

From:
Sent: 24 June 2024 12:23
To: DCAdmin
Cc: Cllr JohnJ Taylor; Cllr Richard Smith; Cllr Bill Armer
Subject: Objection to Planning Application 2024/62/91242/E

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Objection to Planning Application 2024/62/91242/E

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of 50 houses on Shepley Road in Stocksmoor - Application number 2024/62/91242/E. As a resident with two young children, I have serious concerns regarding the safety, environmental impact, and overall suitability of this development for our community.

Below, I outline my key objections:

1. Safety Concerns

My safety concerns are very high. The proposed development is located on a bend that is already considered dangerous. This area lacks pavement, making it already unsafe for pedestrians, including children, cyclists and dog walkers. Cars accelerate up and around this bend, creating hazardous conditions. The addition of a new access point here significantly increases the risk of accidents. Think about children who may be pulling out of the new development on their bikes. This situation is a disaster waiting to happen and must be carefully reconsidered.

I refer you to this quote from KC Highways

The development will generate a significant level of additional traffic along Stone Wood Lane, which leads to Shepley circa 1km to the east, with this route being attractive to development users due to the amenities available in Shepley (school, shops, medical facilities etc) and for onward journeys to the south. However, this road has a number of physical constraints, which include it being single track width for long sections, having restricted forward visibility, lack of adequate passing places, and no pedestrian provision etc. The road also forms part of National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 627 (Kirkburton to Millhouse Green).

In light of the above, it is considered that Stone Wood Lane is unsuitable for any further intensification in use from the development; and it does not appear possible to deliver any significant improvements to the road within the highway boundary to address the existing deficiencies (e.g. additional passing places are likely to require third party land acquisition). As such, HDM cannot support the proposed residential development at this site.

There is a significant uphill gradient on approach to the bend and proposed site access from the south, which in combination with the NSL is likely to result in drivers continuing to apply their accelerator on

approach to the site access, thereby increasing the risk of a collision with turning traffic at the proposed site access.

Within the vicinity of the site access, Shepley Road is not sufficiently wide to allow two vehicles to pass.

2. Inadequate Local Highways and Public Transport

Our village is highly dependent on cars, often with two to three per household, due to the isolation and poor public transport provision. The local roads are inadequate to support the additional traffic that will result from this development. The road to Shepley, our nearest amenities and GP surgery, becomes single track and already experiences frequent road rage incidents and careless driving. Despite the transport report's claims, this development will undoubtedly increase traffic on these roads, exacerbating existing issues.

The suggestion that residents will favour Penistone Road over Shepley Road is unrealistic. Many sat nav systems fail to recognise that Shepley Road and Fulstone Road are single track, leading to frequent stand-offs and dangerous reversing of long and high vehicles.

Also important to note that in the Transport Assessment it is stated in 2.2.5 that Stone Wood Lane has a section of road that narrows for approximately 125m with passing places at either end of this section. THIS IS MISLEADING AND NOT CORRECT. The section of Stone Wood Lane that is not wide enough for two oncoming vehicles to pass each other is approximately 670m.

3. Unsafe Routes for Walking and Cycling

Our schools and the government encourage children to walk or cycle to school, but the reality is that it is simply too dangerous even in our rural community. Stocksmoor Road which leads to the catchment First school in Thurstonland narrows deceptively beyond Whitestones, and there are no pavements beyond the village boundary, creating unsafe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. The safety concern would also apply to the route to Shepley school.

4. Flawed Transport Impact Assessment

The Transport Impact Assessment and Green Travel Plan provided are incorrect and misleading. Public transport is infrequent and unreliable, with only one train per hour and one bus every two hours. The assessment does not account for agricultural traffic or horse riders. The plan assumes that home working and Amazon/grocery etc deliveries will reduce travel impact, but this is a behavioural choice and cannot be relied upon. Current trends indicate a push for employees to return to workplaces, which will increase pressure on the local highways network.

5. Environmental and Ecological Impact

The proposed site is in reality greenbelt, certainly not "wasteland" that is regularly used by deer, owls, and other wildlife. It is currently farmed and highly valued by residents and visitors. The destruction of this ecosystem is unjustifiable, and the site's designation as safeguarded land does not diminish its ecological importance.

6. Impact on Local Schools

The addition of 50 new homes will likely put significant pressure on local school places. There are few places at Thurstonland First School and schools in Shepley and Brockholes are already oversubscribed,

leading to longer car journeys for parents. There is no public transport to the First schools, and as stated above cycling is too dangerous for children in this age group.

7. Misleading Justifications

The developers' Planning Statement cites potential income generation for the council as a benefit of the development. However, financial considerations such as Community Infrastructure Levy, Housing Bonus, and Council Tax are not material considerations in the planning process and should not influence the approval of this application.

Newett Homes says "the benefits of the development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the adverse impacts".

I can see no benefits whatsoever.

The proposed development poses significant safety risks, strains our inadequate infrastructure, threatens local wildlife, and puts undue pressure on already overburdened schools and GPs. I urge the planning committee to reject this application in favour of maintaining the safety, character, and ecological integrity of our village.

Thank you for considering my objections.

Please publish anonymously

Photos attached to illustrate the frequent traffic issues on Stone Wood Lane







