

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?	Yes
<p>I strongly object to this application for the following reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An extra 50 houses would mean a very significant 30% increase in the size of the hamlet of Stocksmoor. This would be on top of the recent 17 houses at Stocksmead. This scale of development is simply too much in a small and isolated rural hamlet with almost no amenities and limited public transport provision. This is in no way a sustainable development.2. A further 50 houses in Stocksmoor would be bad enough, but the location of the proposed development is at about the worst possible site in the hamlet that could be conceived of from a road safety point of view. An application to build on this field was turned down 50 years ago due to access issues. The case against development is even stronger now, as there has been much development in Stocksmoor since then (including on Cross Lane, Stockmoor Road, Crangle Fields and Fulstone Road, as well as the new build at Stocksmead), and cars, vans and agricultural vehicles are now much larger and faster than those from the 1970's, and the volume of traffic is also significantly greater. <p>The bend on which the site is located is incredibly hazardous. This is a blind bend, off camber, and with a severe gradient. Cars are often parked on Shepley Road meaning cars travelling southbound are often in the middle of the road on the approach to the bend. There are also large agricultural vehicles that use Stone Wood Lane often on a daily basis as the farmer has fields either side of Stone Wood Lane. Stone Wood Lane is also used frequently by delivery vans, and sometimes by large lorries, presumably led on to this highly unsuitable road by their Sat Nav. Due to the national speed limit, together with frustration caused by the frequent hold ups when cars meet on single-track sections, especially from rat runners late for work, vehicles often approach the bend at speeds comfortably in excess of 40mph. All these factors combine together to ensure that frequent crashes would be inevitable, some potentially very serious.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Historically, Stocksmoor was a tiny rural hamlet supporting a small population with six farms. The roads were not built to accommodate a village of 200 houses with 500	

six farms. The roads were not built to accommodate a village of 250 houses with 500 or so cars. The single-track roads on Stone Wood Lane, Fulstone Road, and the small and narrow Dam Hill would be put under further pressure. Stone Wood Lane, in particular, is close to its capacity, and this development could really tip it over the edge, potentially significantly increasing the chances of frequent hold ups in which three or more cars meet together on a single-track section, and queues of cars are formed as cars struggle to reverse to a passing point. With the other developments in the area, particularly the large developments at Shepley and at Lepton, I really think that it would be very unwise to further intensify traffic on this single-track road.

4. The Travel Assessment is an inadequate document. This document gets even basic factual information wrong, such as incorrectly claiming that there are 125m of single-track section on Stone Wood Lane, when in fact the true figure is roughly 600m. The report used flawed modelling to arrive at an absurdly low estimate that on average at most one vehicle per hour from the development would travel on Stone Wood Lane during peak hours. The travel assessment makes a further farcical assertion that residents would elect to take a long detour via Penistone Road to avoid using Stone Wood Lane. This level of desperation is quite damning, in my opinion, and just goes to show the pressure that Stone Wood Lane is already under, and how it cannot sustain further increases in traffic volume.

5. This development would result in the loss of agricultural land. Given that the UK is a net importer of food and cannot currently grow enough food to sustain its population, a further loss of agricultural land cannot be considered sustainable.