About the application

Application number: 2024/93458	
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

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.

500 Lorry Runs – Unacceptable Traffic and Safety Risk
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:
• Cause traffic congestion on narrow, residential roads;
• Create dangerous conditions for pedestrians, particularly children walking to local schools;
• Lead to noise, vibration, and wear and tear on roads not built for such loads;
• Release diesel exhaust fumes, harmful to both the environment and public health.

Environmental Destruction
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 including Schedule one species Barn Owls, that forage on the site.
The very nature of the proposal would mean the loss of this area as home to wildlife.

Flood Risk
Increased likelihood 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 (NO_2), known to worsen asthma and reduce lung function

including nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), 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.

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.

A similar application was previously refused. The same fundamental problems remain. Environmental risk, infrastructure failure, and a clear lack of community support.

Conclusion
Planning application 2024/62/93458/E must be rejected. It is environmentally destructive, hazardous to health and logistically irresponsible. 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.