

**Open letter to City of York Council (CYC) for presentation at the 25<sup>th</sup> October Council meeting**

**RE: Agenda item 4, Selby District Council (SDC) Local Plan Pre-submission consultation response**

Dear Councillor Mason & fellow CYC Councillors

This joint letter is from the Parish Council Chairs of Escrick, Stillingfleet and Cawood.

Just as CYC raised concerns in their initial feedback to SDC in March 2021, the Parish Councils of all the surrounding communities adjacent to the STIL-D (Heronby) site – Escrick, Stillingfleet, Cawood and Riccall also all wrote objections to the proposed development of this land at that time.

A new town (not a village as it is being marketed) with an end population of 12,000, twice the size of Tadcaster, is neither necessary or appropriately located and has not been justified during the process undertaken by Escrick Park Estates and SDC.

We are presently finalising our individual SDC consultation responses once more, but this time limiting our objections to the three required categories of Legal, Soundness and Duty to Cooperate. Our extensive arguments, in conjunction with the Halt Heronby Action Group that was formed to oppose the development, are listed on their website in detail for all residents to evaluate and use in responding to SDC should they wish to do so. The Halt Heronby group has been supported by the Parish Councils of Escrick, Stillingfleet, Cawood, Kelfield and Naburn.

To save time we do not need to list all the objections we have, they are very similar to the ones CYC are considering today. They concern such topics as Traffic & Transport, site suitability, the unsatisfactory process with regard to the two brownfield sites (Burn Airfield and Church Fenton) being ultimately excluded, future Education miscalculations and a failure to adequately engage with CYC on all relevant matters. In addition, in our feedback, we will also object to the negative Environmental and Ecological impact in our communities of the proposed development, the potential loss of good quality agricultural land at a key time for our Country, the lack of justification against expenditure for the Escrick by-pass that has been added very late and without proper consultation, and the questions around the quality, accuracy and impartiality of the SDC evidence documents that have been used. All these arguments and many more will be used all the way to North Yorkshire Council taking over our area next year.

We ask you today on behalf of the communities we represent and the communities in CYC area that will suffer from the proposed STIL-D development, along with many others who use the A19 route between Selby and York, to proceed and submit the response to SDC you are due to consider. We support and agree with all the points 8 to 78 of your agenda on this subject today, and we sincerely hope you proceed with point 79 and submit an objection response to SDC for all the reasons stated in agenda item 4 today.

Thank you for your time.

Terry Chambers – Escrick Parish Council Chairman  
Juan Brooks – Stillingfleet Parish Council Chairman  
Lesley Dennon – Cawood Parish Council Chairman