

I object to the planning application 2024/62/93458/E on the grounds of the 'housing development' in actual fact being a minerals application for coal extraction. My objection is based on several key concerns:

1. Misrepresentation of the Application

The application appears to be presented under the guise of housing development. However, it is, in effect, a proposal for coal extraction, which brings with it a range of environmental and health implications. This misrepresentation is misleading and could potentially obscure the true long-term impacts of the proposal.

2. Environmental Harm

Coal mining, even if temporary, would cause significant and potentially irreversible damage to the local environment. This includes:

- Air pollution from dust and particulate matter, affecting residents' health, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.
- Noise pollution from machinery and increased traffic movements, disrupting the peaceful rural character of Denby Dale.
- Water contamination risks due to runoff from mining activity, impacting local watercourses and biodiversity.
- Destruction of local habitats, threatening wildlife and undermining ecological networks.

3. Impact on Local Residents

The proximity of the proposed coal extraction to residential properties creates an unacceptable risk to the quality of life and wellbeing of those living nearby. The disruption caused by such an operation would be felt for years and could lead to long-term health issues and depreciation of property values.

4. Contradiction with Climate Goals

At a time when both local and national governments are working toward climate action targets, allowing new coal extraction directly contradicts these goals. Supporting this application would undermine the UK's commitments to reducing fossil fuel dependency and moving toward cleaner energy sources.

5. Unsuitability of the Site for Minerals Development

Although the site is allocated for housing, it has not been designated as appropriate for minerals extraction. Introducing such industrial activity into a semi-rural, residential setting is wholly inappropriate and inconsistent with the area's development plan and community character.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I strongly urge the planning authority to refuse this application. It presents unjustified harm to the environment, misleads the public about its intentions, and places unacceptable burdens on local residents.