Ms Katie Chew

Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Planning Services.

January 5th, 2026

Dear Ms Chew,

REF: Planning reference 2025/93355, Land off Woodward Court, Mirfield.

This letter is to inform you that Save Mirfield (SM) will be submitting its own formal objection to the planning application referenced above in the next few weeks. SM is a long established Unincorporated Community Group with a membership of over 800.

Unfortunately the process of putting the application on-line was both chaotic and confusing as I am sure you will be aware. Initially it was shown some time before the real application, on My Kirklees accounts. We were informed of this by a couple of local residents who were using their accounts for other purposes. There were no active links. We have been told it was due to an IT problem but none the less it caused considerable confusion and stress as you can imagine. The "real" application was posted about 4 pm on Christmas Eve. However since then there has been "drip feeding" of information. Can you please tell us when that will be completed? We are keen to see the Highways Safety Audit and the final statutory consultations.

Having been to the Bellway Homes Public Consultation with a number of our committee members, some of the conclusions do not reflect our own; "recollections may vary "comes to mind. Although I understand that Public Consultation is not legally mandatory it is considered best practice. It is outlined in the Pilgrim Royal report, "A Statement of Community Involvement", provided by Bellway Homes thus:

National and local government encourage developers to consult with local communities and Stakeholders before submitting a planning application.
Consultation and communication with local communities is an important element of the planning process. ***It is important that local communities are made fully aware of proposals affecting their area and are provided with opportunities to view any plans and discuss issues with the developers or their professional team. This process should also enable the community to provide feedback. (our bold and highlight)***

The final iteration of the planning application, which includes the second egress at Hepworth Lane, may appear a small change to the first plan but it is not. It is in fact highly contentious and important. A Vox Pop of residents has shown us that had that been displayed at a Public Consultation the observations and results would have been significantly different. It is unfair that local people were denied that opportunity. Since the idea of exiting into Hepworth Lane is not new (it has been mooted at some point in the last 12 years since I became chair and rejected) we find it surprising that comments about it at the Public Consultation were the sole reason for the second plan. Sadly this approach shows a disregard of the opinions of local people who understand what it

means to live in this area. Visitors to the Public Consultation should not be held responsible for design changes.

On another note, the TA provided includes only partial information so we respectfully request the following information from the applicant:

1. Tables 2.1 and 2.2 of the TA provide the results of traffic speed surveys undertaken on Wellhouse Lane. Please provide full details of the survey including site location plans.
2. Tables 2.6 and 2.7 list the manual and automatic traffic counts undertaken. Please provide full results of the surveys.

In conclusion for the moment, I hope that we will be able to have a meeting in the not too distant future and to that end I would like to request a meeting at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year?

Yours sincerely

Chairman Save Mirfield.