

Dear Sirs

I am writing to object to planning application 2018/91661 which is for the development of the railway cutting between Walkley Terrace and Brunswick Street in Heckmondwike which will involve constructing a road from the corner of Horton Street. As a resident of Horton Street for 18 years I have many concerns about the application as have many of my neighbours and other local residents.

The reasons for my objection are set out below:

1. **Local roads will be unable to cope with the additional traffic** that will be created during both the construction stage and later by residents of the 74 houses that it is proposed to build on this site. During the construction phase heavy lorries carrying construction materials and equipment will be accessing the site along narrow and already busy and congested residential streets. The area around Horton Street, Brunswick street and Church Street is already very busy with a number of houses, businesses and local schools. it is already difficult at times to see clearly to exit Horton Street onto Church Street with the number of parked cars there reducing Church street to a single lane road. It is difficult to see how construction traffic will safely access Horton Street from Church Street. The area is even more congested during school term time with cars of staff and sixth form pupils from Heckmondwike Grammar School parked on the roads and parents dropping off and picking up pupils parking and blocking the local roads. it is almost impossible to leave or return to our house in Horton Street between 3.30pm and 4pm during term time at the moment and this will only get worse with construction lorries and workers vehicles attempting to arrive at and leave the site. Furthermore the addition of lorries, workers and other vehicles travelling to the site will cause even more congestion in the wider area. Heckmondwike is already a bottleneck and standing traffic frequently backs up to Walkley Terrace from the traffic lights in Heckmondwike town centre at present and it is often difficult to exit both Bruswick Street and Church street onto Walkley Lane. Also more heavy vehicles on the roads will cause more damage to roads that are already in poor repair in places.
2. **Pollution in the area.** The proposed development will create even more pollution in an already polluted area with the addition of extra HGV's and other vehicles travelling to the site and the dust that will be created by cutting out material from the site and moving it to other areas of the site to level it. This is particularly worrying as the actual area being filled is very close to residential properties and there is also a childrens nursery close by. It is well known that poor air quality can increase illness and breathing problems especially in children and the elderly. The dust and noise created by the development is going to cause great inconvenience to local residents, as some properties are only a matter of metres from the proposed development. some local residents work shifts and daytime noise will hinder their sleep meaning they have a poor quality of life. The noise and dust from the site during the infill stage and also during the construction of houses when the

pilings are being put in are also going to spoil residents enjoyment of their property and surrounding area.

3. **The developers have described the site as 'derelict land'**. However it is actually a green space full of vegetation and wildlife. In the document produced by the developer it also says that there are no mature trees of any significance on the site. This is because approximately 3 years ago the owner of the site sent contractors to clear and bulldoze the land along the eastern side of the cutting thus removing the mature trees and vegetation that were there. Despite this the area is now re-vegetated with self seeded shrubs and saplings. The whole of the cutting from Walkley Terrace to Brunswick Street provides a habitat for many species of bird, reptile and small mammals. We have seen woodpeckers, jays, , foxes, hedgehogs, shrews, and bats to name but a few. Less than 200 metres from the site there is a fishing lake which is regularly visited by kingfishers and also there have been sightings of here. Recently there have also been sightings of deer close to the site. If the planning application is passed it will mean the loss of this valuable habitat and an interruption of the wildlife corridor that this cutting forms part of linking the Greenway to the Ringway. Once the filling of this green space is begun it is part of our environmental heritage that is lost forever.
4. In conclusion, whilst I acknowledge the need for more affordable housing I do not believe that this site is suitable. Once the land has been levelled and road built it could still be many years before houses are built also any houses built are likely to be expensive because of the amount of engineering work that is necessary to make sure that they are stable.

I urge you to take the comments of myself and other local residents into account. I have not spoken to anyone who is in favour of the development. The amount of disruption that this will cause for residents of the surrounding area is immense.