About the application

Application number: 2025/93355	
What is the application for?:	Erection of 75 residential dwellings with associated landscaping, open space, hi
Address of the site or building:	Land off, Woodward Court, Mirfield, WF14 0PY
Postcode:	LS15 8ZB

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

I write to object to the proposed development of Balderstone Fields in Mirfield, Planning Reference 2025/93355 by Bellway Homes.
Firstly, there is little to no open space remaining in Mirfield as every available space has been built on, and I acknowledge up front that I also live on a former farmyard. Apart from the Canal side and two cemeteries, there is hardly anywhere left to take a walk or enjoy an uninterrupted view other than on the numerous housing estates and along the lanes bordering Crossley Fields and Balderstone Fields. Otherwise, we go by car to Crow Nest Park in Dewsbury or Oakwell Country Park in Batley. It's sad that there is hardly anywhere left within walking distance to enjoy an open space.
The claims made by Bellway regarding public transport and other public services are laughable. Trains from Mirfield will continue to be unreliable for many years due to the Trans Pennine upgrade works. Ravesnsthorpe Station can be disregarded as it has been closed for a long time and we expect it to remain closed for at least 2 years during said Upgrade works. Mirfield Train station is poorly signposted and difficult to locate. I had lived here for several years before |I realised there was a railway station. My Brother in law recently had to purchase a full price ticket to Kings Cross as the signs for Mirfield station were not obvious, and he did not know which direction the Rail Replacement Service went to Wakefield. By the time he got to Wakefield his pre-booked train had long since gone.
The bus service is unreliable. I recently waited for over 40 minutes for the 202 service, with a friend who was going home to Huddersfield.
Only the most steely-nerved, proficient cyclists would attempt to go anywhere by bicycle. I have enjoyed cycling myself, and have taken my bike in my car to Spenborough or Cleckheaton to safely access the Greenway. To suggest that cycling is an inviting daily activity in Mirfield is deluded.
Children are driven to Mirfield schools from all over Kirklees. Parents drop children off on their way to work. Not many parents have the time to walk to work or to school. Flash lane is completely one way every day, not just at school times. Try to navigate those surrounding roads yourself if you're not familiar with Mirfield. Pavements everywhere are parked on all day, every day. This old, once characterful village in Mirfield is virtually a car park. The roads are country lanes and Crossley Fields School has already absorbed populations from other parts of Mirfield following closures many

has already absorbed populations from other parts of Mirfield following closures many years ago. Mirfield schools are oversubscribed already, and surely the buildings at Crossley Fields are bursting at the seams.
I have long thought that Mirfield would benefit from a Town Centre Shuttle bus – funded by the various developers.
The Coal Report on its own is 100% damning. The land is clearly dangerous from previous and unknown mining activity, and concerns about loss of archaeological points of interest.
The wildlife that once thrived in Mirfield has been diminished beyond recognition. Anything that could survive is likely to depend on these fields for hunting and habitat. I've lived in Mirfield for over 40 years and for the first time ever we have seen evidence of badger activity in several gardens in and around Battyeford, including our own, and have seen young badgers on our Ring doorbell footage. We guess they are seeking new habitat and food having been driven out of their former habitat. When we came here in the 1980s there were multiple hedgehogs visiting our garden and all our friends' and neighbours'. We saw our last hedgehog 3 years ago. All these things need to be considered before permitting any further development, let alone a large one such as this.
I despair that Bellway have the arrogance to increase the number of dwellings in the current application, considering that their previous application was refused. How have they justified this?
Mirfield is full up in every respect: doctors, dentists, schools are all almost impossible to access.
Every pavement is an unofficial parking area; parents with prams/young children/family dog take their lives in their hands when venturing out on foot, especially in the Balderstone Fields area. This situation has been worsened by Kirklees deciding to contract RingGo to monitor parking in the town centre, which has resulted in increased parking the length of Huddersfield Road, way beyond the Cricket Ground. I don't understand how having a one way system in/out of the proposed development will help anything. The whole local area around this proposed development is full of cars at all times. Getting out of Hepworth onto Flash Lane is not going to be easy at any time.
Please refuse this application for once and for all.