

4th January 2022

RE: Planning App 2021/94280
67 Houses at Lady Ann Road, Soothill, Batley

Dear Sir

2021/94280

I object strongly to the plans as I consider it madness to build here for the following reasons:

FLOODING

The land is totally unsuitable for building because of the frequent flooding of the beck. I have lived here for 66 years and have seen the beck flooded on many occasions, with flood water sometimes reaching road level. For 36 years (from 1955) I had an allotment on the site, which I visited on a daily basis, if possible. The allotment often flooded, as did the access bridge (opposite number 80 Lady Ann Rd). Like other allotment holders, I obtained water from natural springs on site.

ACCESS

I am reliant on the bus service but am frequently left stranded because the bus cannot get down the road because of parked cars and the narrowness of the road. This makes it very difficult planning medical appointments. I often have to allow an hour (depending on the time of day) to make sure I do not miss an appointment. I have to resort to taxis, which can be very expensive due to queueing in traffic for long periods as nobody will let cars out into Soothill Lane when it is busy. As a pensioner I can ill afford this extra expense, but I have no choice. It would be quicker to walk to town but due to age and infirmity I cannot do this, but in any case it is not safe for females as all routes are lonely. In recent years I have frequently needed the emergency ambulance and doctor. The ambulance has had to block the road whilst attending to me, on account of there being nowhere to park. So far I have been lucky but I am afraid that one day the ambulance will not make it in time due to the heavy traffic. I feel very vulnerable here already and adding to the traffic problem would just make the sick/elderly more vulnerable. The proposed access road to the site will be subject to flooding and its siting will cause havoc with traffic (a) because the bus stop is outside the factory and (b) because there are often large HGV's parked outside the factory as they are too big to get in the mill yard to unload. This already causes a lot of difficulty for buses and this is where the Wakefield and Dewsbury buses have to pass each other, but often cannot. The situation is made worse by lorries parking for long periods whilst drivers sleep in the early hours before delivering goods to Lady Ann Mills.

NOISE AND LOSS OF AMENITY

The green open space here is an asset to our community. It feels like countryside close to town. As long as I can remember there has been a footpath across the site, leading to Howley Street and Benny Parr Wood beyond, enabling residents to walk their dogs and children to play. The new proposed recreation area would be insufficient recompense for our loss. The buildings would destroy the character of the neighbourhood. It is much better to look out onto green

fields than a concrete jungle. Also the noise levels from traffic frequently disturb residents, especially at night, and there is no escape for those of us who are deaf – I am often woken by the vibrations of the traffic. All the extra traffic would make life unbearable.

WILDLIFE

The site is a haven for endangered species which would have no hope of surviving the major disturbance caused by the proposed works.

Yours faithfully