



I strongly object to the proposed development for a number of reasons.

I fundamentally disagree with building on green belt sites when there are so many other sites and buildings that could be re-developed to achieve the same outcome of increasing housing in Kirklees.

Having lived in the village for over a decade I have already felt the negative impact of increased traffic on the main Barnsley Road and actively try and avoid coming out of the junction with the post office/pub and the Sovereign Junction for safety reasons. 123 dwellings will bring in excess of 250 additional vehicles as a minimum. With the lack of amenities within walking distance, compounded by poor and unreliable public transport, people will routinely use their cars for the shortest of journeys. I don't believe the traffic surveys will have been done at a variety of times to accurately reflect the current experience of residents – they appear to have been undertaken at non peak times.

The eco system of the greenbelt and the ancient woodland will also suffer significant loss. Wildlife makes the field it's home throughout the seasons and the building site boundary is very close to the ancient woodland. My understanding that the distance between the boundary and ancient woodland is significantly smaller than national requirements. The gradient of the site and man-made surfaces will result in run off of rainwater damaging the woodland, habitat and wildlife diversity permanently.

Water supply is also of serious concern. Burst water mains and sewer overflow in the village are a constant challenge and a reflection on the ability of the infrastructure to cope with existing demands, never mind a development that will significantly increase the size of the village. The drainage system seems to be permanently overflowing throughout the year.

My health and wellbeing will also be compromised by such a significant change to the local landscape. Open space, views and clean air are essential for my mental health. More widely, the ability to access GP and dental care is challenging which will be exacerbated by such a large increase in local residents. These services don't exist within the village so we all need to travel to them, as would new residents if the development goes ahead.

I would urge that this application be refused.