

DCAdmin

From:
Sent: 17 June 2024 22:00
To: DCAdmin
Cc: Cllr JohnJ Taylor; Cllr Richard Smith; Cllr Bill Armer
Subject: Planning application ref 2024/62/91242/E

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The above application relates to a proposed development of 50 new houses on the edge of Stocksmoor village. Whilst I believe the density of this development detracts from the overall current layout of the village, I accept the need for more house building both locally and nationally.

There will, however, be considerable strain on the area's infrastructure. We already experience irregular short term power cuts, heavy rain results in flooding and sewage overflow in Thunderbridge just downhill from Stocksmoor and certain areas of the village suffer from low mains water pressure. It would appear the application takes no account of these factors. There are only two health centres in the immediate area and the two local primary schools are highly rated and have few vacancies.

Overall, my main concern is the road safety aspect of the development. Fifty houses will equate to another 80 to 100 motor vehicles in the village, many being used for quick trips to shops in nearby villages (Stocksmoor has no shop) since local bus and train services are infrequent and inconvenient. The proposed entrance to the site is off a narrow lane, at the apex of a bad bend at the top of a small hill, with extremely limited visibility to the left as one leaves the site.

The lane, which runs between Stocksmoor and Shepley, is less than two vehicles wide for much of its length, has many bends and twists, is unlit and has no footpath. Despite this, it is preferred by many motorists to the much safer route along Penistone Road and thence via Thunderbridge since it is much shorter. It is quite a rat run at school times and at the end of the working day, and can be hazardous for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, to say nothing of arguments arising when vehicles meet at points where one must reverse in order that both may pass.

Leaving the site to the right, there is a cross roads less than 100 yards away, with poor visibility due to the existing houses sited on the corners and the gentle bend of Station Road as it approached the junction. There are regular minor accidents at this junction, with a fatality some years ago. Crossing the junction and proceeding along Cross Lane leads to a sloping tee junction with Stocksmoor Road, another site of regular mishaps. All this before the arrival of the vehicles on the proposed development.

Stocksmoor lies on back routes between the main Penistone Road and the villages of the Holme valley and these unlit lanes without pavements, including the one detailed above, are widely used by locals to avoid traffic or merely as a short cut. Familiarity with the lanes results in traffic travelling quite quickly with little regard for others. The new development will exacerbate this.

In view of the above, I believe the development should not be permitted in its present form.

44 Stocksmoor Road
Stocksmoor