

Sent: 17 February 2026 10:59
To: DC Admin
Subject: Re: Vivly Application Objection - 2025/93572

My grounds for objection are:

1. Housing needs In Kirklees are based on a total Council area basis. Published data by Kirklees shows that the high population needs and growth requiring increased housing capacity are concentrated in the Northern Districts eg Huddersfield, Batley, Dewsbury areas . This development in Upper Cumberworth at the Southern boundary with Barnsley MBC would do nothing to satisfy the identified demand of the communities some 15 miles away , with difficult access by road or public transport .

Therefore the justification that this application would contribute to achieving the overall Kirklees housing target is untenable.

2. The proposed development would severely impact on the green belt environment, with loss of prime agricultural land. The high quality rural landscape of the area would be seriously impacted from the housing and destroy the sense of place in the surrounding rural community villages.

3. Upper Cumberworth is a small village and the increase in population would cause more traffic accidents and overwhelm local community services eg. NHS providers, schools , utilities.

4. The proposal does not address any water drainage or waste water issues from this large number of houses.

The surface water runoff from the dense housing development, from roads, driveways ,patios and roofs would cause a significant increase in storm flow into the receiving River Dearne. This increase will have a serious impact on the flood risk areas downstream Denby Dale , Scissett and Clayton . Already those areas are vulnerable with frequent flooding episodes and the designation of high risk areas and properties subject to flooding.

5. There are no details of proposals for dealing with foul sewage . Presumably the developer would wish to discharge into the public sewer at some point which would then be treated at Clayton West Wastewater Treatment Plant.

With my knowledge and experience working for both Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency I have examined from the published records the performance of the downstream sewerage network. The following are my findings:

The sewer system was designed and constructed over 50 years ago with a capacity to serve the population at that time . The population increase in Denby Dale and the sewer catchment of Clayton West WWT has increased significantly around 50 and 100 % .

Some improvements were made in the 1980s however both the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water understand that the sewer capacity is overloaded. The frequency in the operation of the combined sewer overflows has increased causing serious pollution of the River Dearne.

There are 5 sewage overflows downstream of the proposal:

1. Catch Bar CSO ,Upper Cumberworth ... regular unsatisfactory CSO discharges.
2. Cuckstool Bottom CSO , Denby Dale monitoring shows that it discharges sewage prematurely on frequent occasions and needs significant upgrade .
3. Wakefield Road CSO, Scissett a known problem with intermittent sewage discharges and monitoring is required but not currently working according to YW records.
4. [Park Mill](#) CSO, Clayton West Both YW and the EA have classified this a serious problem and it is formally classed as an unsatisfactory CSO in need of urgent investment. YW have proposed in their AMP 8 submission for funding to OFWAT for improvement works with no approval or start date .
5. Clayton West STW STORM Tank..... according to records this regularly operates because the storage capacity is insufficient due to the increased flow and load from all the new housing developments in the catchment. Premature storm discharges causing regular incidents of sewage pollution.

In conclusion the increase in housing and population in the Upper Dearne Valley is already causing overload of the sewerage system . Major investment in storage and treatment of storm sewage is required and any further development will increase the sewage pollution of the River Dearne.