

Dear sir.

Please consider this letter as an objection to the proposal by Vivly Living to develop 123 residences in upper Cumberworth village. Planning Reference Number - Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E

My objection is based on five issues :

1 The proposal will invalidate the concept of greenbelt conservation

Established after World War II to protect the natural environment provide green lungs for built up areas and to stop the pre-war habit of conurbation expansion and merger ,the greenbelt is still ,today an essential aspect of urban planning. Legally there is no such thing as low quality green belt . However,I recognise the governments focus on grey belt, which is loosely based around "poor quality, ugly areas of green belt " .But , this area is far from poor quality and very far from ugly. It is productive farmland and a magnificent asset to Upper Cumberworth and indeed to the whole of Kirklees. (See paragraph 3).

2 The proposal will overwhelm and inundate the current village

Regular and sensitivity sized developments of houses in existing villages is socially and economically desirable and must be welcomed, and can ,if accomplished in the correct way ,improve and enhance a village but this proposal will overwhelm and inundate Upper Cumberworth increasing its footprint by over 30% and the population by around 25%. This is not sensitive small-scale development.This is inundation.

3 The proposal will irrevocably, destroy magnificent vistas

If greybelt land can be described as "poor quality, ugly areas of greenbelt" ,this area is far from meeting that description . Looking from Barnsley Road towards Birdsedge is simply beautiful and equally looking from Birdsedge towards the site is similarly breathtaking. The proposal would destroy these views forever and undermine any idea that Kirklees regarded its beautiful Pennine landscape as not only important to local villagers but also to visitors from wider afield and indeed the rest of the country. Vivly Living says it's proposal is sympathetic to the local environment. They are wrong the proposal destroys forever magnificent scenery.

4 The proposal will have a negative impact on local fauna and on the invaluable and splendid ancient woodland

In the last year we have photographic evidence of an extensive variety fauna in our garden. This includes a pair of deer, a family of foxes, a crane, frogs feeding on frogs from the pond (a huge number of frogs and toads can be seen on damp evenings on the lawn), bats that inhabit our loft, a breeding pair of kestrels, as well as a wide variety of other birds. These animals can be seen using the adjacent ancient woodland as well as the field proposed for development. The development will have a negative impact on the habitat these wild creatures require. The proposed narrow barrier between the development and the ancient woodland according to our contacts at the CRE is totally inadequate to protect the woodland and to maintain the abundance of wild fauna. The ancient woodland is a rare example of natural landscape with the history of noninterference, going back at least to mediaeval times. We cannot put at risk, let alone knowingly endanger, such a precious asset. The sustainability of this unique landscape currently protected by the field proposed for development (which itself provides wildlife habitat) and the superb views from Upper Cumberworth to Birdsedge and vice versa is something we the local community and Kirklees Council must protect for future generations. The CRE has stated to us that the proposed development would over a relatively short period have a detrimental impact on the ancient woodland its fauna and its historical archaeological remains.

5 The proposal will significantly increase pressure on currently overstretched local services :

#### 5.1 Water supply

The council will no doubt be aware of the problems associated with water supply in the upper Cumberworth area. Such a massive increase in the population (by over 25%) will create even more significant water supply issues.

#### 5.2 Road Traffic Issues

The A635 through the village is extremely busy and vehicles regularly exceed the speed limit of 40 mph. A combination of 123 extra houses and the impact of the development of the quarry scheme adjacent to the recycling centre will only exacerbate this problem. Car Hill Road will undoubtedly be used as a cut through to avoid the sovereign junction.

#### 5.3 Medical Services

The residents of Cumberworth are served by Skelmanthorpe Family Doctors (with a branch in Denby Dale). We are informed by local doctors that housing developments currently underway in Denby Dale are already causing pressure on local medical services in the area. Seeking a face-to-face doctors appointment can result in a wait of around 3 to 4 weeks. The proposed increase in the

population of up at Cumberworth ( by over 25% )will undoubtedly make the situation worse.

#### 5.4 The primary school in the village

We were informed by the headteacher of the Upper Cumberworth primary school that the developers had suggested that the schools intake was predicted to decline if their development was rejected. The headteacher vehemently rejected this false accusation.

Thank you for considering this objection to the proposed Vivly Living development in Upper Cumberworth.