

11th January 2022

Save Northorpe

By Email

Jacqui Gedman –

Chief Executive Officer –

Kirklees Council

c.c. dc.admin@kirklees.gov.uk

Complaint and Objection

It once again pains me to have to write on behalf of the residents opposed to planning application 2021/91914, on this occasion regarding serious lapses in the conduct of the planning process by your own planning officers.

We are well aware of the high volume of objections which have been submitted to both the postal address and the dc.admin@kirklees.gov.uk email address over the past 7 days. You will appreciate a totally implausible consultation deadline of 8th of January 2022 was set for a wholesale revised application 2021/91914 notified to most residents no sooner than the afternoon of 20th December 2021 but not publicised. Having protested the ridiculous proposition that locals review all the new documents and look for ‘the needle in the haystack’ as to what has changed, the many residents opposed to the utterly flawed development proposal behind 28 Northorpe Lane have endeavoured to articulate their objections in terms which Kirklees’ Planning Department will finally take notice of, and act upon.

In the last week no more objections have appeared on the planning portal for application 2021/91914; we know this to be a failure on the part of the Council since it fails to reflect those additional objections submitted in the interval since 6th January and we need to know what is going on in the corridors of Kirklees Council? Is the Planning Department floundering out of its depth? Has it taken on more work than it can manage? There seems to be a complete mis-match in capability within the department to handle the demands made of it. We residents already objected to an unrealistic deadline to submit comments and this has been completely vindicated by the following:

1. The inability of the council to document our objections
2. The inability of the council to appoint a nominated planning case officer
3. The planning portal no longer receiving direct entry objections through the ‘E-Form’ method of submission.

Public consultation end date

08 Jan 2021

4. which is clearly a nonsense.
5. This is what readers are presented with on the planning portal

Planning application search

Application details

🗨 The period for commenting on this application ended on Thursday 17 June 2021

Application number

2021/62/91914/E

Last updated

05 January 2022

'The commenting on this application ended on 17 June 2021'; how is this not unhelpful and misleading to members of the public ?

All of this seems more than just a coincidence.

Further, we still await a response declaring what legal advice the Council has that the Northorpe Trust owned verge is part of the extent of the Highway, as your Senior Highways Registrar has continually alleged but never offered proper evidence (see previous communications to Planning, Highways and Legal Council Officers and The Director of Development, all filed since December 2019).

There are obviously manifest and serious issues at root within your organisation with regards to Planning matters and your Council Tax paying residents rightly demand answers of you in your role as Public Servants, so far in which you appear to us to be falling well short of the standards expected. We have Legal advice on these matters which we have shared with you but in terms of your response we have seen nothing of any consequence or substance to alter our views.

Our view is this system seems to be massively stacked against members of the public wishing to oppose this application.

We await your explanation to account for the errors and omissions in the handling of this application?

On behalf of Save Northorpe.

We do not wish our personal details to be published on this objection.