

TADCASTER TOWN COUNCIL

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11 July 2012

Helen Gregory
Policy Officer
Selby District Council
Civic Centre
Doncaster road
SELBY
YO8 9FT

Dear Helen

**Re: Selby District Local Development Framework (LDF) Further Proposed Changes (6th Set)
to the Submission Draft Core Strategy**

The Town Council discussed this issue at its meeting of 3 July and resolved that it would stand by its comments, made in the letter it sent previously on 13 February 2012 .

The previous response it reproduced below for your information and inclusion in the responses on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Avis Thomas
Clerk to the Council

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Selby District Local Development Framework (LDF) - Proposed Changes to the
Submission Draft Core Strategy**

The Town Council discussed the above at its meeting on Tuesday 7 February and the response is given below.

Councillors noted the current consultation regarding changes to the Submission Draft Core Strategy. This had already been discussed at the Town Council and the view was that the major changes impacting upon the town were a reduction of proposed housing and the implication of a possible re-designation of current Green Belt around the town.

SDC will be aware that the Town Council has consistently taken the view that Tadcaster is a Local Service Centre and needs a development strategy which enhances this role. It has also emphasised the need to prioritise the bringing into productive use of both brownfield sites and empty dwellings/retail units within the town. The Town Council has stated that it considers the surrounding Green Belt a major amenity to the town and has emphasised strongly a view that this should be maintained. This view has attracted much support from the townspeople of Tadcaster - many of whom had attended public meetings and expressed satisfaction with the stand taken by the Council.

In terms of the current consultation the Town Council regrets any shift of proposed housing development away from Tadcaster but recognises that the underlying trends and predictions may well be supportive of this. Similarly in regard to any erosion of the Green Belt, the Town Council would be very reluctant to see a wholesale weakening of the protections to the Town and its amenities represented by current designation of the Green Belt around the town. However, the Town Council is now also aware that major landowners within the town have indicated that potential development sites in and around the town are extremely unlikely to be brought into productive use for a very considerable period of time. At the time of the original development of the Town Council's policy this intention to retard the development of housing and employment within the town was not in the public domain and could not therefore form part of the Town Council's deliberations as to the best course of action for Tadcaster. The Town Council also recognises that a brake on development represented by such an approach, by any local landowners will have an adverse impact on the community, social, cultural and economic development of the town - development which the Town Council has consistently advocated and sought to support. The Town Council is now of the view that, despite its concerns about development on Green Belt, it must be pragmatic in balancing its desire for a growing and prosperous town with its concern for the continued sanctity of the Green Belt. The Town Council has taken the view that it will not oppose the re-designation of Green Belt for housing or employment but recognises that there may be some potential areas currently designated around the town where a cogent case might be made for variation of the Green Belt. Such variation, the Town Council believes, will be an exceptional and pragmatic response to the current situation and not an abandonment of neither the principle nor the actuality of the Green Belt amenity of Tadcaster.

Yours sincerely

Avis Thomas
Clerk to the Council