

## Search application details

Application number: 2024/62/93458/E	
What is the application for?:	Erection of residential development for 62 dwellings including grouting remedial
Address of the site or building:	land at, Cliff Hill, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8
Postcode:	YO1 0LT

## User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes
<p>I am writing to formally object to planning application 2024/62/93458/E, which proposes to extract coal from land in Denby Dale in preparation for the development of 62 new homes. This application poses serious risks to the health, safety, and wellbeing of residents and the wider environment. I strongly urge Kirklees Borough Council to reject this proposal for the reasons outlined.</p> <p><b>Insufficient Infrastructure to Support 62 New Homes</b></p> <p>Denby Dale is a small village with limited capacity in essential services. There are no plans in this proposal to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overcrowded GP surgeries and long waiting lists;</li><li>• A shortage of school places in nearby primary and secondary schools;</li><li>• Inadequate road infrastructure, already under pressure during peak hours;</li><li>• Public transport services that are infrequent and unreliable.</li></ul> <p>The addition of 62 homes will bring a significant population increase with no matching investment in infrastructure. This would degrade the quality of life for both existing and future residents.</p> <p><b>500 Lorry Runs – Unacceptable Traffic and Safety Risk</b></p> <p>To remove coal from the site, the applicant proposes around 500 heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements. This is unacceptable in a rural village. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cause traffic congestion on narrow, residential roads;</li><li>• Create dangerous conditions for pedestrians, particularly children walking to local schools;</li><li>• Lead to noise, vibration, and wear and tear on roads not built for such loads;</li><li>• Release diesel exhaust fumes, harmful to both the environment and public health.</li></ul> <p><b>Environmental Destruction</b></p> <p>The site is currently a valuable green space with local wildlife, trees, and open views. Coal extraction will result in the destruction of habitats, disturbance to protected species, e.g Cliff Hill is home to several species of wildlife – foxes, bats, owls, toads. The very nature of the proposal would mean the loss of this area as home to wildlife. No amount of landscaping afterwards is ever going to bring that back and permanent changes to the landscape. The green character of Denby Dale is central to its identity and appeal, this proposal would damage that irreparably.</p>	

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#### Flood Risk

Possibility of surface water flooding, Disturbing the ground for coal extraction and replacing green space with impermeable surfaces (roads, driveways, rooftops) will worsen runoff and increase flood risk for nearby homes and infrastructure.

#### Expanded Public Health and Wellbeing Concerns

The health risks posed by this application are serious, multifaceted, and long-term:

- Air Pollution from Mining and HGVs: Coal extraction generates fine particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), which is linked to respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and premature death. Diesel emissions from 500 lorry runs add further toxic pollutants including nitrogen dioxide (NO2), known to worsen asthma and reduce lung function, especially in children and the elderly.
- Dust Exposure: Airborne coal and construction dust can travel beyond the immediate site, especially in dry and windy conditions. Residents near the site including vulnerable groups that may suffer from chronic exposure without warning or mitigation.
- Noise Pollution: Prolonged exposure to industrial noise from excavation, vehicle movements, and construction equipment can lead to increased stress, sleep disturbance, and higher blood pressure.
- Mental Health Impact: The stress of ongoing disruption, loss of green space, and reduced quality of life should not be underestimated. Community wellbeing depends on a sense of peace, clean air, and safety, all of which would be compromised.
- Cumulative Exposure Over Time: These health impacts would not be short-term. Coal extraction and housing development combined would likely span multiple years, meaning families would live with these risks and disruptions over a prolonged period. The application offers no serious health impact assessment, mitigation strategy, or air quality monitoring plan, making it completely inadequate in addressing resident safety.

#### Incompatible with Climate Policy

Coal extraction in 2025 is incompatible with the UK's net-zero carbon target and Kirklees Council's declared climate emergency. This is a regressive development at a time when all planning decisions must be aligned with low-carbon, sustainable practices. The council must lead by example and reject fossil fuel projects in favour of green alternatives.

#### Previous Refusal and Unresolved Issues

A similar application was previously refused. The same fundamental problems remain: environmental risk, infrastructure failure, and a clear lack of community support. The addition of coal extraction to this scheme only worsens the overall impact.

#### Strong Local Opposition

This application has been met with firm and widespread opposition from residents of Denby Dale. It does not reflect the character or needs of the village and offers no local benefit. Residents have not been adequately consulted, and their concerns have been ignored.

#### Conclusion

Planning application 2024/62/93458/E must be rejected. It is environmentally destructive, medically hazardous, logistically irresponsible, and socially divisive. Denby Dale is a thriving rural village, not an industrial site. The proposed coal mining and housing development are entirely out of place, unjustifiable, and unsafe.

I urge Kirklees Borough Council to uphold its duty to protect the environment, public health, and community voice by refusing this application in full.