

The land is green belt land on the outside of the village boundary, joining the hamlet of Stocksmoor with the cottages in the area known as Sunside.

This land was earmarked as a safeguarded site in the Kirklees local plan so should not be used for any development or considered for any change of use until the end of the local plan period (2031).

A developer can only attempt to secure permission to build on a safeguarded site if the local authority cannot demonstrate that it has a five year supply of land available for housebuilding as required by the government. I believe in the current Kirklees development plan there is a supply of land available without resorting to the use of Safeguarded land. With the potential development at the huge Storthes hall site nearby as well as the developments in Shepley the local housing sites allocated by Kirklees in this area is enough to satisfy government policy so I believe that planning permission should be declined for this reason alone.

After the current plan expires this land is still not the most sustainable or sensible place for new homes.

There is little public transport , 1 train per hour, 1 buse per 2-3 hours with none running on a Sunday (quite different from the figures the developers suggested).

All amenities are in the Shepley area, shop, church, School, Pharmacy, Doctors, library, nursery, council tip and the route to the motorway etc, with 100 extra cars minimum in the proposed development there would more journeys than calculated from the model used from the developers. This road is part of the Pennine cycle way and will damage this local amenity plus cause issue on what is a long single track road to Shepley.

There is very limited visibility to see oncoming cars and minimal passing places meaning cars need to often reverse around blind bends. It is human nature to use the shortest and quickest route so contrary to the developers report , cars from the proposed development driving to shepley would use Shepley road through Stoneswood. Walking this route would become more hazardous with an extra 50-100 extra vehicle journeys per day using this route. The alternative route through Dam hill that the developers suggest is still unsuitable for high volumes of traffic with a difficult junction onto the Penistone road.

The council should be agreeing to sites where transport is more environmentally sustainable with use of public transport, cycling or walking. There are no pavements on the short distance to Shepley so for safety it is likely that trips to Shepley by adults or children would be by car. The entrance to the site is on a bend with cars potentially swinging out into oncoming traffic. This cannot be sensible or safe and the danger and consequences of increasing traffic entering and using an unsuitable road should not be underestimated.

Transport and safety are the main issues with the site. Other considerations should be the limitations of the local sewerage /drainage in the area which wouldn't support this extra level of flowrate in the sewer. The local habitat will be irreparably damaged, with wildlife displaced and with any rainwater runoff going to the local beck there is the potential for contamination and increase of flooding downstream during heavy rain.