



Featherstone Town Council

Regenerating, Supporting & Caring for our Community

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Local Development Plan 2036

MAIN MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION MAY 2023

Featherstone Town Council cannot accept any building/development (LP11) on the land south of Featherstone Special Policy area. Please find below the Town Council's response to the major and minor modification:

Page 183 – (Modification MM 1.119)

Wakefield MDC currently supports a climate emergency so, as the amendments states "improve environmental conditions", this contradicts the climate change emergency policy operated by WMDC. This would have a detrimental effect on bio-diversity and removal of Green Belt land without special circumstances.

Page 184 (LP1335)

There is a distinct lack of future transport funding.

Without the series of link roads this will not become a bypass of Ackworth, Featherstone and Pontefract and will merely be an access road onto the development. Therefore we would challenge that it would remove traffic, improve road safety and environment for any of the mentioned Towns.

We also understand that this scheme holds a very low priority at West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

By simply removing the 'full' from the plan it is quite clear that the other section of this link road is extremely doubtful (once again information from the CA indicates that this is a non-existent priority), leaving us once again to assume that the sole purpose of this exercise is simply to allow developers to build 1000 homes on Green Belt land.

Sustainable transport requires a sustainable transport system and at present there is a lack of public transport, buses, trains etc.

Page 192 - LP140

It is noted that any associated development will be located outside the Green Belt, however you appear not to be operating a similar policy on LP11.



New Site – LP1502

We note the addition of a new local retail centre. We have major concerns regarding the effect of this on the health of the current Town centre.

Access Road to LP1502 – As detailed on the modification map it seems that the local retail centre will be in the middle of the new development and it appears the access road would be through an existing housing estate. The fear of this would be that this access road could be used for an access/egress to the new development which would be totally unsuitable.

WSP13 – Page 55 (ii)

Once again you refer to the transport network and how this would relieve congestion. Without the whole of the scheme being built this is highly unlikely and would only add to the already saturated A645. Without completion of the full highway scheme (LP1335) this leaves Featherstone isolated with a new development of 1000 homes and only one way in and out.

LP850 – Land at Victoria Meadow.

We agree with the addition regarding the site lines at the junction with the adopted highway. However it needs to be mindful of the proposed South Featherstone Link Road (LP1335), this will of course place more traffic on the A645.

LP11 – Land South of Featherstone

We note the removal of employment, this is in direct contradiction to the retail centre (LP1502), which must create jobs. However we would like to refer back to our previous point, this new centre would have a direct impact on the health of the Town Centre (dependant on its size and services).

Education – It is noted the addition of Primary school. Should the development go ahead we would deem this as an essential element.

Landscaping – It is mentioned that extensive landscaping is a requirement, this is the very least we would expect as this already forms Green Belt Land.

Featherstone Town Council are totally opposed to any development on Green Belt land.

Map Changes

Featherstone Town Council note on the map that the link road comes into Mill Pond Meadow where the nationally recognised War Horse is situated and Featherstone Town Council cannot accept this in any form.

In summary Featherstone Town Council do not support any further development. However should the inspector be minded to allow this development we would urge that it is a condition that the Pontefract leg of the loop road/link road/bypass (LP1335) is completed first. This will ensure that any future traffic build up will not be detrimental to the Town and residents of Featherstone.



Featherstone Town Council would also like to raise the issue that the documentation is completely non user friendly and recommend any future documents of this nature could be scaled down to an executive summary.

Contributions from Councillor Graham Isherwood (WMDC) and Councillor Stephen Vickers (WMDC) in conjunction and agreement with Featherstone Town Council.