

I wish to object to the further planning of residential housing on Cliff Hill, Denby Dale. I agree with many of the objections already printed and wish it to be known that the guise of open cast mining in the village is a non-starter. As I live on Leak Hall Crescent, I object to the upheaval that it may cause to the surrounding area

Various planning applicants for this area has been ongoing and rejected by Kirklees Council since 2022. This application has raised the number of residential homes to the previous application which was refused. I am surprised that our objections in the past are not included in this new application

Recent ongoing building has resulted in reduced safe play areas for children, environmental issues, and has introduced infrastructure and increased traffic hazards. In past years, Kirklees has sold off four green spaces on Leak Hall Crescent for building purposes, depriving the children of local playing areas.

Land Stability: This area was mined extensively by Naylor's to extract **clay** years ago and it is believed that the shafts are still there. It is known to have collapsed on occasions. There would have to be major drilling to the land and would cost a major amount of money to fill. Any developers willing to take on this site should be very aware of this. Clay is known to retain water, so if disturbed, there could be an amount of water waiting to escape. No consideration is given to the water environment and additional runoff that this development would cause, with the potential to cause flash flooding to properties below and along the River Dearne more widely.

In addition, the terrain is very steep towards the south of the area; rainwater, snow etc., would prove a liability on the houses on Leak Hall Crescent.

Environment: The land is a green belt open space, with a variety of plant and animal life and habitats between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact. The area in question used to be home to local farm animals, until talks about development arose.

The countryside is an important characteristic of England. People came to live in Denby Dale because of this. We live within an historic environment. Denby Dale is a rural mill village with a distinct and unique local history.

In light of the recent floods all over the country, the environmental impact of such a large development must be carefully studied. The land in proposed area H690 is a natural soakaway for surface water and hosts a number of trees and large bushes that retain water. There is a small stream that constantly runs through the field and this naturally increases with intensity with prolonged wet weather – which this area is increasingly seeing more and more of. To cover most of this land in concrete and remove most (if not all) of the trees would increase the risk of flooding to local houses and at lower levels in Denby Dale.

Traffic: The proposed access from Cumberworth Lane would cause significant risk to all, on what is already a very busy road with speeding motorists. Cumberworth Lane is also a steep road and I would imagine will have limited access visibility and sight line, when crossing over from Cumberworth Lane as it used as a short cut for all pedestrians. This includes including young children, using this route when walking to and from the Primary and High School. Imagine the flux of traffic from the suggested amount of property surging onto Cumberworth Lane, which regularly has parked cars because of the lack of parking facilities for this increasing village. All this, along with the already heavy traffic flow that daily passes through the village will have an impact on air quality within the area.

The village and surrounding major roads are already hugely overcrowded and dangerous with significant parking problems.

Rights of Way. There is a public right of way running adjacent which is part of an extensive network of walking and cycling routes promoted by Denby Dale's 'Walkers are Welcome' policy. The loss or alteration of the route threaten a 'safe route to school' and access to the ancient woodland of Wither Wood.

Schools/Doctors: Has anyone taken into consideration the pressure that schools and doctors will be put under? Already, children in Denby Dale are turned away from the school and have to travel elsewhere. The surgery (which is part of the Skelmanthorpe Family Doctors), is only open on a morning 5 days a week due to the national shortage of the professional health service. The elderly already finds it difficult to arrange a convenient appointment. If the population of Denby Dale is to increase any more, where can the sick people turn to?

Infrastructure: Drainage is an important issue. As previously mentioned, there is a natural stream running down the valley on the side of Leak Hall Crescent and Leak Hall Road. In dry weather it may not be noticeable, but when we have wet weather, this stream flows as a runoff to the land around. Originally there was a culvert that ran from the top of the Nursery Playing Field, under the Nursery and the road leading down to the River Dearne. It seems that this was not fully recognised when the new Doctors Surgery was built, because there has been trouble with excess water coming up at the front of the Nursery Building and running down Wakefield Road. Recently it appears that they have dug down at this point and diverted the water into the drains. When the stream is in full flow it also runs down Leak Hall Crescent/Road. In the severe wet weather, we have had excess water that we have to walk through.

In the past, the River Dearne has already flooded causing damage to houses and businesses.

There is insufficient drainage and what there is, suffers from neglect, as it can be seen on Wakefield Road, when water is bubbling out from the drains. Considering in the long term, with prolonged wet weather, should Cliff Hill be built upon with all the run-off from the hard standing and the footings pile driven; how much will this alter the water tables, flooding the houses on Wakefield Road, and the road itself?

We are looking at affordable housing in Denby Dale, not ones that cost double the amount to build due to unstable land.