



I am writing to formally object to the above planning application.

The site in question forms part of the Green Belt and does not meet the requirements for reclassification as “grey belt” under the National Planning Policy Framework. It is clearly open countryside with a strong rural character, and has never been built on; it therefore cannot be considered “previously developed land.” This area performs an important Green Belt function by maintaining openness and preventing encroachment into rural surroundings. Introducing around 100 new homes would fundamentally alter this landscape, resulting in permanent loss of openness and an obvious extension of urban development into the countryside. The site also supports local landscape quality, biodiversity, and community amenity—key purposes of Green Belt designation which this proposal would severely undermine.

National policy is explicit that development in the Green Belt is inappropriate unless “very special circumstances” can be demonstrated. No such justification has been provided. There is no evidence of an exceptional need, no assessment of alternatives, and no case that would outweigh the substantial harm to the Green Belt. Furthermore, several housing developments in and around Shepley remain unfinished, with unsold units still available, which further weakens any argument for special circumstances.

I am also extremely concerned about the proposed changes to the local road layout. The junction at Abbey Road and Lea Drive is steep and becomes hazardous in winter. Numerous residents have experienced vehicles sliding down Lea Drive during icy spells; I often use the exit via the knowle as it isn't safe to drive down the steep hill when it is icy on Lea Drive. Forcing all traffic onto the steep Lea Drive junction will significantly increase the risk of accidents, including those involving children travelling to school.

Shepley First School already generates heavy parking around Lea Drive, Stonecroft Gardens, and nearby streets. At present, traffic disperses via two different exit routes. If vehicles are funnelled towards a single hazardous junction, congestion will increase, and the risks during cold weather—when these roads are not on the Kirklees gritting or snow-clearing routes—will be greatly amplified. This is before accounting for the additional traffic from approximately 200 more vehicles at peak times should the development proceed.

I urge you to consider both the concerns of residents and the broader community. The site clearly provides amenity value to those living nearby and to many others in the village who use and appreciate the land.

The proposed development would also jeopardise the operation of Shepley Spring, an established local business. Their objection outlines the risks in detail, and I encourage you to take their concerns very seriously.

For all these reasons, the Green Belt status of the land, the significant highways and safety issues, and the detrimental impact on both local residents and businesses. I strongly object to this application and ask that it be refused.

Thank you