

Address: 13 Elmfield Road Huddersfield HD2 2XH

About the application

Application number: 2023/92266	
What is the application for?:	Demolition of part of boundary wall to create entrance for off street parking (w
Address of the site or building:	50, Birkby Lodge Road, Birkby, Huddersfield, HD2 2BG
Postcode:	HD2 2BG

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No

I object strongly to this application firstly and predominantly on the grounds of highway and public safety. It is misleading that this is merely a matter of a boundary wall being demolished. The access to the garden of number 50 which the plans suggest is along a very well used public footpath, the entrance and exit from which is via a narrow and characterful old stone gateway and onto a part of the road just below a very dangerous bend and right next to a bus stop. I was surprised the highways officer last time this was raised did not object, perhaps because they had not been to the area and seen the situation with the cars and buses sometimes coming fast down the hill and around the sharp bend and the parked cars to the other side causing awkward meeting and passing situations. As a volunteer at the wildlife garden adjoining the property I have seen one or two cars attempt to temporarily back into end of the footpath next to the electricity sub station, when delivering wood chips etc. and the narrowness and the angle, along with people passing on foot, made this very tricky. The footpath links with two other footpaths, linking 3 parts of Birkby and providing the main access to the wildlife garden. Many children use the path to access the 3 (or even 4) nearby primary schools, particularly St Patrick's and Birkby Infant and Nursery School. I myself used it as a route to school when my children were younger. Also the route is well used by dog walkers and others.

My other objections are on the grounds of damage to trees and wildlife, and to the character of the conservation area. The trees in the garden have already suffered from the clearing of the garden. Building a driveway and having cars driving over the footpath seems to me bound to have a bad effect on the vegetation and wildlife. Much of the old dry stone wall around the garden has collapsed due to the excavation work. The wall nearer the road and near to the listed Birkby Lodge needs to be retained and I think must be quite a lot higher than the metre which I am given to understand is the height at which permission needs to be sought.

The 2 cottages of which 50 is one appear on a map dated about 1790 and are among the oldest buildings in Birkby. While I can understand the new residents wanting extensions I think the view of the site from the road, the angles of the houses and the old stone walls are part of the local scenery we need to protect.