



Councillor Holroyd
Kirkbymoorside Town Council

20th September 2021

Dear Councillor Holroyd,

Thank you for your letter in relation to the above matter. I apologise for the delay in providing a written response, caused in part by the pressure of other work and a recent period of annual leave and also the need to discuss some of the issues raised with my colleagues.

Whilst I can appreciate the local concerns, I can confirm that the capacity of local infrastructure is taken into account in the planning process.

The Council's adopted local plan establishes the planned growth of the town – the level of new housing growth to be provided within the period 2021-2027 and the sites allocated to meet that requirement. The infrastructure required to support planned levels of growth were fully considered as part of the plan process, with infrastructure providers such as the then Primary Care Trust, County Education, County Highways, Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency all involved in establishing the infrastructure requirements. The Manor Woods Site, Wains field and the site at Swineherd Lane were all factored into the adopted plan process.

The key infrastructure requirement identified to support planned growth was additional primary school capacity. This has been secured via the Manor Woods development. Additional surgery space was not identified as being required. Whilst the planning system can address shortfalls in space for such requirements, unfortunately it cannot address national capacity issues which are related to either health service funding or the recruitment and retention of doctors and dentists. Similarly whilst an increase in a local population can help to sustain important local facilities such as banks and post offices, the planning system cannot influence the corporate decisions of banks to close branches. I am sure that you will also appreciate that any strategy to accommodate new development in Ryedale in those places that are only served by banks would fail to address the housing needs of local communities across the District.

Infrastructure requirements are fully considered through the plan making process and are considered again when planning applications for sites come forward. It is not correct to say that the decision to approve the Manor Woods site was made without consideration of the need for mitigating infrastructure and it is incorrect to assume that infrastructure requirements will not be a material consideration in the determination of the current application at West Lund Lane. The implications for infrastructure of any further planning applications for sites over and above planned growth are considered as part of the application process.

As you are aware the Council is currently undertaking a review of its adopted Local Plan. This will look to accommodate requirements for Ryedale beyond 2027. In this respect, it would be helpful if the Town Council is able to remain engaged with the plan review process in order to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the future infrastructure requirements of the Town and how these could be addressed as part of new development in the future. My colleagues Jill Thompson and Rachael Balmer are heavily involved in the plan review work and will be in contact again as the review of the plan evolves.

I hope that my letter explains the position in relation to the current levels of planned growth for the town and that the Town Council will continue to be engaged in the evolution of the new plan going forwards.

I trust that this letter will be able to be reported to the meeting that is scheduled for this evening.

Yours sincerely



Gary Housden
Head of Planning and Regulatory Services
Ryedale District Council