

My response specifically addresses two key areas:

Realism of Housing Target Numbers

Support for the Designation of The Rough (LGS/LP4/DM12/025) as a Local Green Space

## **1. Realism of Housing Target Numbers**

The housing target set out in the Pendle Local Plan is ambitious and aims to address the borough's housing needs. However, I would like to express concerns about its practicality based on several factors:

**Demographic Trends:** The plan acknowledges Pendle's limited population growth and an ageing demographic profile (Section 2.13-2.15). These trends suggest that the demand for large-scale housing developments may be overestimated, risking unnecessary urban sprawl and overdevelopment.

**Economic Viability of Development:** The Local Plan highlights the challenges of economic viability, particularly in urban areas such as the M65 Corridor, where low land values make brownfield regeneration difficult (Section 2.18). Setting housing targets that exceed realistic economic capacity could lead to incomplete or unviable projects.

**Environmental Constraints:** Large portions of the borough are designated Green Belt or valued for biodiversity, with flood risks also noted (Section 2.39). These constraints further limit the feasibility of delivering high housing numbers without significant environmental compromise.

## **2. Designation of The Rough as a Local Green Space**

I strongly support the inclusion of The Rough (LGS/LP4/DM12/025) as a designated Local Green Space. This aligns with both national planning policies and the objectives of the Local Plan.

**Community Significance:** The Rough is a cherished natural area, offering residents a vital space for recreation, relaxation, and mental well-being and contributes to local identity.

**Environmental Importance:** As noted in Policy DM12 and its supporting text, Local Green Spaces play a crucial role in protecting biodiversity, improving air quality, and mitigating the effects of climate change. The Rough's ecological networks and landscape character are assets that must be preserved for future generations.

**Alignment with Strategic Goals:** The Rough supports the Local Plan's objectives (LP09 and LP10) by promoting health, biodiversity, and resilience to climate change. Its protection enhances the borough's ability to maintain green corridors and avoid urban sprawl.

I encourage the Council to uphold this designation in the final Local Plan and commit to safeguarding The Rough from potential development pressures.

**Joe Cooney**



