



Dear Sir / Madam

I write as a resident of Springfield Avenue Grappenhall to object in the strongest terms to the Preferred Development Option proposal directly affecting my community in WA4 and the Trans Pennine Way. It is not preferred. Some of the many reasons are as follows:

Flawed consultation process

I am firstly concerned at what I consider to be a deeply unsatisfactory and flawed consultation over the PDO. The detail remains light, the time constraints harsh, and the publicity scarce. The council has claimed “nobody was turned away” from recent consultation events. I know this to be a bald lie; people queuing for entry to one such event were told by a council official approaching the queue that the doors were to be closed (such was the attendance – and anger among residents). Many left as a result.

I myself did not find out about this disgraceful plan in time to attend any of the limited consultation events. Whilst it is appreciated the deadline to send this representation was extended, there has been no such extension to consultation events, no opportunity for those like me who have not yet been able to ask questions. Why extend the deadline but decide not to hold any further events when they were so oversubscribed? This is plainly a box ticking exercise and you are desperate to hide this from as many people affected as possible.

Lack of detailed assessments of local impacts

I am especially concerned, as are many others, over the **lack of any detailed studies or assessments** into likely **impacts on local infrastructure and communications**.

It was disturbing to learn a recent consultation meeting was told simply that such a study was ‘underway’. How then, has a plan (whether still a proposal at this stage or not) been drawn up already without any modelling of likely **impacts on transport links**, public transport, etc? This is cart before the horse decision making and smacks of decisions being made not in the public interest and certainly not following logic.

I am further concerned by the seeming lack of any assessment or even consideration of **impacts on local resident’s properties**. What will this do the quality of local resident’s lives? **Pollution and noise** are factors. The inability to ever move again may be another.

Unnecessary use of green belt land

Where is the council’s commitment to exhaust all available existing brown field sites before any greenbelt even enters the equation? Nothing less will suffice. Greenbelt once lost is irreplaceable. The clue is in the name!

The use of the TPW is particularly objectionable. This is a valued and much-used local route (and come to that national route, making up part of the National Cycle Route).

Where is the evidence of any joined up work with neighbouring councils and their projected planning in order to meet projected local housing ‘needs’? (Needs which by the way, are **grossly inflated** in your documentation when they only include a **pathetic proportion of ‘affordable’ or social housing** which is needed). **You are obligated to work in partnership with neighbouring authorities to achieve housing targets in a sensible manner.**

Last but not least – completely unnecessary and unwanted project

You appear to be working in partnership only with Peel Holdings to meet your own agendas. Nobody asked us and nobody told you they were crying out to live in a city. This is a town and we will not lie down for your little vanity project of obtaining city status no matter what cost to our quality of life.

We are not idiots. We see what you are doing and will fight this all the way.

Lastly, I am a Labour voter and I am absolutely furious that a so called Labour council appears to be up to their necks in something extremely distasteful. You are letting down your constituents, supporters and party performing actions a Tory council would be proud of. Think again.

Yours very, very sincerely,

