

DCAdmin

From:
Sent: 26 June 2024 20:59
To: DCAdmin
Subject: 2024/62/91242/E 50 Proposed New Dwellings at Shepley Road, Stocksmoor, Huddersfield.

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I have lived in Stocksmoor for over twenty years.

I strongly object to the proposal to build 50 new houses in the hamlet. This would be a 30% increase in the number of households and would change the character of the hamlet. It would not be sustainable development despite the developers claims.

There are no economic grounds for the development. Any job opportunities provided would minimal and transitional during the construction process. No other opportunities would be created outside of this. The only economic argument would be for the increase in income the new homes would provide the council through bonuses and council tax, but this income could be provided by developing the many brownfield sites available throughout the area.

There would be a significant increase in pressure on local services such as schools GP practices and dentists. The local three tier school system in particular could not accommodate the increase in places that would likely be needed, resulting in children having to travel by car to schools farther afield. Hardly the scenario the council is pushing through its sustainability policies and recently declared climate emergency.

There are existing problems with all the utilities resulting in frequent power cuts and water pressure issues. This raises questions on its capacity to cope with the significant increase in demand that would result from the 30% increase in the number of houses that make up Stocksmoor.

The environment around the hamlet would also be compromised further. The recent development of 17 homes on Stocksmead has already seen the loss of wildlife habitat. One example is the reduction of the owl population in the area. Before Stocksmead, we would hear owl cries most evenings but now we rarely hear them. I would expect any new significant development to further impact detrimentally on the wildlife habitat.

The proposed development would also be sited very close to one of the few complete ancient woodlands that exist in Kirklees and could impact on unique environment this creates with potential damage to the special mudstone stream bed due to changes in the natural ground water flows and the proposed SUDS solution.

Stocksmoor sits on an aquifer which results in frequent groundwater drainage problems. Again significant new developments will further increase this problem. There are many watercourses that run across the existing fields that will become compromised and further increase drainage problems.

I rarely use public transport due to impracticality and unreliability. There are insufficient trains and buses that fail to provide transport to places I need to visit. There are no direct routes to local villages I most frequent such as Kirkburton, Holmfirth, etc. It is only possible to get there and back to such places through numerous connections. The services also extremely unreliable, infrequent and there are no buses on Sundays at all.

The road network which serves Stocksmoor is also inadequate with every approach to the hamlet being compromised in some way with significant stretches of single track road either due to permanent parking Dam Hill and narrow roads on Fulstone Road, Stocks Lane and Stone Wood Lane. The latter, which the development is proposed to lead off is by far the worst with over 600m of single track carriage way with much of it involving blind bends with no suitable passing points. Despite the developers claims that this road is infrequently used and would rarely be used by residents in the new development, the road is well used with most people "risking it" when travelling south to places, simply because it is the shortest, quickest and most direct route in these cases. This often leads to stand offs and confrontations with other vehicles coming in the opposite direction. The road is frequently used by agricultural and other large vehicles following Sat Nav's. I personally used the road during the early morning commute and on one occasion met 15 vehicles coming in the opposite direction while I managed to shelter in one of the few slightly wider sections of road.

The idea that Stocksmoor has been chosen for development due to its transport links is frankly laughable and begs the question of the amount due diligence carried out during the original allocation of the safeguarded land to the hamlet in the LP1 process. The Green Travel Plan is equally laughable and lacks credibility.

To summarise, I think the site should have never been exposed to the risk of being brought forward for development head of any tangible improvements to infrastructure and proper local consultation for the LP 2 process. I do not think the developer has shown that Stocksmoor is a sustainable location nor that the proposed development would add to the hamlet. It would be more likely to decrease the quality of the existing place and be harmful to the environment, biodiversity and landscape quality.

The main objection to the proposal though is the increase in journeys it would create on the already poor road network and that this is not compensated for by the public transport offering which is both unreliable and infrequent.

However, there is one positive, to the proposal. That if it were to be built, residents could expect exemplary bin collection, as it would appear that this seems to be the dominant design consideration, as opposed place shaping, such as harmony with the existing built form, contribution to character and use of natural local materials.

Please redact any personal information .

Kind Regards