facilities - no doctor's surgery, no Dentist, no Pharmacy.
2. No Secondary Education provision.
3. Only a small village Primary School at North Rigton which as of January 2015 Department for Education figures had capacity for only 12 more pupils.
4. No playground or other facilities for children and young people.
5. No shop or Post Office
6. No Pub
7. No mains gas supply resulting in reliance primarily on heating oil, an expensive energy source which is far from ideal for affordable housing.

In terms of transport, the infrequent bus service does not have a direct link to Leeds as the Harrogate to Leeds 36 service runs only on the A61. The buses which provide a service between Harrogate and Otley via Huby do not run in the evenings or at all on Sundays.

Weeton Rail Station is small. There is very difficult access to the Leeds-bound platform for the elderly, mothers with pushchairs and no disabled access due to steep steps. There is only assisted disabled access to the Harrogate-bound platform. The station has totally inadequate parking. The village already has serious parking problems caused by commuters leaving their cars throughout the day outside houses on both sides of Weeton Lane and Kingsway.

The A658 road through the centre of the Parish - a major link road from the Bradford area to the A1 - is already heavy with traffic almost 24 hours per day. Traffic is constant. Any increase in vehicles as a result of housing development would only exacerbate this problem.

The Parish Council believe that Harrogate should focus development in areas where there are already existing amenities & services.

Yours Sincerely,

Bob Wilyman
Chair, Weeton Parish Council