Consultation Response from KC Public Health
2023/91300 Newsome Mills, Hart Street, Newsome, Huddersfield, HD4 6JF
Redevelopment, consisting of the alteration, extension, and part demolition of Grade II listed Newsome Mills complex to host 45 apartments and erection of 33 dwellings, with associated works (Listed Building)
Date Responded: 28th June 2023 Responding Officer: Louise Muhammad Responding Ref: 2023/91300 PH

Kirklees COUNCIL

This response is from the Public Health Improvement Team.

In Kirklees, the Public Health Improvement Team has developed a rapid health impact assessment (HIA) framework and guidance tool for planning applications. The purpose of this is to assess the broad health impacts of proposed developments. The rapid HIA is a material consideration in the Kirklees Local Plan and is listed in the Kirklees Validation List.

The Public Health Improvement Team will carry out its responsibilities, as a consultee for the Kirklees Planning Authority to:

- Apply an agreed rapid HIA screening methodology at the pre-application / application stage, to identify if a rapid HIA is required for a proposed development.

- Review and respond to a submitted HIA, focusing on the health improvement themes relevant to local and national planning policy and the public health priorities which impact on the immediate and surrounding areas of the proposed development.

The Public Health Improvement Team do not provide specialist technical advice or feedback on development proposals, such as around waste, noise or air quality. This responsibility lies with other council teams and their responses will be provided separately.

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Newsome Ward is one of the five most deprived wards in Kirklees, as ranked using data on Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Local intelligence shows that the following health indicators for adults within Newsome Ward, where the proposed development is taking place, are higher than the Kirklees average.

- Rates of adults feeling lonely or isolated – OVER 65

The submitted rapid health impact assessment has been reviewed. The Public Health Improvement Team have identified further measures and considerations surrounding the development issues, as outlined in the table below, which look to enhance the proposed development and further improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people and place. We kindly request that the measures set out in the table for each development issue are incorporated into the submitted Rapid Health Impact Assessment and implemented should the application progress.

Development issue	Further measures and considerations

Construction phase	Kirklees PH Team welcomes the publication of a suitable CEMP as soon as possible that details how issues relating to air quality, noise and all the other listed as negative/unsure of impact will be mitigated throughout the construction phase. The developer should ensure that the CEMP and related comms includes personal safety measures and the provision of security on site outside of operating hours, as a mitigation measure to prevent anti-social behaviour and crime. We acknowledge the work done to engage with and address the concerns of local communities and recommend that this level of engagement continues throughout the construction phase, using a mixture of channels. This will ensure that there continue to be opportunities for ongoing communication with local communities to keep people informed and for them to raise any issues or concerns, and for these to be picked up and addressed by the developer. We would recommend that the developer develops and implements a comprehensive communications plan to outline the operating timescales of construction works, likely disruption and mitigation measures (e.g., diversions/alternative routes for all users of roads and public pathways, including Public Rights of Way), etc. This should be made available using appropriate comms channels for the existing and surrounding communities in advance of the construction works commencing and during the construction phases thereafter. We would recommend that the developer makes provisions to support the health and wellbeing of staff employed as part of the construction phase, including: - - The developer to make provision for safe and secure cycle parking on site for staff wishing to travel actively during the construction phase. - The developer and appointed site contractors to link in with local health and wellbeing programmes / support services where appropriate and display information for staff working on site. For example, Kirklees Wellness Service (https://kirkleeswellnessservice.co.uk/) provides support around smoking cessation, healthy weight, mental health, etc.
Housing	Public Health welcomes the inclusion of the needs of older people, those with mental health and learning disabilities at the forefront of the development with a variety of accommodation styles and designs with accessibility imbedded. The full provision of affordable homes within this development is welcomed as is the mix of 'to rent' or 'part ownership' options. The use of air source heat pumps and solar panels incorporating energy efficient design are also noted and that the development is aiming to achieve the 'Future Homes Standard'

Active travel and sustainable transport	The conscious decision to design pedestrian friendly streets and keep vehicular access to specific areas of the development is welcomed. PH would encourage the developer further explore the proposal for a car club on site going forward and to monitor its impact. The cycle storage to promote active travel is welcomed. The development is close to bus and train routes with a range of options for work and leisure travel. Information and timetables should be made available to construction workers etc.
Access to open and green spaces	The documents and plans indicate appropriate consideration of open and green spaces throughout the development. The linking of the development with the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network should be further explored as the development progresses. Public health welcomes the provision of trees in the development. We would encourage that for safety and security that these are planted in a way that allows clear line of site from dwellings.
Access to healthy and affordable food	We would welcome further clarity on access to healthy affordable food in view of the targeted demographic (older people and those with vulnerabilities). Although there is access to public transport to larger supermarkets/the town centre, for some residents it may be necessary to access much more local grocery provision. The food provision on Church street as referenced in the HIA is limited, with high provision of fast food outlets and limited grocery offerings.
Community and personal safety	The plans show well-designed communal spaces that are pedestrian friendly. The design of the roofs to facilitate good daylight onto streets is positive. Public Health would encourage consideration to adequate lighting and lines of sight to ensure streets are well lit to promote safety.
Employment and economic vibrancy	The proposed development is located close to established businesses. We encourage the developer to work with these businesses to minimise disruption during the construction phase. It is not clear from the documents available whether or not the development creates any new employment opportunities. *We would recommend that: -* - The developer liaises with local skills, training and employment programmes led / commissioned by Kirklees Council, as well as local apprenticeship schemes, to support local labour opportunities available during the development phase. - Where supply chains are in place, the developer requests all contractors / sub-contractors to support positive employment opportunities and encourage health and wellbeing in the workplace.'

	However, if this information already exists in documents submitted as part of the application, we would welcome being signposted to the appropriate points in these documents.
Community cohesion and social support	PH acknowledge the communal/green spaces outlined throughout the design. The addition of adequate seating areas dotted around would also help to foster relationships (if this is mentioned already we would welcome being signposted to the appropriate documentation). Although the development does not specifically provide an 'community' centre/facility or 'club' PH would recommend that the new residents are provided with information regarding what is available in the area.
Climate change	PH acknowledge the Climate Change statement outlining the ways in which the development will mitigate impacts. Public health welcome the provision of EV charging points however details of the number have not been made available. PH recommend adhering to current guidance which where there are more than 10 parking spaces then at least one charge point must be installed. Cable routes must also be provided for each space. See WYLES Technical Planning Guidance (currently being updated to reflect below legislation) - https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/crime-and-safety/pdf/WYLES-air-quality-and-emissions-planning-technical-guide.pdf Building Regulations, Document S - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057375/AD_S.pdf