

Planning application 2025/60/92776/E

I am objecting to the planned development at the end of Eastfield Shepley for the following reasons:

1. The land is green belt. It continues to grow a thatching crop and I believe had a heritage grant for this. It is a pleasant sight to see the thatch grow and be harvested and stacked. There are very few places in the country that grow this. Loss of this green belt land would affect all wildlife (potentially bats and small mammals to name a few. I have seen bats flying around our garden and foxes often trot down Eastfield). There are many brown field sites that could be developed for housing without using precious greenbelt land.
2. Access and a one-way system is dangerous. The roads on Knowle Park Avenue/Eastfield and Lea Drive were not built to take the amount of traffic proposed. The roads are already crumbling and are not maintained well by the council. The A629 is already a busy road with lorries/traffic using it as a route to the motorway. Accessing this road in winter is simply dangerous. I have lived on the estate for over thirty years and never use this road in ice/snow. There is a danger of sliding onto a main road into busy traffic and potentially going through the wall opposite and plunging down into the field/brook. The estate is also used by children for playing and riding their bikes more traffic would make this dangerous for them.
3. Shepley already has two new housing developments under construction. The builds are going very slowly and at times seem to stop. Houses don't seem to be selling well. There aren't many that are affordable to a young person or couple starting out on their property journey. More houses would continue to make Shepley part of the urban sprawl. Villages are no longer being villages because of more housing developments. They are disappearing into part of the local town.
4. Another development would have a negative impact on local services. Doctors, dentist's schools etc are already under pressure to maintain services for local people. We have a local shop not a supermarket (according to the submission) and parking around the village centre is impossible for much of the day. I don't know of anybody who does their weekly shop there. More houses will mean many more cars and delivery vans etc. Buses are few and none in the evening and at weekends. The train service is only hourly, no parking and no disabled access to one

platform. A single line track in places makes the service unreliable at times.

5. Shepley Spring is a thriving business that employs local people. The danger of the proposed development to this company is immeasurable. Shepley Spring is a positive asset that has contributed and continues to contribute to the village. Any development that threatens this business should be avoided.
6. For all the above reasons I see no positive benefit to the village. We already have playing areas for the children and would like to see Shepley kept as a village for future generations to enjoy. I therefore strongly urge the planning committee to reject the notion of actually building houses on this land.