

About the application

Application number: 2018/91661	
What is the application for?:	Outline permission for residential development and facilitating engineering oper
Address of the site or building:	Land at Walkley Terrace and Brunswick Street, Heckmondwike
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection

My primary objection to this development concerns the further burden that will be placed on the roads and traffic infrastructure around Heckmondwike. During term time, Church Street and other back streets surrounding Heckmondwike Grammar School are densely packed with parked cars from 7.00am onwards until evening. The volume of traffic, both industrial and commercial, that still moves through these roads is considerable. The junction of Church Lane and Walkley Lane is congested and slow moving from 7.00am during term time, and traffic moving through High Street (Heckmondwike's main road) is slow moving and often congested. Also using High Street as a main access route are ambulances travelling to and from Dewsbury Hospital, and police vehicles from the station on Bath Road. The roads in Heckmondwike are currently too small and busy to enable traffic and to further add to that burden would exacerbate an already severe problem (factor in increased air pollution from increased traffic volumes). An example of a recent housing build in Heckmondwike bringing a disproportionate amount of extra cars into the area can be seen on Carriage Way, off of Station Road. The number of cars parked on this street on an evening (after 6pm) indicates a number of cars per house that exceeds the space given to each house for parking on driveways and in garages. Therefore, any proposal for new housing in Heckmondwike that includes a '2 cars per household' quota should be viewed as unrealistic and burdensome on the local infrastructure.

Heckmondwike is generally not a pleasant place to live in. It is dirty, there are areas of deprivation, and it suffers from some of the worst levels of air quality in Kirklees. Green spaces are few and far between, and fly tipping is a frequent problem (one only has to look into the old railway cutting on St James Street to get an idea of the range of white goods, household waste and garden waste dumped over the railings). The loss of this green space would be a further diminishing of Heckmondwike's few natural spaces. Whilst there are no protected species of flora or fauna in this cutting, to my knowledge, the preservation and conservation of the habitats of the wildlife that do live in the cutting must be seen as a priority in an area of Kirklees that is so densely populated.

A recent article in the Huddersfield Examiner estimates that the trees in Kirklees are helping reduce health costs by £18 per person, which is higher than the national average. Heckmondwike does not have many trees in comparison to towns and villages in South Kirklees - they should not be further decimated if they do impact positively on health and living standards. Either that, or the health inequalities that already exist between North and South Kirklees will be further emphasised.

The previous application to develop this land was rejected, partly due to the proposal including a 2 to 3 year period of in-filling of the cutting. This new application looks to build into the cutting. Whatever the proposed method of building, the decimation of Heckmondwike's natural spaces and the increased burden on a crippled road system, can not be denied.