

MM 102

RVBC HED DPD Comments re: site 13 HIGHMOOR FARM.

Your Ref: pmods22HEDDPD

Dear Mr Hirst

Thank you for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> July inviting comment on modifications to the development plan.

When I wrote at the very first consultation I supported any necessary development being close to the A59 as much employment involves commuting from the town. This support was qualified by the need for adequate infrastructure development, of which so far I have seen no evidence, our schools and health centre are under great pressure. I suspect letters of support were the exception. The major building programme around Edisford and Henthorn is already overloading Eshton Terrace, compounded by the railway crossing. There is an urgent need for a western link road from Henthorn to the A59/Whalley Road roundabout to give an alternative route in/out of town. Apart from bridging the railway such a route will be simple, across agricultural land and will improve access to the sewage works which will need major expansion to deal with all this increase in housing.

My concerns about 100 units at Highmoor Farm are principally in 2 specific areas as well as those around infrastructure.

Access:

The A59/Pendle Road roundabout has been necessary for many years on safety grounds and earlier action would have saved a number of lives but it will not significantly relieve the congestion already increasing at both ends of Pendle Road with only a few of the 1050 houses so far built on the Standen estate development (Half Penny Meadows.) Work on services installation for Half Penny Meadows has left Pendle Road regularly flooded outside 61 Pendle Road and twice the Environment Agency has investigated pollution of Shaw Brook by contractors

I consulted the minutes of the Special Planning and Development Committee meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> July to understand what circumstances had changed at Ribblesdale View, Chatburn and the Wilpshire site HAL2 that requires them to be replaced by Highmoor Farm. The only apparent reason in the minutes seems to be that a bigger site is more deliverable than 2 smaller sites. The Clitheroe Advertiser reports the councillors local to the smaller sites put forward arguments if so these are not minuted. There is no indication in the minutes that the many drawbacks to site 13 ( particularly that Highmoor Farm will empty onto Pendle Road which is already going to take the traffic of 1050 additional houses with probably 2 cars per house) were taken into account.

Wildlife and Loss of Rural outlook:

The meadow between the farm and Pendle Road is a breeding ground for curlews, indeed their call I regard as the first sign of spring (no cuckoos here!) The RSPB estimates 30% of Europe's curlews are in the UK and breed in Scotland and Northern England. They are in severe decline with numbers dropping 42% between 1995 and 2008. There are bats, herons, a pair of sparrow hawks and owls. The rookery in the wood between the meadow and the playing field has been shrinking over several years until the last 2 seasons when it has recovered a little with new nest building. There are

breeding mallard on the pond in my garden adjacent to the meadow as well as unusual birds including nuthatch, woodpecker and tree creeper which visit from the copse beside Shaw Brook which is directly next to the proposed site.

To favour a 100 unit build in an important rural green belt area and breeding ground which will share access to an already overused principle road to the A59 about to be loaded with another 1050 unit development solely because a bigger site is more deliverable than 2 smaller sites is not effective or sustainable development planning.

Yours sincerely,

