

The comments and opinions of the local people – the residents of Bankfield Drive, Laithe Avenue the surrounding area – have been continually ignored and over-ruled by Kirklees Planning Dept and Orion Homes. The consultations have merely paid lip service to the process.

There has been an astounding 149 objections so far to this application since Orion submitted planning permission. Many reports have been produced by Orion to justify building, reports with many inaccuracies and omissions, and many statistics produced based on national averages. But the local people know that cramming 21 houses onto this small exposed plot does not make sense – the report in Agenda item 12 for the Strategic Planning meeting of 5 Dec states:-

10.4 “The council’s inability to demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land weighs in favour of housing development” and

10.6 “the 21 dwellings proposed would contribute towards meeting housing delivery targets of the Local Plan.”

Kirklees are willing to go against the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan and increase the recommended density per hectare from 30 to 32 dwellings.

So, Kirklees wants to meet planning targets at the expense of safety on the roads, danger to pedestrians, risks of flooding and wall collapse, sewerage leaks, loss of visual amenity, biodiversity.

Locals know that the steep roads leading to the site are dangerous in inclement weather and that the frequency of ice and snow is higher here. Kirklees admit that the anti-skid surface would have limited impact in snow/ice conditions (10.99 Agenda item 12)

We know that a few more signs will not change how vulnerable pedestrians are as they have to walk in the centre of Smithy Lane past parked cars and along Dobb top Road with no pavements.

We know that increased demand on the ancient sewerage system from the new houses onto Dobb Top Road will only increase the incidence of the already regular sewerage leaks onto Bank Lane, which then leeches into the River Holme. That there is subsidence on Dobb Top Road, that a wall has already collapsed just along from the Northern boundary of the site. That there are signs of collapse of the road on Laithe Bank Drive, making a depression difficult to drive over.

We know that this elevated site is exposed to severe winds from Holme Moss. We know that you can leave Bankfield Drive in a gale and arrive in Holmfirth to a gentle breeze. The wind tunnels created between the new houses especially 7/8/9 and 10/11 will cause damage to the houses on Bankfield Drive in high winds/storms.

We know that the traffic surveys done by Orion were done in the school holidays and are therefore inaccurate.

We know that if the supporting wall for the site on Dobb Top Road is not strong enough it will collapse and could cause damage and/or flooding to the houses below on Smithy Lane.

WE KNOW THAT THIS PLANNING APPLICATION TO BUILD 21 HOUSES SHOULD BE TURNED DOWN.