



This application is totally out of character with the area, which comprises small rural villages such as Gawthorpe, Chidswell, West Ardsley and Woodkirk. These settlements are varied and have a mixture of building types developed incrementally in small parcels over the years so a huge industrial estate and a huge housing estate where everything will look the same is totally out of character.

This beautiful green area is a wildlife oasis between the districts of Leeds, Wakefield and Kirklees. It has many regionally important species such as red kites, buzzards, skylarks and yellow hammers alongside goldfinches, wagtails, wrens, woodpeckers, blackbirds, tits, kestrels, kingfishers, dunnocks, chaffinches, hares etc. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust detail all the implications on wildlife.

The two woodland areas, which will be surrounded by houses, ugly industrial buildings and car parks if this development goes ahead, are both full of bluebells and are home to bats and fungi. The effect on trees and the landscape will be huge. The small woods will not be able to cope with potentially huge numbers of additional users. In effect it will destroy forever this habitat and providing narrow green corridors will not enable all these species to thrive. In particular skylarks as ground nesting birds will have their habitat totally destroyed.

The noise and disturbance will also deter wildlife as five thousand cars and lorries a day use the site, causing pollution which again will be detrimental to people and wildlife. Leeds university have been monitoring Hey Beck for a number of years. They confirm that the biggest polluter of watercourses is new housing development so this number of houses and industrial buildings will cause pollution which will destroy the wildlife using the Beck. The Beck is increasingly prone to significant flooding, so if green areas which absorb water are destroyed and replaced with concrete, where all water runs off, it will cause more regular flooding which will destroy local fields and footpaths.

The huge increase in traffic will have highway implications for local communities such as Woodkirk and West Ardsley as traffic will use our small communities as rat runs to avoid the already congested A653 and Tingley roundabout to get to the M62 or M1 and the White Rose Centre. The same will be true for Gawthorpe and Ossett as traffic uses their roads to get to and from the M1 at junction 40.

There is a primary school proposed on site but what are the plans for high schools or doctors surgeries? As we all know existing provision is already stretched to the limit. This number of houses, which will largely be 2/3 car families will perhaps have 2,000 children so is there enough school provision?

The area is popular for walkers as it has an attractive footpath network where you are walking through woods, fields and green lanes with well established hedgerows full of wildlife. The views across the landscape are lovely in all seasons and it is very peaceful. All this will be destroyed and in future any walks will need to cross multiple roads, with the only view being of big ugly buildings and car parks or box housing with no character. The opportunity to see skylarks ascending with their beautiful song will be no more.

Therefore please Kirklees do not DESTROY this area forever. Attractive walking routes will be DESTROYED, wildlife habitat will be DESTROYED, the character of the area will be DESTROYED, noise and disturbance will INCREASE and traffic problems will INCREASE.