



Stocksmoor is a beautiful, rural village and such a large development will significantly change the character of the village. 50 houses is far too many to add to a village of only about 170 houses with no local amenities.

My understanding of new planning developments is that they need to be sustainable and encourage sustainable living. I cannot see any social benefits with this proposal as very few of the houses are affordable (not many houses in Stocksmoor are affordable), no jobs will be created, and whilst Kirklees will gain financially, they will do anyway if these houses are built in a more suitable location.

The local environment, which is one of the best things about Stocksmoor, will be adversely affected. This field is near the woods and is home to lots of wildlife like deer, bats, owls, rabbits, and this development will wipe out a large part of their natural habitat.

This development will lead to an increase in the use of cars because the local transport services are very limited. Buses are only every two to three hours and the trains are unreliable. In order to go to work, go to the shops, the local GP practice, new residents will need to use their cars. To suggest they will walk or work from home is just nonsense.

This will impact on the local roads and the road most likely to be affected is the road to Shepley, Stone Wood Lane, which is single track for most of its length with very few places to pass. Shepley is where the local shop is and where the GP practice is so is bound to be used by new residents. They will not drive the long way round like Newett Homes are suggesting and even if they do, Dam Hill is another road which can't take much more traffic. The chances of accidents, confrontations, road rage, is a real concern and needs to be avoided. Walking on this road is not pleasant now but you have to access the woods, and so this will only increase safety concerns for walkers and cyclists.

The access to the site is on a bend and entering and leaving the site will be dangerous to both the new residents and traffic passing on Shepley Road and Stone Wood Lane.

The new houses are not in keeping with the character of the village which is an important aspect of planning guidelines and will in effect, be a mini housing estate on the edge of the village with no integration into village life. Stocksmead development was different in that it is in the middle of the village.

New houses are needed in Kirklees but this is just the wrong location for them for the reasons above and should be rejected.