

About the application

Application number: 2020/92331	
What is the application for?:	Outline planning application for demolition of existing dwellings and developmen
Address of the site or building:	Land east of, Leeds Road, Chidswell, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection

The proposed development would cause great harm and irreparable damage to the area and North Kirklees as a whole. Despite being next to a busy dual carriageway this area has a tremendous rural feel as soon as you are behind the immediate first row of houses and the loss of considerable green belt land can never be reversed, removing the open spaces so desperately needed in normal times, let alone those we're seeing currently (see the issues in densely populated areas of Dewsbury and Batley in the last few months).

This would also see an influx of vehicles daily through a very limited number of junctions to the already congested main roads - still with the government direction to work from home there are regularly long queues from both Heybeck Lane and Owl Lane junctions. Adding to these will bring the area grinding to a halt, impacting all existing residents plus the businesses around Shaw Cross/Grange Road, many who rely on haulage and traffic flowing in the area, many will seek alternative routes (via Mirfield into Dewsbury, or Birstall into Batley, adding to the traffic issues on those routes).

In addition to the growth in traffic on the main roads, this pushes some drivers to seek short cuts, regularly seen on Chidswell Lane to skip the queues around the Owl Lane junction, with these vehicles also pushing to maximise the seconds saved by doing so at reckless speeds through a residential area - I believe the application also has two entrance/exit junctions, also highly likely to become rat runs if approved.

I also have reservations about the proposed school, effectively the sweetener to try to proceed with this application. It would be greatly upsetting if the application was approved and commercially viable houses/offices built, but not the proposed school, though I wouldn't be that surprised. I also add that the school provision in the area is not the biggest issue - doctors surgeries are in much greater demand, especially immediately to the North side of this application. I'd note that the school would also removing any privacy as well as an exponential increase in noise - though I also expect the mass housing and proposed commercial developments would add to this too.

Overall, there are many sites within Kirklees that are far more suitable than this, but would take a bit more effort on the part of the developers than the blank canvas of green belt land, but these are fields for all to enjoy, either at leisure walking in them, observing wildlife or simply looking out at - see the run down areas of Batley, and as an example the work at Blakeridge Mill of what can be achieved with derelict and run down areas, before destroying those that everyone within the Kirklees community and beyond can benefit from.