

## About the application

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| Application number: 2025/90889   |                                                                                  |
| What is the application for?:    | Demolition of existing hostel and erection of residential development comprising |
| Address of the site or building: | Former Combs Hostel, Hall Lane, Thornhill, Dewsbury, WF12 0PL                    |
| Postcode:                        | WF13 3NF                                                                         |

## User comments

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| Type of comment: A supporting comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |
| Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes |
| <p>The land in question was sold by Kirklees Council for residential development via public auction, with the clear intention that it should be brought back into beneficial use. The former children's hostel on the site has remained vacant for a prolonged period, during which time it became a focal point for persistent anti-social behaviour. Local residents repeatedly raised serious concerns, with frequent incidents of fires, fly-tipping, and general nuisance. The site, in its unused state, has demonstrably had a harmful impact on the surrounding area.</p> <p>It is therefore essential that this development proceeds without further delay. Bringing the site back into active residential use will directly address and eliminate the conditions that previously gave rise to these problems. Failure to do so risks the site once again becoming a magnet for crime, vandalism, and environmental damage.</p> <p>The proposed scheme is both practical and well-designed. It includes appropriate parking provision for each dwelling, along with additional on-site capacity, ensuring that it does not place undue pressure on surrounding streets. Concerns raised against the development are not proportionate to the benefits it delivers, nor do they reflect any significant or material planning harm.</p> <p>Furthermore, it must be emphasised that this exact scheme has already been approved by the council in the past and remains unchanged. There are no new planning grounds that justify resisting a proposal that has previously been deemed acceptable.</p> <p>In summary, this is a sensible, policy-aligned development that will improve the area, enhance safety, and prevent a return to the unacceptable conditions previously experienced. The need for action is clear and urgent, and the scheme should be supported accordingly.</p> |     |