

About the application

Application number: 2021/92603	
What is the application for?:	Erection of storage and distribution unit (Use Class B8) with ancillary offices,
Address of the site or building:	land west of M62, south of, Whitehall Road, Cleckheaton, BD19 6PL
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

I strongly object to the proposed plans. I also support Save Our Spen's representation on this planning application as I share its concerns.

The original policy regarding this site when removed from Green Belt to Employment, was that only 50% of the site should be developed. The proposed development covers a far greater area, and this begs the question as to why it was not automatically rejected. The chartered surveyor engaged by Save our Spen also notes that the Local Plan Inspector specified that this site was to meet the identified needs of manufacturing businesses, not storage and distribution as proposed. There will be no manufacturing at this site, if the development goes ahead. What are our councillors doing to encourage and promote occupation of empty warehouses all around Kirklees?

The proportions of the proposed warehouse will make it impossible to fit in to the landscape, and no amount of screening will ever be able to hide it. It will be visible for miles around. Local residents will be severely affected by traffic congestion, noise, air pollution, light pollution, and the size of the development will severely restrict their views. The sheer scale of it would be entirely alien to the domestic scale of development in the area. On the Whitechapel Road side the building would be 22m above the road level, and on Whitehall Road it would be an unbelievable 44m! How can instant hedgerows of 1.75m height ever conceal a 22m high warehouse?

The architect states that "The building form and external treatment have been considered in order to reflect the internal requirements of the processes, as well as to be sympathetic to the site's location."

In my opinion, it is clear that the building form has only been considered for the benefit of Amazon, and very little thought has been given to make it sympathetic to the site's location. Indeed, all Amazon warehouses look the same!

Whitechapel Road is residential, connects Scholes village and Cleckheaton, and is used by residents, school children, pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. Many people use the sports pavilion on evenings and weekends. I believe the increased traffic will make this road very dangerous. I also believe that the increase in traffic and the resultant congestion would lead to people avoiding the area altogether, meaning that local businesses and shops will suffer.

The present footpath would have to be moved, meaning more of it would be located alongside the motorway. There has been a separate consultation on this and the outcome needs to be known before any further consideration can be given to the warehouse plans.

In October 2022, the BBC reported that Amazon are making staff redundant on a large scale. Why do we therefore need a huge warehouse in Cleckheaton/Scholes? There are plenty of other Amazon developments in the region, surely this one is not absolutely necessary?

I sincerely hope that the council makes the right decision and rejects this proposal.