



The proposed development presents risks in the following areas.

1. Mining. The site is above unmapped mines and was subject to substantial mining activity in the past. The movement of heavy plant onto the site, laying of foundations and disturbance to the land all risk collapsing the ground. This could lead to adverse impact on the properties all around the site from subsidence, plus the potential release of trapped material, gases and water.

2. Traffic safety. The proposed access to the development is on a narrow road with blind bends at either end and is totally unsafe. There is only pavement on the opposite side of the road to the development. The developers show 70% of people travel to work by car, which means a large increase in volume of traffic on this quite rural road. During term time a large number of children are in the street and they will be at an increased risk from extra traffic on this dangerous section of road. The traffic survey provided by the developers was apparently done in the school holidays thus providing a totally inadequate picture of the situation.

In addition there will be hundreds of movements by heavy construction vehicles for a prolonged period, which will also result in unacceptable danger to pedestrians and other vehicles.

3. Flooding. The bottom of Gynn Lane and the playing fields already flood frequently. The water management infrastructure currently in place is inadequate. Building over the sloping greenfield site with impermeable material will allow a faster run off of rainfall, that currently soaks into the ground. As the site slopes quite steeply, the water run off will be more pronounced than on flatter ground.

4. Environmental. The developers aim to protect the trees on site but it is inevitable that irreversible damage will be caused to the mature trees, at the very least by having their roots compressed during construction. Many mature trees will be destroyed, presenting a large loss to the environment and the community. There will also be inevitable major disruption to the wildlife in the area. Allowing building on this site is the opposite of the council's aim of protecting the local environment.

In summary this development is ill conceived and unacceptable in its current form for the reasons outlined above. Kirklees Councillors should reject the proposal.