

## DCAdmin

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 22 June 2024 18:23  
**To:** DCAdmin  
**Cc:** Cllr Bill Armer; Cllr JohnJ Taylor; Cllr Richard Smith  
**Subject:** Planning Application Number 2024/62/91242/E

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Good evening,

I hereby register my objection to the above planning application.

Firstly, reading through the application, it mentions biodiversity and geological conservation (around page 6 of 15), stating there are no protected and priority species, but there are. It also states 'no' to 'features of geological conservation importance', when the landscape of the site and neighbouring ancient woodland are both. There seems to be no mention of biodiversity net gain, which is a requirement in the national planning policy framework. Furthermore the application states 'no' to the question: 'does the development site have irreplaceable habitats', which it clearly has. The site has been long known to already provide a habitat for various wild animals, birds and insects, an examples of these have been recorded online on the Stockmoor Green Protectors Facebook group.

Water and flooding is also an issue, which I note that the highways department of the council and Yorkshire Water are well aware.

On the plan (Z159.008, ID 1039989) 'Secure by design layout', the site is erroneously described as 'Wentworth Drive, Emley'. This is a shocking error, and this lack of care suggests the application was pushed through too quickly and without any careful checking. It looks unprofessional.

It would be essential to know whether any consideration has been given to the stream at the bottom of the site in question, Stone Wood Dike? It is a protected area due to its mineral and geological features, but would surely suffer badly with any development (building waste and all materials washed down by regular rainfall) on the field above it. On the subject of climate, and to quote from the Köppen meteorological classification, the Pennines' uplands have more precipitation, stronger winds and colder weather than lower areas. The site elevation is around 200 metres, in contrast to 90 metres for Huddersfield. Environmental organisations such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, the Woodland Trust and the Wildlife Trust have been informed about the proposed development in such a environmentally sensitive area.

It is most alarming to read the transport assessment prepared by Andrew Moseley. I can confirm that the existing public transport is poor, the bus service is every 2 hours (not every hour as mentioned) with limited services in the evenings and at weekends. The railway service is also unreliable with many cancellations, strikes and the effects of frequent industrial action. However, the comment in the assessment that the proposed buildings 'will not result in detrimental impact on the road network' is utter rubbish, and this comment must surely be disregarded. Is it not clear

that the most preferred method of travel will be by car, let alone an increase in delivery vans due to no shops, etc.?

A recent road traffic survey conducted in Stocksmoor recently showed current activity on Shepley Road / Stone Wood Lane. I have doubts about the comment that no collisions have been recorded in the past 5 years. Recorded where and by whom? It certainly doesn't ring true with comments from those people who use this road, with many dangerous near misses. And just because accidents of any nature haven't been 'recorded' does not mean to say they have not been happening. I also see in the supporting information that some traffic survey apparently lasting 7 days was conducted, but this only provides a tiny snapshot and can hardly be considered as truly representative. Consulting the relevant communities on this matter might have been a better option.

As a resident of Stocksmoor I feel very unsafe at times walking into Shepley from Shepley Road into Stone Wood Lane, given the speed and size of the vehicles passing by. Visibility is greatly reduced given the single lane width of the road (these lanes are quite typical for this area) and often vehicles pass pedestrians with too little space and too quickly between the vehicle and the person. It isn't just vehicles using the road, there are residents walking, horse riders, walker groups, groups of children, people with dogs, joggers, cyclists. There is also regular agricultural traffic given the rural location. Any increase in traffic generated from 100 – 150 new cars from the proposed site – as well as visitors to the proposed houses - would have seriously dangerous consequences. The fact that people (as mentioned in the planning report of the application) would use Penistone Road (to travel between Stocksmoor and Shepley) instead of Shepley Road / Stone Wood Lane is hardly credible, if you look at the geography. Further, there are no shops, schools, or medical centres in Stocksmoor, so there would inevitably be more traffic for the reasons given above.

Looking at the travel plan, it is ludicrous to suggest that any new residents on the proposed site would be mainly home-working and that would lessen the impact of travel. This makes no sense to me at all, when the government is seeking to increase people working on business premises to help the economies of towns and cities.

Regarding planning processes, I am concerned about the process for safeguarding land and community consultation, and have doubts as to whether all processes have been correctly and fairly followed, and I wonder if these have all been carefully examined.

The houses on the plan look very similar and uninteresting and would do nothing but detract from the character of properties in the village, which are virtually all of local stone with older, more aesthetically pleasing features. The houses proposed also do not appear to use local materials, and I don't believe it is the sort of development as laid down in the national planning policy framework.

The idea of 50 new houses in a small hamlet (and hamlets, which should be noted, are recognised as part of land use planning policies and administration), is alarming and would be a disproportionate increase in size, which, as most residents would agree, has reached capacity based on its infrastructure, road use and facilities. This is clearly overdevelopment on a large scale.

I have genuine concerns that the application contravenes planning policy, and therefore it would be incumbent on the council to consider this carefully. I am also very concerned to learn that public consultation for the proposed new buildings was sought after the application was made to the council, whereas I understand the requirement is for this to happen beforehand, as per the national planning policy framework.

Yours faithfully,

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