

From:
To:
Subject: OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION 2021/62/92603/E
Date: 05 December 2022 20:31:01

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Subject: OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION 2021/62/92603/E (Also uploaded to portal)

OBJECTION SUBMITTED BY

I write for a third time to object to this unconscionable development by Amazon for the following reasons

1. HIGHWAY TRAFFIC CHAOS AND MAJOR CONGESTION – THE BUSIEST JUNCTION (J26/CHAINBAR) ON THE SECOND BUSIEST MORTORWAY IN THE UK. Kirklees has clearly decided to disregard the recommendations in the Local Plan, a Plan that they requested to convince locals to allow the land to be removed from Green Belt. However, it states that “New development will normally be permitted where safe and suitable access can be achieved for all people and where the residual cumulative impacts are not severe”, if you were to adhere to the Local Plan, you would not allow this development.

This junction is where the M62, M606, A58 and A638 meet. There is already congestion on these roads, the slightest disruption results in total gridlock and delays. Any increase in use has an impact, the impact of this development will be catastrophic.

2. MISLEADING INFORMATION

Employment – Amazon are notorious for being a bad company to work for, the obsession with not allowing bathroom breaks has even led to illness in Jeff Bezos’ housekeeper. Amazon’s aim is 90% automation, any employment promised will reduce over time as automation is increased. Amazon are including construction workers in the estimated employment figures, this is very misleading.

Facilities for Drivers – Amazon do not allow vehicles on site outside their allocated time slot, further evidence of Amazon’s abusive employment practices. We can see in other locations that HGVs park where ever they can, blocking roads, access, driveways, and result in waste and nuisance. There are no suitable locations for these HGVs to wait, the 8 locations suggested by developers clearly do not meet the criteria on cursory inspection. This shows the careless and inconsiderate nature of this proposed development. It is also not safe for children to walk to school amongst these parked vehicles, they have blind spots and it will result in accidents and injury to pedestrians.

3. NATIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE

Design and Suitability for the site – The design clearly does not reflect the claim of “a high standard of design that respects the character of the landscape, heritage, adjacent and nearby settlements – reflecting the urban to rural transition with appropriate boundary treatment. It

certainly does not respect our Conservation Village of Scholes, our religious sites – the graveyard and the 900 year old Whitechapel Church site, not to mention the schools and residential area. This field was Green Belt until 2017 and is next to Green Belt fields, it is very possible that Kirklees had this development in mind when it took the field out of Green Belt. Also on the site is a heritage footpath with centuries of history, and adjacent to a religious burial ground and ancient church also a conservation village.

Highways and Access

The Local Plan states that the application must “ensure the safe and efficient flow of traffic within the development and on the surrounding highway network. It certainly does not do that. There are also grave concerns about the use of the Whitechapel Road Exit/Entrance which is supposed to be just for employees but can be used in ‘special circumstances’, the special circumstances are not defined and will more than likely allow continuous use. The road network surrounding Cleckheaton cannot cope with such an increase in use, Junction 26 roundabout, the M62 motorway, the A58 are major roads that suffer with congestion already. Whitechapel Road and the A638 definitely cannot cope with any increase in use or vehicles parking while waiting to be allowed onto the site, the method Amazon uses.

Local air quality - Kirklees has already moved the Air Monitoring Station away from Moorend near Chain Bar roundabout (Junction 26 of the M62) to avoid accurate results, we know the area around the schools and the roads have very high pollution. It is unacceptable to increase pollution in a residential area near to schools.

RESIDENTIAL AREA – the location is too near to houses and schools, it is totally the wrong type of location for such a development.

DESIGN – The design has the largest footprint of an amazon building in the UK, a development of this size belongs on an industrial estate, away from houses and schools, with the transport network that can support it.

HIGHWAY – National Highways have already advised against this development, they should be listened to.

GAS – it is too near to the high pressure gas pipe and is too dangerous to build near.

SUMMARY – This application is an abomination, the company, the location, the size, will all have a devastating effect on the town of Cleckheaton and must not be allowed to go ahead. If Kirklees Planning allow this, the decision will haunt them and ruin their reputation in future. Would you want this development near you?