

I wish to register an objection to the proposal on the following grounds.

Children

Research on the role of the physical environment on the negative development of children's brains is becoming increasingly evident. The impact of continual noise and air pollution from coal dust and diesel vehicle emissions on the learning and health of the pupils at the First School and Nursery will be immediate and long-lasting. Impaired concentration will result from a lack of peace and quiet in the classroom. Outside play and physical education are universally recognised as foundational building blocks for academic learning and team co-operation. Nursery children particularly learn through physical play and currently enjoy lots of outdoor activities. Children with asthma and hay fever will find it more difficult to be outside. The traffic noise can be currently heard and increased by many more HGV journeys.

The school uses Withy Wood as a forest school resource in the summer contributing to the development of problem-solving, co-operation and leadership skills in pupils. Such valuable experiences will be degraded or impossible if the proposal is approved.

A recognised school route will skirt the site making the journey more dangerous, both from a traffic and pollution perspective.

Denby Dale Care Home

The impact on the residents will be severe. Air and noise pollution will impact heavily on their quality of life. The traffic through the village is so busy that many residents, like many villagers, feel unsafe trying to cross the road. A petition is currently trying to get a crossing installed outside the Home as the one near the library is too far away for them.

Traffic

Cumberworth Lane is, as the name suggests, a lane, made very busy by previous developments in the village. Car parking on the lane makes the road narrower and sight-lines more difficult. The junction with the A636 is already very busy. There are many HGVs, including those from the local quarry, that regularly use the A636 and the proposed extra daily traffic increases hazards and the possibilities of accidents.

Coal

The government is to introduce legislation restricting new coal mines. "Limited exceptions to the ban may be required for safety or restoration purposes" (gov statement Nov 24); neither apply to this proposal. This development goes against the spirit of net zero and coal is becoming an obsolete fuel, no longer needed by power stations. As of late 2024, the UK has no operating coal-fired power stations.

The long-term impact on the village and the quality of the lives of those living there will be severe. In view of the reasons above, I urge the Council to reject this application.