

Letter of Objection to Planning Application

19 Elm Court

Highburton, HD8 0TB

31st March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to Planning Application 2023/93667 – Storthes Hall Park

I am writing to formally object to the above planning application.

Impact on Local Traffic

As a resident of Highburton I travel on Storthes Hall Lane regularly and to introduce a set of traffic lights on the narrow bridge will cause traffic to back up in all directions.

The proposed development will significantly increase traffic in the area, potentially 400 extra car journeys at peak times as there is no public transport in the immediate area. The majority of households will need a car or 2 to be able to commute, although the computer model study provided with the application implies that a large number of residents will be working from home. A recent study commissioned by the RAC advises that 70% of those living in rural areas will use cars to commute.

The local infrastructure is not equipped to handle the increased volume of vehicles, which will exacerbate existing traffic problems.

Trying to exit Storthes Hall Lane onto Penistone Road can already take a significant amount of time due to the volume of traffic that already uses this route. This is before the new developments at Jumble Wood and Rowley Lane are completed. Traffic trying to turn right out of the junction can already cause a tail back over the bridge which is too narrow for 2 vehicles to pass.

Having driven this road for the past 30 years I think I have come across every type of vehicle from 40t bulk ore carriers, large tractors with trailers/slurry tanks on tow, horseboxes and various sizes of car. The proposal to close ½ the bridge to vehicles to accommodate a footpath makes no consideration for the vehicles that already travel this route.

I understand that there is a wider issue associated with these proposals and that is the proliferation of double yellow lines on Storthes Hall Lane and Penistone Road, which will affect the lives of both local residents and local businesses.

Impact on Local Business

There are 3 businesses situated at the bottom of Storthes Hall Lane/ Dene Bottom. One business operates 18t vehicles to transport street lighting standards. The plant business operates 28t rigid body tipping vehicles and 40t articulated vehicles whereas Loading Systems have deliveries and collections by articulated vehicles. Changes to the road layout will have an impact on both the existing businesses and other traffic trying to negotiate a traffic light system that will be operational outside all of their depots.

There is also likely to be a negative impact on Spring Grove Fisheries as a reduction in available parking spaces coupled with zig zag lines will put people off trying to find a safe location to stop and potentially cause them to drive past to find an alternative with more accessible parking.

Environmental Concerns

The development poses a threat to the local environment, including risks to wildlife, green spaces and well-established trees. The construction process will likely produce noise, pollution, and disruption, negatively impacting the community's well-being.

Inadequate Public Services

The local area already struggles with inadequate public services, including healthcare, education, and social amenities. The influx of new residents will further strain these services, making it difficult to maintain acceptable standards. As previously mentioned, there isn't a bus service in the immediate area and the service that runs on Penistone Road isn't as frequent as in previous years due, I would imagine to the reduction in passenger numbers. The more regular bus service operates via Far Dean, Highburton which is an even further walk away from the proposed development.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the council to reject this planning application. The proposed development is not suitable for our community and will have lasting negative effects on the residents and the local environment.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that you will take these concerns seriously and act in the best interest of the community.

Yours faithfully,