



I have lived in the village of Stocksmoor since 1981 and have seen a number of housing developments within the village but feel the proposed development of 50 houses is far too big, it will increase the village by 30%. The materials specified for the houses are not in keeping with many of the houses in the village. The site chosen rises steeply up to the rear of the houses on Station Road and will therefore overlook and block light from those properties, not to mention obscure the open view of the country side.

The entrance to the site is near a blind bend, turning left out of the entrance traffic will be on a narrow, single track road, leading to Shepley and beyond, with no formal passing places and a number of blind bends. At peak times (morning & evening) many vehicles use this road as a shortcut to Huddersfield rather than use the busy A629. To suggest that residents of the development will not use this route and go via Birks Lane and Dam Hill seems unrealistic. Both these roads are again narrow and not suitable for large volumes of traffic. The cross roads in the village, Fulstone Road/Wells House has seen a number of accidents in the last 6 months and a fatality in 2001.

Residents in the proposed housing would need to travel to work, schools, doctors, shops etc. Stocksmoor is not well served by public transport, there is a two hourly bus service to Huddersfield Monday to Saturday, no service Sunday, and an hourly train service to Sheffield and Huddersfield. Residents rely more often on their cars to access local amenities.

50 houses will put a strain on existing utilities which already at times cannot cope. After heavy or persistent rain, water runs down Station Road and floods driveways and at the bottom of Dam Hill causes raw sewerage to bubble up onto the road surface.

The Environmental impact on such a development is a great concern, the adjacent woods and fields provide habitat for owls, deer, badgers, bats, rabbits and hedgehogs. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders all enjoy the peaceful and beautiful countryside.

The Economic benefits of the development to the village is very small, it might provide short term employment opportunities but this will be outweighed by the disturbance caused by lorries and construction vehicles visiting the site. There are no work opportunities in the village and not everyone is able to work from home, there is in fact a move to encourage employees back to places of work which will also add to the increase in traffic.