

Re application no 2024/62/91242/E

Newlett Homes, Land north east of Shepley road, Stocksmoor, Huddersfield HD4 6XW

I object to the proposed development for the following reasons:

Stocksmoor is a small, peaceful village which does not have the infrastructure or amenities to support significant additional development. The proposed development would increase the village footprint by approximately 30% which would have significant impact on the local highway infrastructure, environment and mental wellbeing of existing residents.

The proposed entrance on Shepley road is on a dangerous bend on a road which becomes Stone Wood Lane. This road is used as a cut through by people from neighbouring villages (and sat nav users who are directed there and do not know the layout of the road). There is already far too much traffic on the road. Increasing the village size by 50 houses will result in 100+ additional vehicles tempted to use the road. The suggested longer way round through to Shepley in the plans will not appeal to people who are time-poor.

The proposed entrance on a dangerous bend is on an already too busy cut through – I have witnessed numerous incidents on Stone Wood Lane. There may not be any collisions noted but most people will not report the inevitable scratches on their cars – or indeed the standoffs that result in neither car driver willing to budge when inevitably meeting oncoming traffic on the c.1km strip of single track road. Bullying is abhorrent and I have seen it in the behaviour of those car drivers who are determined to stick to the rules of the highway code and refuse to move in order to let other drivers through.

The period of building the houses will be even worse for existing residents of Stocksmoor than when the building work is completed. The associated works traffic trying to navigate the narrow surrounding roads in their huge lorries with building material will make driving locally dangerous. A lot of the villagers are of retirement age and will feel intimidated and unwilling to drive their cars in case they meet huge waggons using the narrow surrounding roads. The impact of these lorries on the hamlet of Thunderbridge is unthinkable – lorries constantly driving through the narrow village road with no awareness of the wedding venue (The Woodman) which is on both sides of the road which is seen as part of the venue by many of the guests.

The peaceful nature of Stocksmoor will be destroyed during the building period (and beyond) – not only by the works traffic but also by the nature of such a building site. Houses surrounding the site will have their peace destroyed by noise – construction machinery, builders' radios, builders' banter (and worse) – from dawn until dusk. The thought of this noise pollution for the period of building fills me with dread.

My next objection is personal – but it's important to me. I live in one of the houses that backs onto the proposed development site. I note the plans talk about 'unusually large rear gardens'. I chose this house for that very reason. A large garden does not take away the fact that there will be a housing estate at the bottom of it in full view of my house. If I had wanted to live on a housing estate I would have bought a house elsewhere. I will lose my privacy and my beautiful outlook onto the peaceful field and the lovely tranquil space that it currently is. If this development goes ahead, how will you be recompensing home owners for the inevitable drop in value of their homes?

As if loss of privacy wasn't enough, the proposed construction will be visible throughout the village, creating a blot on the landscape. The quality of the materials proposed is cheap and not in keeping with the current village style. I would be looking out onto a hideous housing development.

I also question the assertions in the transport impact assessment. Buses do not run hourly and there is no service on a Sunday. Don't fool yourselves that people could manage without a car in Stocksmoor. Very few people could manage purely using the bus or train – so the increase in traffic in the village will be significant.

I would also like to point out that there are no amenities in the village (other than the pub) so trips to the shops/schools/doctors would inevitably be by car...

Stocksmoor

I do not wish my address to be published.