

I object to the planning application 2022/62/92406/W on the following grounds:

First and foremost the proposed development site is situated on Green Belt Land and should not be permitted. Brownfield sites within the area should have been fully explored before this proposal was even considered.

The development site is situated on a blind bend where serious accidents could arise as vehicles and or pedestrians enter or leave the site. I note that a traffic survey was carried out at the location during the February half term school holiday between the hours of 08.30 and 16.00. This does not give a true and fair representation of traffic use on this road. The survey does not take into account the number of near misses which I have witnessed during my 35 years of being a resident on Chapelgate. There will be an increase of taxi's, delivery drivers, refuse collection vehicles etc etc. The proposed development will allocate 23 parking spaces, with 10 houses being built this will attract more vehicles which will have to park on nearby roads thus creating more potential hazards.

Dean Bridge Lane floods every winter because of the lack of drainage, the new development will only exacerbate the situation.

The infrastructure in the area cannot cope at the moment, Scholes School is full, NHS dentists full, no industry, no jobs. The roads in the area were not constructed for a large number of vehicles.

Loss of biodiversity, the site is home to an abundance of wildlife which would all be lost if the application was approved. On a regular basis I have seen bats, deer and nesting birds on the site.

In 2016 the Holme Valley Parish Council objected to a housing development in Scholes on a number of grounds including:

Roads around Scholes are narrow and often have parked cars on either side. The lack of parking down Paris from the crossroads to the Post Office and then on to Brooklands and Totties garden centre has made these roads into a daily slalom, cars diving in and out of gaps to make progress and avoid other oncoming cars.

Since the re-development of St Georges Club into four houses, cars visiting the Post Office and Boot and Shoe are now parked on the road, making it very narrow.

Buses struggle to get through at times and drivers regularly have to pull in or reverse to allow larger vehicles through. Emergency Services would also have difficulty.

Concerns re additional traffic at school time – both the village primary school and Holmfirth High School have had serious traffic issues for many years, so increasing pupil intake can only make this problem worse.

Access to Scholes via Cross Gate road is difficult and also narrow. In winter this often becomes impassable. This leaves the only sensible access to Scholes as Scholes Moor Road via Hade Edge and, in reality, it is not possible to insist that new people use this as the main access route. People will travel in the direction they need to go and the roads are just not suitable for a large amount of traffic. They are country roads, built primarily for a small amount of traffic and farm vehicles.

The roads are currently in a poor state and will get worse due to an increase in use. However, there are no proposals to improve the highways or increase school places south of Huddersfield over the next 15 years. (NPPF 32/DLP3 refer)

The Parish Council feels that there are other more appropriate sites for development in Kirklees, which should be considered as alternatives to excessive development in the Holme Valley and road/highways infrastructure, and would alleviate the traffic congestion in more rural locations such as Scholes.

There are real concerns that, under the draft Local Plan, there will be no transport infrastructure improvement in South Kirklees despite more homes to be built. Existing roads and road junctions are

already at over-capacity and any further large-scale development in the areas mentioned above is therefore unsustainable.

The above comments were from the Parish council in 2016 and are even more applicable today.

In addition to sending my personal comments here I wish Kirklees Planning Dept. to record my support for the detailed comments being made by Save Our Scholes Green Belt residents group.
Yours faithfully,

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