



I write today to express my concerns regarding the Proposed Chidswell Development Ref: 2020/60/92331/E. I have been involved in the Chidswell Action Group since 2011 and strongly support their work to oppose this development which would have significant impact on the local biodiversity, ancient woodlands, traffic, and congestion on local roads.

Specifically, in relation to the current application I would like to raise several concerns: Despite Natural England's requests for site-specific surveys to assess the quality of the land, this has not been completed. The Landowner states that the need for new housing and employment outweighs the loss of agricultural land. A Land Assessment Survey is required to ensure the Planning Department are provided with clear indication if this land is of better agricultural value than the Landowner claims.

The Ecological Survey is outdated, in the previous report it was acknowledged that species such as Skylarks and Yellow Hammers would be permanently displaced. Reports indicate that regular sightings have been reported of Schedule 1 species such as Kingfisher, Red Kite and Barn Owl. Evidence of this is recorded multiple times over 2 seasons, clearly indicating they are not "passing by" as indicated by the landowners. The Ecological Impact Assessment carried out states "with a development of this scale, some impacts remain significant and are very hard to mitigate" A full and up to date Ecological Survey is required.

The latest reports from Biodiversity Net Gain states that the waterways have dried up and does not classify as being part of KWHN. There are clear indications that this is not correct. A report based on the October Ecologist walk-over, claims the development will deliver 10% more biodiversity than in its current state. A previous Biodiversity Net Gain report, based on exact same conditions, was assessed at 14% Net Loss this creates a disparity of 24%? The net loss in 2020 was advised independently by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In addition to this, the Forestry Commission has issued its advice in relation to the ancient woodlands and the Woodland Trust have strongly objected.

Many local residents have expressed their concerns with me about this application, specifically around the impact, two development sites, Chidswell and Heybeck, will have on local transport networks, and on the health and wellbeing of local people. I would be grateful if you would consider these concerns and address them as the application progresses, specifically conducting a new Ecological Survey, a reassessment of the Biodiversity New Gain figures, and a Land Assessment Survey.

Mark Eastwood MP

Member of Parliament for Dewsbury