

Objection to Proposed Sites LPS00660 and LPS00296 – Walton Parish Council Response

As part of the consultation on the emerging Leeds Local Plan, Walton Parish Council wishes to submit a formal objection to the inclusion of sites **LPS00660** and **LPS00296**.

An **extraordinary meeting** of the Parish Council was held on **4th August 2025** to consider the implications of these sites being put forward through the Call for Sites process. This meeting was attended by nearly 50 residents, many of whom expressed significant concern about the proposals.

Following this, the Parish Council organised a **public drop-in consultation** on **30th August 2025**, enabling residents to reflect further and provide written feedback. As a result of this exercise, we received more than 40 completed feedback forms. The consensus of residents, supported by the Parish Council, is clear: **we object to the allocation of both proposed sites**.

Several key factors underpin this objection:

1. Scale of Growth

- There are currently 15 dwellings (including affordable housing) under construction at the Springs Lane site (Ref: 22/02840/FU).
- Land at Walnut Farm has also been allocated for four additional properties under the SAP and the Walton Neighbourhood Plan.
- Together, these developments will increase the village housing stock from 88 to 107 dwellings—a **20% rise**.
- Approval of sites LPS00660 and LPS00296 would add a further 108 dwellings, **doubling the size of the village**. This scale of development would irreversibly damage Walton's historic '**Croft and Toft**' layout, which the Neighbourhood Plan specifically sought to protect as part of the village's heritage and Conservation Area.

2. Infrastructure and Drainage Constraints

- The village already suffers from unresolved **drainage problems**, currently under investigation by Yorkshire Water.
- These issues are likely to be exacerbated by recently approved developments, including a farm shop/restaurant and a nearby glamping site.
- Walton's road network and limited infrastructure cannot accommodate the additional pressures that would accompany such a substantial housing increase.

3. Wider Housing Provision in the Area

- The **Swinnow Park development in Wetherby**, located less than 5 miles from Boston Spa, will deliver 762 new homes.
- This major scheme already makes a substantial contribution towards Leeds' housing targets and meets local demand in the Wetherby area.
- In this context, it is neither necessary nor sustainable to double the size of Walton.

4. Consistency with the Neighbourhood Plan

- Walton is already delivering on its **adopted Neighbourhood Plan**, which received strong support during consultation.
- Once the plan's current commitments have been fulfilled, the Parish Council will review it and consider future development in a measured and appropriate manner.

Conclusion

Walton Parish Council, supported by the views of local residents, strongly objects to the inclusion of sites LPS00660 and LPS00296 in the Leeds Local Plan. The scale, infrastructure constraints, and impact on the village's heritage make these proposals wholly inappropriate. We urge Leeds City Council to respect the adopted Neighbourhood Plan and to focus housing growth in more sustainable locations, such as Swinnow Park, which already makes significant provision for new homes in the local area.