

21/06/24

Planning Department
Kirklees Council
Huddersfield Customer Service Centre, PO Box 1720,
Huddersfield, HD1 9EL

Subject: Objection to Planning Application **2024/62/91242/E**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the planning application 2024/62/91242/E, which proposes the development of 50 houses on the land located at Shepley Road, Stocksmoor.

This land is a vital part of our environment, and its preservation is crucial for several reasons, including:

- 1. Environmental Impact:** The proposed development would lead to the loss of valuable green spaces that contribute to biodiversity. The land and the adjacent space is home to numerous species of flora and fauna that would be adversely affected by the construction activities and subsequent urbanization.
- 2. Urban Sprawl:** One of the primary purposes of the Greenbelt is to prevent urban sprawl. Allowing development in this area sets a dangerous precedent and could lead to further encroachment into protected areas, undermining the integrity of the Greenbelt policy.
- 3. Impact on Local Infrastructure:** The local infrastructure, including roads, schools, and healthcare facilities, is not equipped to handle the additional population that this development would bring. This would lead to increased traffic congestion, pressure on public services, and a decline in the quality of life for existing residents. This especially applies to Shepley road which is a single lane and cannot be widened without further damage to the surrounding environment.
- 4. Local Planning Policy:** The proposal is in direct conflict with Kirklees local plan – strategies and policies section 13, which seeks to protect the natural landscape from inappropriate development. The development is not “sensitive to its location and does not consider its impact on the landscape, character of the area and on important trees” as stated in 13.6.
- 5. Heritage and Landscape:** The proposed development would have a detrimental effect on the character and appearance of the local landscape. The area provides a scenic and cultural heritage that is invaluable to the community and should be preserved for future generations.
- 6. Alternative Sites:** There are other sites and areas within the urban boundary that should be considered for development before encroaching on the countryside. Utilizing these sites would help meet housing needs without sacrificing what should be protected land.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Planning Department to reject this application. The proposed development is not only detrimental to the environment and local infrastructure but also contravenes established policies designed to protect our landscape.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the council will uphold the principles of sustainable development and the preservation of our Greenbelt.

Yours faithfully,