

Address: 8 Stocksmead Court Huddersfield HD4 6ZA

About the application

Application number: 2024/62/91242/E	
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

This development is too big and will increase the size of an isolated village by 30%, while at the same time change the whole character of the village. The single-track access road into the site, and the one that residents will use (in reality) is dangerous, particularly in the winter, and will cause more accidents if used by more commuters. The transport situation in the village is poor with the link train not suitable for commuters and is unreliable to catch trains to Manchester and Leeds. The local, very limited bus service is almost entirely used by the elderly without their own transport - it is not used by working individuals who find it unreliable, expensive and too irregular.

The suggestion to use the Penistone Rd as an alternative for cars is flawed – people will revert to the shortest, quickest route which is totally unsafe. If more cars are to take the longer route option to Penistone Rd, this will cause further issue; for example, on Birks Lane, we have The Woodman Inn, with its wedding venue and main building separated by the busy road, which means staff and customers (including children) are constantly crossing over a busy road.

Cycling to work, even in the summer, is very rare due to the significant undulations involved, while ice, regular flooding, busy roads and poor lighting take commuter cycling to zero in the winter – we do see organised daytime social cycling groups in the summer months.

The local school capacity isn't clear which might increase car travel and road miles to neighbouring schools, and leave children isolated from their school friends.

Working from home is reducing gradually post Covid and companies are more and more insisting on employees being present, while most jobs, including key worker roles and those in the public sector, cannot be done from home. We can already see that most houses in the isolated Village of Stocksmoor have two or more cars.

The sustainability development assessment is out of date. The height of the dwellings will remove the open views across the countryside and the brick make-up of the dwellings is out of keeping with most houses in Stocksmoor. We also suffer from surface water issues and regular power outages. It is not clear how this new development will impact further on both.

The proposed development will have an adverse impact on the rural landscape quality and on the local biodiversity. The landscape assessment includes a wider area than just Stocksmoor and the immediate site, which leads to a dilution of the value to which residents place on the site and reduces the severity of impact the development will have. Just because an area is not in a national park or other protected status does not mean it's important or has scenic value. The greenbelt around the village is important, it is beautiful and valued by the villagers and the many who come here to enjoy the wonderful walks and views we have on our doorstep.