

From:
Sent: 09 October 2025 10:17
To: DC Admin
Subject: Objection 2020/60/92350/E

Re: Planning Application 2020/60/92350/E

I would like to register an objection to the above application for approval of a new S. 106 without reporting to Strategic Planning Committee

As the proposed S106 in draft is materially different to the original, it is clear insist that it must revert to a decision by the full Strategic Planning Committee.

This is made more critical in view of the proposal to use existing ancient woodland for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) funding. This is not legally permitted as land for BNG must be of low ecological value in order to be improved. This precious ancient woodland is not land of low ecological value.

Furthermore, as the construction site is grassland, it cannot be legal or moral to fell ancient woodland to create new grassland. This issue should also be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee for proper consideration.

I am concerned that by ignoring the impact on nature which is in collapse this application transgresses even the limited protection afforded to the site's natural environment wildlife and biodiversity.

I have read counsel's opinion for the Chidswell Action Group, and I am disturbed at the approach of Kirklees Council. I know from attending a recent day school by Calder River Trust that included a workshop on BNG, that Calderdale Council has a staffed programme to apply for and manage BNG. Sadly, this does not appear to be currently an area

of competence in Kirklees Council where officers are fully engaged on statutory responsibilities (e.g. drainage management). This suggests that there are serious flaws in the strategy proposed in this application

The Hon Mr Justice Kerr also commented that biodiversity issues "had not been adequately addressed, in my judgement, at the time the decision under challenge was made; hence the third ground of challenge would have succeeded were it not for SPO(2)". He went on to state "The Committee might well have asked for updated biodiversity work to be done before deciding whether to proceed."

Both these ancient woodlands are of extremely high value to the local communities as amenities. How will this be address whilst at the same time looking to offset, in these established ancient ecosystems, biodiversity loss throughout the whole sites?

There is no commitment to remediate biodiversity loss on site so this could impact the benefits of green recreation on the footpath network in these recreation destination areas. Public open space access is vague.

I write this in a personal capacity as time does not permit organisations to consider a submission. I am a Kirklees resident actively involved in environmental projects throughout Kirklees including in the Batley area in my role as a volunteer director of Environment Kirklees Ltd. I have been instrumental in running two wildlife and biodiversity walks through the area affected by this planning application. I have also previously registered objections to both the Heybeck and Chidswell development for housing and industrial development on behalf of Kirklees Cycling Campaign (on transport issues).