

DC Admin

Sent: 19 February 2026 11:27
To: DC Admin
Subject: OBJECTION Planning Application number 2025/60/93572/E

I write to strongly and formally object to the ludicrous proposal by Vivly Living to build 123+ houses on green belt land in Upper Cumberworth. (Application No. 2025/60/93572/E

As a resident of 39 years I have raised my children in the beautiful area of Cumberworth. We have walked in the woods, played in the stream, and enjoyed having access to clean, wholesome, fresh air and green spaces. Even as adults my children refer to Cumberworth as 'home'. The proposed development will permanently ruin Cumberworth for future generations.

This is designated GREEN BELT land, supposedly protected from development to prevent urban sprawl. Vivly have called this 'low quality Green Belt' It is NOT. This is prime agricultural land and has always been farmed. Currently there are sheep eating the winter crop. This is not some scrubland but valuable farmland that has a rich ecology. In the turbulent world we currently live in, surely we should be protecting land that can grow crops and support livestock, not concreting over it?

Upper Cumberworth is a conservation village and, within the designated conservation area, planning permission has to be sought for any changes. Will the proposed development have to comply with the strict planning laws that the properties within the conservation area have to? The Post Office, the former Chapel, and The Star Inn are within the conservation area - just metres away from the proposed development.

The proposed housing development would increase the size of the village by one third. This will destroy the 'village feel' of Cumberworth. Our lovely neighbouring village of Shepley has had its heart and soul ripped out of it by over-development. Huddersfield's sprawl has now reached as far as Fenay Bridge. The green spaces between are getting fewer and fewer.

As stated in the Kirklees Conservation Appraisal 'From the elevated situation of Birdsedge and High Flatts to the south, the clustered nature of the stone slated roofs and church tower are an attractive historical and geographical point of reference in the distance' and in Kirklees own words this area is 'an important wildlife corridor' This will be lost forever if the development goes ahead.

The ancient woodland is much loved by Cumberworth residents and also those further afield who come to walk in the peaceful, magical atmosphere, which is restorative and so good for helping with mental health problems. A housing development of this magnitude would irretrievably damage the ancient woodland, and its unique and diverse biodiversity. Home to Northern Wood Ants and white-clawed crayfish - both endangered species, the destruction of their habitat should be punishable by law!

The buffer zone suggested by Vivly of 10m will not protect the ancient woodland. This should ideally be 50m (Natural England) for a development of this size, to prevent damage occurring by root compaction, contaminated water run off, pollution, noise and a huge increase in people using the woods.. Once lost it can never be replaced.

The sewage / water system is crumbling and overloaded as it is. We have seen many bursts within Cumberworth that often have to be repaired more than once. Our water pressure is consistently low. The current system cannot cope with a further 123 houses. The culvert that runs across the field often floods and discharges water through the field wall and into the wood. This is clean waste water. It will be contaminated water if the development goes ahead and this will have a negative impact on the woodland trees, the ecology and the River Dearne that runs through the wood (leading to the Don, the Humber and eventually the sea.).

Traffic - We have to negotiate the notorious Sovereign crossroads daily. Many cars use Carr Hill Road to miss out the Sovereign junction and, in doing so, endanger the life of residents walking along Carr Hill road as much of it does not have a pavement. Cars speed up and down. The junction at the top is also an accident blackspot. The same applies to the bottom end of Carr Hill Road, by The Star Inn, and the junction below the Sovereign (Carr Lane / Cross Lane). There are near misses all the time, and, sadly, there have been fatalities.. Cumberworth Lane is constantly parked up with school traffic. The pavement between Upper and Lower Cumberworth is narrow and this road is being used more and more by heavy goods vehicles. The Scissett Middle school children catch the bus on Barnsley road outside the converted chapel. The pavement here, and along Barnsley road, is narrow and dangerous. A further 123 houses could add up to 250 more cars to these busy roads. A disaster waiting to happen! There will shortly be all the additional quarry wagons travelling up and down Barnsley Road, to add to the chaos of construction machinery and residential cars.

Upper Cumberworth has few amenities. A pub, a shop/ Post Office and a First school. There are few job opportunities. There are no Doctors or dentists. As a resident of almost 40 years I can assure you that a car IS a necessity and it is difficult to manage without. Even a trip to the local doctors in Shepley is difficult for anyone with mobility problems. Public transport does not go past the doctors so a lengthy walk is necessary. Vivly are suggesting that residents of their development wont need a car. This is laughable. The bus service is infrequent, The train station requires a walk along a narrow pavement on Barnsley Road, with lorries thundering past. The air pollution and noise are already considerable. This development would make it many times worse.,

Developments of this nature NEVER allow enough parking. They usually include a few visitor parking spaces which are quickly taken over by residents (many of whom have converted their garage into living space!). This means that the busy Barnsley Road will become a carpark. It is already dangerous and difficult to cross without negotiating parked cars too.

Greedy developers are not interested in the views of local residents, but simply making more profit by building on easier Green Belt . I have read through the reports submitted by Vivly and it would appear that some of these so-called 'Specialists' have not even visited the site! Granting this development would set a precedent for developers to land-grab more Green Belt. This area is outside the Local Development Plan yet there have already been developers scouting the land at Birdsedge at the top of Park Lane. How long before this 'Wildlife Corridor' becomes a ribbon development linking Cumberworth with Birdsedge?

Vivly are classing these houses as 'Affordable'. Affordable to whom? My daughter, living at home in her 30's, cannot afford one (and would not choose to live in one of these little boxes anyway). There are many houses for sale in the surrounding area, in all price brackets, and the wider Huddersfield

area has seen massive building in recent years, many of which take a long time to sell. Just where is this 'housing crisis'? In the South?

For all the above reasons I hope that Kirklees Planning Department will see sense and reject this incredibly insensitive, short-sighted and greedy application. Make the developers build on brownfield sites - there are plenty available.

Thank you.