

Labour Mirfield Labour Party

Campaigning for Mirfield

Please address any reply to: Mirfield Labour Party
93 Wellhouse Lane
Mirfield
West Yorkshire
WF14 0BG

18 January 2026.

Kirklees Council
Planning and Development
PO Box 1720
Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire
HD1 9EL

Dear Sir or Madam

Balderstone Hall Fields: Planning Application No. 2025/93355

This Party supports the Labour Party Policy to increase the number of homes available but it believes the Balderstone Hall Fields Site should not contribute to these. Please consider our representations below:

The opportunity cost (ie. the taking of one decision excluding the use of the land for any other use) of allowing houses to be built on this site is un-acceptable. The current planning application from Bellway Homes is premature in view of the imminent production of a revised Kirklees Council Local Plan. If application 2025/93355 were to be approved it would prevent the council from considering alternative uses for the site. Mirfield Labour Party has proposed the site be allocated in the Revised Local Plan for Community Woodland and as Green Belt. We believe this would be a more beneficial use of the land and it would accord with other government and Kirklees Council policies on tree planting and the environment. It would promote environmental improvements, which would benefit local residents and visitors to the area. We believe, with the drawing up of a Revised Local Plan, the Planning Committee should not deprive the Council in advance of the option/opportunity to consider this change in the Local Plan.

Presumably the site was allocated as Protected Land in the hope an acceptable means of access to it would be brought forward. The refusal of previous planning applications for the site suggests that is difficult and no acceptable proposal has been brought forward. The nature of the local highway network militates against an acceptable access being found. The only new proposal in the present application is for an exit and left turn on to Hepworth Lane. This would be a significant disbenefit. The section of Hepworth Lane it is suggested using is narrow, it bends and it has no pavements. These defects could not be effectively addressed on this street. Also, if exit from the site only were allowed, it would mean vehicles returning to the site would have to use Wellhouse

Lane and Woodward Court, which are unsuitable for the amounts of extra traffic likely to be generated by the new development. If the proposed Hepworth Lane exit were to be made two-way it would increase the amount of vehicles using that street, which is unsuitable for the one-way movement of extra traffic from the site.

The planning application is supported by a traffic survey. This is hardly worth the paper on which it is printed because it excludes the very busy period when Crossley Fields J. I. & N. School is closing at the end of the teaching day.

I would draw your attention to the car parking connected with Mirfield Parish Cricket Club on Wellhouse Lane. The Club is accessed from this narrow section of Wellhouse Lane. The parking narrows the useable carriageway even more and vehicles often drive on the narrow pavement to pass.

The disbenefits that would arise from the approval of this planning application are significant. It should be refused.

Yours faithfully

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(Assistant Secretary
Mirfield Labour Party).