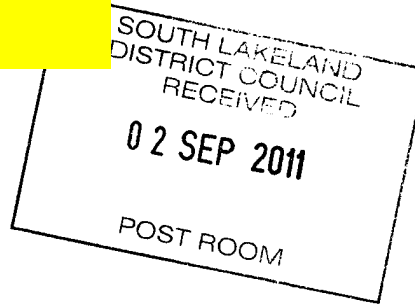


FCLE 185

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
31 August 2011.



To the Development Plan Manager, SLDC,  
S Lakeland House, Lowther St.,  
Kendal LA9 4DL.

Sir,

Ref: SLDC Further Consultation on Land Allocations DPD (29 July to 9 September 2011)

1. I write to submit comments concerning the Alternative Sites in the Milnthorpe area put forward by respondents to the earlier Land Allocations consultation (January - April 2011). I understand from the Consultation document recently circulated that SLDC will take account of my earlier comments on such of these sites as had appeared already in previous rounds of consultation, and that it is therefore only useful to comment on those which are new, namely sites RN 281 & RN 42, both of which lie between Milnthorpe and Ackenthwaite. It is on these, therefore, that I focus.
2. As regards site RN 281, this would represent a massive incursion into open countryside. There would be very big problems of access. The only possible approaches would be either via Haverflatts Lane from Milnthorpe, or up Kirkgate Lane. The former is extremely narrow, and not capable of widening. Only very recently, it was found unable to cope with the weight of traffic to Dallam School, to which a new approach road had to be built, leading out of the Crooklands Road (B 6385). Northeast of Dallam School, moreover, Haverflatts Lane reduces to one very narrow lane for traffic, with no usable passing places. As to Kirkgate Lane, once you leave the Crooklands Rd., and have passed the walls of the former Mental Home on your right, it too reduces to one very narrow lane for traffic, with no usable passing places. Moreover any additional traffic would be offensive to the several houses in Owlet Ash Fields which border on Kirkgate Lane. Finally, the addition of traffic at the point of access to the Crooklands Rd. - much used by HGV's as well as lighter traffic - would constitute a traffic hazard. For these reasons I consider development in this location unacceptable.
3. As regards the site RN 42, it is explained that this is not suggested for new building, but only for traffic wishing to access the proposed housing site R 462 M. In my letter of 12 February, 2009, I supported this latter site for new housing, subject to certain conditions. One of these was that access should be obtained by widening the existing lane from the Beetham Rd. to Hartland House. The idea of an additional access from the Crooklands side is understandable. However, the RN 42 site currently forms part of the green gap between the Heater Field Estate and Milnthorpe proper. The earlier Allocations of Land Document, in its comments on Green Infrastructure, stated that towns and villages should be kept distinct from one another by protecting important green gaps, and specifically stressed the need for a green gap between Milnthorpe and Ackenthwaite. There is only a very small one left to preserve. Formerly, a significant part of the gap was constituted by what are now new buildings, hard surface playing fields and a parking area of Dallam School. It is therefore all the more important to preserve intact what remains of the gap. Moreover, Milnthorpe Cemetery, which lies alongside the proposed site, would suffer in terms of both outlook and tranquillity. The same would be true for the inhabitants of Hartland House. On balance, therefore I am not convinced that there is a need for this development.

Yours sincerely,  
[REDACTED]