

Objection - Application 2024/91242/E by Newett Homes for erection of residential development (up to 50 dwellings) with associated access, parking, public open space, landscaping and infrastructure on land north east of Shepley Road, Stocksmoor, Huddersfield

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the above objection.

I know this area well having spent a lot of time walking around the beautiful, peaceful ancient woods and sitting by the beck in Stones and Hartley woods. It is a special place that many people use, and for me, with family who are close to heart. Whilst I appreciate that there is an argument for build affordable homes, this location is not the place. I fall within the bracket of a need for affordable housing, I am a young person living in rented accommodation, however, i don't agree with the placement of these homes.

I would like you make the following observations:

1. I did not appreciate the impact of what safeguarded land meant. I have found out that it means the opposite, and it has been set aside to be built on! Given its linear location next to swathes of ancient woodlands and a beck of specialist scientific interest it seems shocking. I am deeply concerned about the impact on this area and the wider precious ancient woods if this is allowed. I have seen the preparation work on Penistone Road also a Newitt site. The stripping down and carving away of the land is brutal to the environment and no attempt to add BNG by 10% will meet the muster. Surely given the amount of brown fill land in and around Huddersfield it would be far less destructive investing in the many areas that NEED change and development. The brown fill sites are better placed to support affordable housing.
2. The hamlet of Stocksmoor has less amenities than it had in bygone years when there was a shop. Anyone that lives here must travel to Waterloo or Holmfirth for an affordable shop and none of these places can be accessed other than by a car. There is a recreational ground behind Norton Terrace which needs investment, update this rather than create a separate and more dangerously located site. The most used amenity is the woods and beck, which is being potentially sabotaged by the proposal. Many people use these woods, to maintain their mental and physical health.
3. This proposal feels to me, that it is NOT about affordable housing, but about simply making money and giving the economy a little spike. All the house are within 200 metres of the line and the affordable housing are even closer being used as buffers. I find it distasteful how the builders are maximising on the narrative of the 'need for affordable homes' given that the affordable homes are used as sound and pollution barriers and the materials used are even worse than the cheap materials used on the other houses. The estate is completely

out of context and will look like a blot on the landscape. The builder has even maximised on the grenoside rock that has been quarried and utilised in the hamlet.

4. Stocksmoor's train service is dismal, and one can only move towards Huddersfield and Sheffield, when the trains are running and at an unaffordable price. With the trans Pennine upgrade not in completion until 2044, to suggest that it is a primary source of transport is ridiculous. The lines to Holmfirth and Kirkburton were killed off back in the 1950s. Indeed, the hamlet was better served during the last world war than it is now. Then there were only 6 farms and workhouses for Storthes Hall, the workers also had an additional bus. I cannot afford the time nor the transport costs to Manchester and have to use my car if I ever stay in Stocksmoor.
5. Contrary to the incorrect and utterly ridiculous transport report the buses are not regular and have not been hourly for, many years. They also are a daytime excursion getting to town.
6. The very specific geology of the area with hard Grenoside likely to be hit in the very invasive and loud excavation will result in incredible amounts of dust and pollution. Further damaging and harming the animals, the trainline and being disproportionately disruptive to the locals and visitors. The aftermath will be apocalyptic.
7. 50 additional houses even to be conservative will mean at the very least 100 cars in addition to the current amount. There will be of course visitors and young people with cars and there will be the inevitable spill off onto Shepley Road. The suggestion is that the residents up their fitness regime and take to the bike is ludicrous. There is also some dystopian reference to a traffic controlling to ensure the residents abide by the rules. There is a gradient in every direction, in and out of the hamlet, with the best will people are not going to take to the bike to pick up their milk in the rain, snow and dark. If you take to walk one has to ensure that it is light and you can hear well, as you have to weave through the traffic. There are no pavements on the Shepley road/wood section, most of the route to Thurstonland and Farnley Tyas and a poor narrow pavement and busy roads to Kirkburton.
8. Given the amount of destruction to the landscape I question the veracity of the EIA, Visual report and Nature England. It appears that the author of the Nature England report has taken 4 days, two being a weekend in considering the proposal. The visual landscape report is cut and pasted and the EIA was sent on the closing date, with the largely desk top research being many years in age. All the reports measure the response as without prejudice. The buffer will not satisfy the scale of ancient woodlands and I struggle to understand how the deep excavation and possible blasting that will take place can be mitigated. I can only surmise that the EIA report, Visual report and the Nature England report are all confining the issue to the site, although I struggle to understand how this can be mitigated to. I have also

noted that the EIA is based on limited inspection in the winter months and NO consideration of the Beck which has a specific geological interest.

9. It is evident that whilst the plans have been cooking for many years the important detail is not there around the geology and drainage. These two areas are of concern given the special nature of the area. The home of Grenoside stone, that has not even been considered worthy on the build! I am concerned that the builders will destroy the land and then leave it like a scene from the Dr Zeus book the Lorax which highlights such destruction to children. If this is allowed the ecology and environmental damage will be irreversible. As soon as the work begins and the building debris is unearthed it will flow down the beck. The ph and ecology there will be wiped out for many miles there and downstream.
10. The area is rich with rare plant life, rare fungi flora and animals. I enjoy looking at the wood anemones, wild garlic and bluebells in the spring and have seen countless frogs, barn owls, red kite, water birds such as kingfishers and heron on the beck. There has been an especially significant amount of barn owl this year. The habitats will be removed, there is no ability for any site manager to re house these precious creatures when humans just take the land out of greed.
11. Stocksmoor is not a cheap place to live, the basis being the assistance for affordable homes. In order to hold a job down and be reliable you have to have a car there is NO employment nearby.
12. With the anticipated huge build at Storthes Hall and the site at Penistone (Newitts again) in progress I am concerned that the roads will be even more congested and dangerous. The village has become an escape route for cars at peak times as they weave through to avoid the busier roads. Shepley road has sadly become more popular as it is the fastest but most likely conflicting route to take. If you meet someone you may be stuck for some time. It is very stressful and a place of much road rage and accidents.
13. The infrastructure is simply not there, I am aware that the Gas line has been put in recently. This is how the locals first knew of the proposal! The developers only told residents with a flyer AFTER they had submitted the application. Stocksmoor struggles with poor water supply, sewerage pipes are old and dilapidated. There have been rat problems in Norton terrace. In winter the locals have regular black outs as the substation is not large enough. The wi fi has only become slightly better and if the people in the estate are to work from home the wi fi will have to be substantially improved.

14. This is the housing estate is ill thought out and is in the wrong place. It is not satisfying the need for affordable housing, but it would damage the environment and impact on the wellbeing of all the enjoys it. Covid displayed to me just how these places are so important. Please read my objections and apply the policy and reject the application.

Thank you for reading my report

Please apply GDPR for the purposes of redaction.

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