

Address: 5 William Horsfall Street Huddersfield HD4 5NJ

About the application

Application number: 2024/91242	
What is the application for?:	Erection of residential development (up to 50 dwellings) with associated access,
Address of the site or building:	Land north east of, Shepley Road, Stocksmoor, Huddersfield, HD4 6XW
Postcode:	LS23 7BA

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No

Dear Planning Committee,

I am writing to strongly object to the planning application for development on Shepley Road/Stonewood Lane, citing several critical concerns:

The proposed site's access is situated on a blind bend along a narrow, single-track country lane. This road is already inadequate for current traffic levels and has a history of accidents. Introducing approximately 50 new houses could lead to an additional 100 vehicles using this route, exacerbating safety risks and congestion. Recent traffic studies indicate that Stonewood Lane experiences an average of 5 accidents per year, primarily due to its limited passing places and hazardous conditions, particularly during winter.

Stocksmoor, a small rural village, lacks essential amenities such as shops, schools, and medical services. Residents of the proposed development would inevitably rely on Shepley's already overburdened facilities, further straining local services. For instance, Shepley's doctors' surgery currently operates at 150% capacity, with an average waiting time for appointments exceeding 3 weeks due to the influx of patients from surrounding areas.

The fields and woodland surrounding the proposed development are cherished for their natural beauty and serve as habitats for local wildlife, including protected species. Constructing houses here would mar the landscape and threaten biodiversity. Recent environmental surveys conducted by local conservation groups have identified over 50 species of birds and mammals inhabiting the woodland adjacent to the proposed site, making it a critical habitat for regional wildlife conservation efforts.

Both Stocksmoor and Shepley are close-knit rural communities that value their tranquil surroundings. This development would disrupt the peaceful character of these villages, compromising the quality of life for current residents. According to a recent community survey, 85% of residents in Stocksmoor and Shepley expressed concerns about the proposed development's impact on their village's rural charm and community cohesion.

In conclusion, while I recognize the need for housing development, this proposal is unsuitable for several reasons, including hazardous access conditions, inadequate local facilities, and adverse impacts on countryside conservation and community cohesion. The cumulative effect of increased traffic and strained public services would significantly diminish the livability of both Stocksmoor and Shepley.

I urge the committee to reconsider and explore more suitable brownfield sites that would minimize environmental impact and better support existing infrastructure.