

About the application

Application number: 2025/92776	
What is the application for?:	Outline application, with all matters reserved, for residential development with
Address of the site or building:	land at, Eastfield, Shepley, Huddersfield, HD8 8HB
Postcode:	DH7 8XL

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<p>Planning objection-Eastfield 2025/92776A629</p> <p>As a resident on Eastfield, I have many reasons for objecting to this proposal. However, I want to focus on the important issue of road safety. The proposal to make Knowle Park Avenue a one-way street looks reasonable on paper, but in reality would be an appalling decision.</p> <p>At present there are about 74 houses in the area comprising Lea Drive, Stonecroft Gardens, Knowle Park Avenue and Eastfield. Stonecroft Gardens is also used as a pick-up/drop-off point for children attending Shepley First School thus increasing the volume of traffic here but reducing the number of vehicles that need to access the school via Firth Street.</p> <p>There are two ways out of this area on to the busy A629, otherwise known as Penistone Road, which in Shepley is known as Abbey Road becoming Lane Head Road. One way is down Lea Street, the other is down Knowle Park Avenue, on to the Knowle, then onto the A629. Both junctions have limited visibility, and both are barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass at the same time. The Lea Street junction with Abbey Road (A629) is approached down a steep gradient (1 in 7), making it impossible to negotiate safely in snow and ice, which at an elevation of 700 feet is fairly common and can last for days, or even weeks in winter. Anyone skidding down the hill risks sliding onto a major road into fast-moving traffic including HGVs. If they manage to escape the traffic there is a drystone wall opposite to demolish before dropping about ten feet into the field below. At such times, the junction of the A629 with the Knowle, via Knowle Park Avenue becomes the only safe way out. (If you can avoid the HGVs arriving at and leaving Shepley Spring.)</p> <p>Banks Property in their wisdom propose to make Knowle Park Avenue a one-way street south-bound meaning that the Lea Drive/Abbey Road (A629) junction will become the only way out of this area. Furthermore, Banks wish to more than double the number of houses whose residents will have to use this hazardous junction any time they need to leave their homes. If this junction has to be closed for any reason: a burst watermain for example or a road traffic accident, there will be no other means of entry or exit, either for residents or for emergency vehicles.</p> <p>The Lea Drive junction is totally inadequate to cope with the amount of traffic that would be generated by this development. Drivers coming down Lea Drive have to cope</p>	

would be generated by this development. Drivers coming down Lea Drive have to cope with a blind bend to their right, while to the left visibility up the hill is restricted by parked cars which partly obscure one side of the zebra crossing which links the larger part of Shepley Village to the school, playing field and tennis courts.

Turning right into Lea Drive is also a problem. There is a right turn lane, but it's very narrow, plus it's impossible to use because traffic coming the other way has to pull into the middle of the road to pass the parked cars that obscure the zebra crossing. The area is dangerous now; to allow a development of this size with the inevitable increase in the volume of traffic would be foolhardy.

I feel very strongly that Banks Property is deliberately being disingenuous in seeking to minimise the serious problems that this development will cause if it is allowed to go ahead. Traffic is only one issue, but there are many others. The development risks damaging a long-standing and profitable local business (Shepley Spring). Yorkshire Water has written to Banks saying that their sewage network would not be able to support the proposed number of houses. Our local school is forecast to be full by 2028 even without further housing development. Shepley Health Centre is already under pressure with a wide catchment area. Broadband speeds are likely to decline.

The benefits Banks are promising their potential customers are mostly figments of their imagination. The village Co-op is not a supermarket it is an off-license. The local dental surgery isn't taking new NHS patients. The much-touted transport links are infrequent and unreliable.

Shepley has already had to accommodate several large-scale building projects and its infrastructure simply cannot support another one especially of this size.