

Application Number: 2023/91212

Location: Land off, Bankfield Drive, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, HD9 2PH

I object to this development for the following reasons **highway safety**, **access issues** and **affect on wildlife**.

Land to the West of Bankfield Drive

This development will increase traffic up and down steep access roads - 16 houses 2 cars each, in and out once a day · Possible extra 64 vehicles up and down per day + visitors & deliveries.

Transport Statement Errors

Many errors and assumptions appear in the applicant's transport statement, the most egregious being references to road safety. The only roads providing access to the proposed development, Bankfield Drive and Laithe Bank Drive, are both very steep at their lower ends, terminating with a wall along Dobb Top Road acting as a barrier to a 40ft/12m drop. The transport statement, whilst recognising that both of these roads and pavements may be slippery in wet/icy conditions, states these to be "the responsibility of the council". However these roads and footways are NOT kept safe now. Why therefore, when subject to greater vehicle and footfall traffic, is it assumed the Council will continue to do what it is singularly not doing now?

Bankfield Drive

Very steep (gradient 1:5) · NOT gritted · Dangerous in icy conditions · Extreme corners (at steepest point) · Narrow Bankfield Drive joins Dobb Top Road opposite approx. 40ft/12m drop with a history of vehicle accidents requiring wall repair · Pavements in poor condition, unusable in wet/icy conditions requiring pedestrians to walk in the road.



Bankfield Drive (north) Junction

5 roads converge · Steep · Narrow · No pavements · Blind corners · Minibus route · Rural School route
Frequently used as turning between Smithy Lane & Dobb Top Road (west)

Laithe Bank Drive

Steep (gradient 1:6) · NOT gritted · Accidents have occurred damaging wall along Dobb Top Road

Smithy Lane

Narrow · Steep · No pavements · On-street parking · Rural School route · Minibus route · Dangerous junctions - top and bottom.

Top/east - 5 way - Bankfield Drive, Dobb Top Road, Laithe Bank Dr.

Bottom/west - 3 way - junction of Bank Lane (no pavement) + entrance to MM Motors etc.

Bus Stop / High School Bus Stop

Main pick-up/drop-off point for high school children filtering via Dobb Top Road

Pre-School route (breakfast & after school club)

Woodhead Rd (Band Room) via Smithy Lane, Dobb Top Road to Hinchliffe Mill School

Dobb Top Road

Subsidence · Narrow · Rural School Route · Minibus route

No pavements on most of route Yorkshire Cycle Route (Sustrans) via Dobb Top Road to Acre Lane

3 x Blind corners · On-street parking

Hinchliffe Mill School

Parents pick-up/drop-off · On-street parking · Rural School Route · No pavement · Blind corner · Minibus route

Dobb Lane

Rural School Route · No pavement · On-street parking

Water Street Development

Scheduled to start 2024, will add to congestion following completion of 19 addition dwellings + vehicles

Co-Op Lane

Narrow · Steep · Rural School route · Minibus route

Difficult access via Co-Op Lane and Old Road onto Woodhead Road

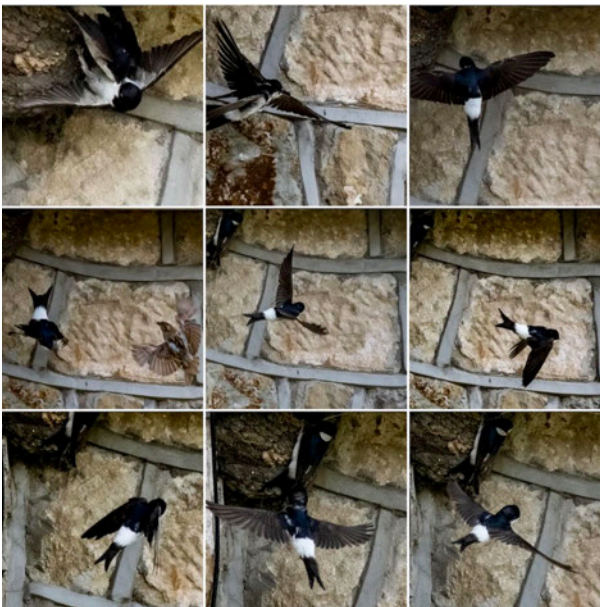
Woodhead Road

Additional housing development has led to increased traffic whilst heavy on-street parking has created a 'rat-run' along this busy main link road. Main bus route to Holme and minibus route. Speeding vehicles and noise-pollution concerns expressed by HVPC.

Wildlife issues

Regular users of the site include House Martins, Barn Owls and Bats. Properties adjacent to the site play host to House Martins. Disturbance during the building of the estate will likely undermine these habitations, threatening their reoccupation. UK is recognised as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, it would be unforgivable to make it more so.

House Martins nesting at



Owl hunting over site of proposed development



Small House Martin colony on the telegraph pole at the entrance to the proposed development from Laithe Ave



Large colony (approx 500) House Martins immediately south of proposed development



Yours sincerely