

PRESS RELEASE 20th December 2019

Stockeld Park / Spofforth Hill Planning Application.

Better Wetherby representatives played an active part in a 4-day Public Inquiry in Harrogate that concluded on Friday, 20th December 2019. The Appeal, by Stockeld Park and Hallam Land Management, followed rejection by Harrogate Planning Committee of their application to build 210 new houses on the North Yorkshire side of the boundary with Wetherby.

This was the latest stage in a protracted and contentious application that attracted several hundred objections and has been the subject of four separate hearings by the Harrogate Planning Committee over a period of almost two years. At the most recent hearing on 17th September 2019, the Planning Committee voted unanimously to reject the application.

The Public Inquiry, chaired by Mr. Bryn Bowker, took evidence from the Appellants, Harrogate Borough Council and Better Wetherby.

Paul Crossan, who headed representations for Better Wetherby at the Inquiry said, ***'This was an intensive four days, but we were pleased to have had the opportunity to make a strong case to have the appeal rejected. Harrogate Borough Council made it clear that they have an emerging local plan to fully meet their housing needs until 2035. The Stockeld Park development is not in that plan and is just not needed. Better Wetherby totally supported that stance and pointed out to the Inspector that Leeds City Council also have more than adequate provision in their local plan and also recently approved the building of 800 new houses in Wetherby.'***

Mr. Crossan added, ***'We made the Inspector aware of our serious concerns about the adverse impact the Stockeld Park development would have on Wetherby and our neighbours in surrounding villages should the appeal be allowed. This application is both unwelcome and unjustified, attracting several hundred objections from local people. Not only will it be transformational and harmful to the landscape, character and local environment, it will contribute to a worsening of Wetherby's existing highways, congestion and air pollution problems and place further pressures on overburdened schools, doctors and other local services'***.

Working to ensure that the physical character of Wetherby and District is protected and developed for the benefit of the community of both current and future generations.

For further information, please contact: Paul Crossan, Better Wetherby
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More information regarding what was said at the Public Inquiry can also
be found on the Better Wetherby website:

<https://www.betterwetherby.com/public-inquiry.html>

*The **Better Wetherby Partnership** is a consortium of local people from a variety of organisations who contribute to initiatives designed to help make Wetherby and the surrounding villages better for the community of both present and future generations. A current focus is our concern about the negative impact on the Town and local area resulting from large-scale house building.*