

16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Objection to Planning Application 2025/60/93572/E**

**Please do not publish my personal details.**

I have lived in the local area all of my life and feel very strongly about the unnecessary development of rural green belt land when alternative and suitable brownfield sites are still available and lie unused within Kirklees. This application proposes building on land which forms a key feature and important element of the local landscape. The idea of building 123 houses on this field would forever change the character of the village by bolting a housing estate onto a traditional country village.

The persisting idea that it is appropriate to build houses on our fields without any thought to providing extra facilities or services to support the additional populations that these houses bring into our rural villages and towns is ridiculous. Existing housing developments in the adjacent villages Denby Dale, Shepley, Skelmanthorpe, Emley and Shelley are all expected to draw on existing health services, GP surgeries, dentists, schools, shops, banks as well as the roads and utilities infrastructure. At what point does the local planning authority acknowledge that facilities and services are stretched to breaking point and adding further housing/people into a locality cannot be undertaken without increasing the infrastructure required to support those people?

The roads and lanes around Upper Cumberworth were built to accommodate sporadic rural traffic. Many of these roads are two lane in name alone, without proper white lining, footpaths or lighting and are not fit to meet the current traffic demand never mind the additional burden that this development would be expected to bring (c158,000 car journeys/year).

Barnsley Road A635 already has two accident blackspots at the Sovereign Inn junction and Starr Inn junction where traffic and pedestrians are already concentrated, and this application would introduce a further junction and inflow of traffic on the same stretch of carriageway increasing the risk of accidents.

I ask that this application is refused.