



The countryside charity
West Yorkshire

info@cpwestyorkshire.org.uk

For the attention of Victor Grayson
City of Kirklees Metropolitan District Council
by email

8 October 2025

Dear Sir,

Reference 2020/60/92350/E

CPRE West Yorkshire is concerned about the process by which Kirklees Council has published the revised Section 106 (S106) agreement for the application 2020/60/92350/E: Land south of Heybeck Lane, Chidswell, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury

Following the recent High Court judgment, transparency and accountability in decision-making are more important than ever. We note that the original S106 agreement was not made available during the initial consultation, and the revised version has now been published for only 14 days, with an indication that the application may be determined under delegated authority.

The S106 agreement is fundamental to agreeing on how the impacts of major developments are mitigated and community benefits secured. Limiting access to such a critical document undermines transparency. The ability of residents, community organisations, and statutory consultees to properly assess whether the proposed obligations are fair, sufficient, and enforceable is compromised.

Irrespective of any statutory minimum requirements, we believe this approach falls short of the standards of openness and accountability that the public should reasonably expect, particularly in light of the recent legal outcome. It gives the impression that lessons from the court's judgment have not been fully learned.



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We therefore urge Kirklees Council to:

1. Extend the consultation period to allow adequate public and stakeholder review, consistent with major application standards.
2. Ensure the decision is taken by the Planning Committee in a transparent public forum, rather than under delegated powers.
3. Provide a clear explanation of how the revised S106 agreement addresses the issues identified through the court's findings.

CPRE West Yorkshire is committed to protecting and enhancing the countryside for everyone. We believe that meaningful engagement is the foundation of fair and sustainable planning. Kirklees Council now has an opportunity to rebuild confidence by ensuring that the Chidswell process is open, inclusive, and accountable.

These principles must guide every stage of the Chidswell process.

Yours faithfully,
CPRE West Yorkshire