

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 15 February 2026 18:47
To: DC Admin
Subject: Upper Cumberworth Housing Planning 2025/60/93572/E

Hello,

I have lived in Upper Cumberworth all my life and I am one of the 1,000th - 1,300th who make up the village community. I go to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield, as Cumberworth C of E first school couldn't offer me a place when I started school in 2016 as they were full to capacity of new intakes that September. One of my favourite hobbies is to take my two dogs through the fields and into Dearne Woods opposite my house to watch them play and have fun whilst getting exercised and some fresh air. After hearing the news that Vivly Living wants to build in my local area, I became really disappointed and started thinking about the effects it will have on other local residents and their families. There are many disturbing ways it will affect us all. For the past 14 years, the open fields and the woodlands have been the highlights of my life, from walking my two dogs in the peaceful woods to playing in the fields. After a hard and stressful year at senior school, I relax by taking my two dogs all over the Upper Cumberworth countryside and I do this because I can escape to the wilderness where it is peaceful and quiet. If Vivly Living do decide to put houses up, Upper Cumberworth won't be a calm, relaxing village but instead it will slowly become a chaotic, stressful residential area due to all the extra homes, vehicles and people. Carbon emissions will start to increase whilst nature slowly decreases, formed by different modes of transports purchased by new residents so they can get to work and back. The field Vivly Living are trying to build on means so much to the local wildlife, they are taking and destroying their homes away so they can build housing that can easily be built somewhere else which isn't as loved as here. Another major problem which local citizens will face is all the access traffic created by the houses and their vehicles. Barnsley Road has many blind spots, in late summer the sun sets directly on to oncoming traffic/where you are intending to build the entrance/exit to the housing estate. Having a higher percentage of traffic in the village increases the chances of injury or reckless driving. Residents who have children will all be expecting to hopefully send them to Cumberworth C of E school, this is a small school with limited spaces. As previously mentioned I was unable to get a place at the school 10 years ago due to limited numbers of new starters. I'm an only child and I don't have a Playstation or Xbox so the countryside is where I spend most of my free time. Instead of playing with videogames or scrolling on social media I play with my two dogs and build dens in the open outdoors.

THE SYCAMORE TREE

In the field Vivly Living or trying to build on features an ancient Sycamore Tree that calls the field home and it has been crowned the heart of Upper Cumberworth after standing its ground and guarding the field since the early 16th century. This ancient tree can be spotted on country walks or via the road connecting both Denby Dale and Shepley. This tree isn't just loved by animals but it is also loved by the local citizens of this beloved village and they have chosen to name it ' The Broccoli Tree ', due to its unique shape and structure. Chopping it down would be catastrophic and ruinous !

DISADVANTAGES OF BUILDING HOUSES ON AGRICULTURE

- **Irreversible Loss of Countryside:** Once a field is built on, it is rarely returned to nature, resulting in the permanent loss of open, green landscapes
- **Destruction of Habitats:** Building on fields destroys natural habitats for wildlife, disrupting local ecosystems and biodiversity
- **Increased Flood Risk:** Replacing natural soil and vegetation with impervious surfaces (concrete, tarmac) reduces natural drainage, which can lead to higher flood risks in the area.
- **Pollution:** Increased construction and traffic in rural areas can increase noise and air pollution.

Many thanks for reading this email, I sincerely hope you can understand my concerns and my absolute passion for protecting the countryside and the area in which I live. Protecting wildlife, keeping history alive must be kept, so many people like myself can enjoy it.