



I am writing to express my full support for the proposed development.

Having lived in Shepley for 31 years, I have consistently viewed well-planned development as a positive contribution to the community. It is particularly important for younger residents, many of whom are increasingly unable to remain in the village due to the high cost of existing housing and the growing proportion of retired residents.

In recent years, Shepley First School has regularly advertised available places in its weekly newsletter due to declining birth rates, with further reductions projected over the next five years. As a former pupil and a parent of children currently attending the school, I recognise how vital it is for a village school to sustain enrolment levels in order to secure continued funding. The proximity of the proposed development to the school would contribute directly to maintaining pupil numbers.

The inclusion of 39 affordable homes is especially welcome. These properties would provide much needed opportunities for local families, particularly those who grew up in Shepley, to access the housing market. In addition, increased footfall will benefit local shops and businesses, many of which continue to feel the effects of the Covid pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living pressures.

Although the recent Abbey Road development has been met with mixed responses, I believe it enhances the appearance of the village and creates a smart, attractive gateway into Shepley. Concerns about traffic impact are, in my view, overstated. The immediate area surrounding the proposed access point (Lea Drive and Eastfield) consists of roughly 44 homes, while Stocks Way and Stocks Drive - one of the largest local estates with approximately 130/140 homes, remains peaceful and experiences no significant congestion, even during peak times. Since Covid, the rise in home working has naturally reduced traffic levels throughout the village, further mitigating any potential impact.

In conclusion, additional housing is essential for Shepley's long-term sustainability. More homes will help support local services, strengthen the school community, and provide opportunities for young families to remain in the village. This development, in particular, offers clear social and economic benefits and should be viewed as a positive step for the future of Shepley.