

June 19<sup>th</sup> 2024

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Objection to Planning Application Ref: 2024/62/91242/E**

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Ossett & Denby Dale to raise my objections to planning application 2024/62/91242/E submitted by Newett Homes, which would involve the construction of 50 new houses on a 2.5-hectare plot of land off Shepley Road, Stocksmoor.

This is situated adjacent to ancient woodland which should be treasured and protected, and the impact of increased surface water run-off is likely to exacerbate the current issues the residents have with water overflowing onto Stones Wood Lane which could lead to the contamination of the brook.

The Stocksmoor community understood that this land was *safeguarded* in Kirklees Council's Local Plan and should have only be considered for development at the start of next decade if circumstances required. Public consultation for this proposal was only taken *after* the application was submitted, demonstrating how unfairly this matter was sprung on the community and the lack of consideration from Newett Homes even though they were asked to do this by Kirklees Council as per paragraph 40 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Significant representations have hence been made to me by the Stocksmoor community to raise their objections about this plan, and I note that nearly 100 comments have been received from concerned members of the public about these proposed developments.

Their concerns range from the impact of noise and light pollution, lack of reliable transport for residents, the risk of over-development and the potential damage to the environment and ecological preserves and natural habitats as outlined above.

Stocksmoor currently has little or nothing in the way of facilities or regular reliable public transport. This means that these new residents would be required to travel by car to the neighbouring village of Shepley to access shops, schools, medical facilities and so on, as well to access the A629 which is the major highway route heading south to our motorway network.

If this application were to be approved, it would result in even more commuters having to use Stone Wood Lane to connect to Shepley. The proposed Shepley Road site has a proposed access point being located on a blind bend, which is *already* under significant pressures from present-day traffic along the Stones Wood Lane route and is a significant challenge for drivers and cyclists to safely navigate coming up the hill.

It is, therefore, most inappropriate for these pressures to be exacerbated through the approval of this plan which would increase the dangers at this point for commuters, walkers, cyclists and horse riders alike, especially considering that there are no pavements or footpaths along this single track.

To that end, I note that in Kirklees Councils Pre-Application Enquiry Response, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (2023/21443), the Highways officers recognised these challenges that this proposed development would cause to traffic and public safety:

*“The development will generate a significant level of additional traffic along Stone Wood Lane ... 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...”*

Therefore, the proposed site on Shepley Road is clearly inappropriate for the prospective new residents and the current community and I urge for it to be rejected out-of-hand.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly, for the benefit of everyone who is affected by this proposal.

Yours sincerely,



**MARK EASTWOOD**

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for  
Ossett and Denby Dale