



APRIL 2015



KIRBYMOORSIDE WARD

What is the Point of a Local Plan? "The Gladman Saga"

Kirbymoorside Town and Ryedale District Councils agreed the Ryedale Local Plan for Kirbymoorside.

- 300 houses to be built over 15 years.
- Small (less than 30) and medium (30-100) developments.
- Inside the development limits.

Gladman put in a planning application for 250 houses outside the development boundary next to West Pasture.

Gladman (1)

The first application was taken to Appeal which was dropped by Gladman on the basis that RDC would approve Gladman (2).

Gladman (2)

This application was passed by the Chair's casting vote - 3 in favour, both Liberals against. It then went to court (Judicial Review).

- i) The Conservative councillor for Kirbymoorside had pressed the wrong button.
- ii) The Conservative Chair had taken the wrong vote.

Gladman (3)

Turned down by the Planning committee for 5 planning reasons. Gladman appealed. RDC officers (plus paid consultants) diluted 'the 5 reasons for refusal' down to 2. The Planning Committee agreed (Liberals voted against). At the Planning Appeal it was impossible to tell the council officers and Gladman apart. Opposition came from Liberal councillors Sarah Ward and John Clark and of course you, the public.

In response to the above, the Tory Chair of the Planning Committee wrote that the reduction of 5 reasons to 2 was to reduce the chance of costs being awarded against the council. The Planning Inspector awarded costs against RDC. His reason? - the unacceptable reduction from 5 down to 2! Kirbymoorside people lost their democracy and paid for the council's mistake. The Tories find this mess acceptable. Liberals believe it is a disgrace.

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NOT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

We underline we are not the Liberal Democrats. The Liberals have a long history behind many social improvements. Lloyd George introduced the State Pension; Beveridge designed the NHS; Keynes showed that government spending was needed to stop a recession hurting the vulnerable. ConDem austerity policies are hurting the poor, the sick and the young. This is not a Liberal approach – it is the destruction of our social fabric.

Living Wage

Ryedale Liberals proposed that the lowest paid on the council should receive ‘at least the Living Wage’. The Tories said that the cost (a total cost of £5,000/year) was too high a risk for the Council. The Liberal motion was defeated.

However for the highest paid the approach is very different. After a two year wage freeze, local government employees have, from the 1st January, received a 2.2% award over 2 years. The National Agreement was for the lowest paid up to those on £42,032. In Ryedale the pay increase was continued up to £70,000. No debate, no discussion, just an extra cost to the council. No mention of risk – at a cost of £6,000/year between the higher paid managers.

Green Waste

For 3 years Conservatives, LibDems, and Independent councillors all voted to accept the government ‘bribe’ to keep the council Tax down. As a result Ryedale District Council now has less money for services. The Tory council voted to charge for green waste. All the Liberal councillors voted to increase the Council Tax by £3 per year and NOT charge for green waste collection. Meanwhile more waste will go to landfill and Ryedale’s recycling levels will fall dramatically from over 50%.

Our national taxes are used to pay for a freeze - so we pay anyway. Those wishing to have their green waste collected will end up with a 20% increase in payments to RDC. Should anybody trust the ConDems again?

Fracking

The Liberals on Ryedale District Council Proposed:

“Ryedale District Council completely opposes all fracking in Ryedale.”

We also tried:

“Oppose all fracking until 90% of scientists believe there is no harm to health, climate and the environment.”

and *“A five year fracking freeze.”*

Every Tory councillor opposed these options. They are clearly prepared to risk:

- Water quality.
- Damage to farming and tourism.
- Climate change.
- Health of Ryedale people.

Your Liberal councillors are not willing to risk any of the above. The benefits would be for big business. All the negatives would be for the people of Ryedale.