

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 21 February 2026 14:17
To: DC Admin
Subject: Planning Objection to 2025/60/9357/E -application to build 123 houses adjacent to Barnsley road Upper Cumberworth

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Please redact my personal details.

I object to the application .

The location chosen for the development is green belt land and this field is not in the local plan .The field together with the trees and hedgerows denote the start of the village .This green expanse prevents urban sprawl into Denby Dale. This field helps retain the village feel. The field has been cultivated for the last 27 years and the summer harvest is a typical eagerly anticipated village event. None of the other fields nearby have been used for food production. There is a tree preservation order covering some of the trees and the development plan does not show these trees have been taken into account .

The proposed development site is adjacent to ancient woodland and that a small buffer zone of 10metres has been incorporated into the plan however as this is a proposed major development then the zone recommended by Kirklees Ecology Team should be 30-50 metres. The report also recommends that more of the mature trees on the site should be retained .Whilst the Ecology Report also suggests that the developer should protect the mature trees and hedgerows ,I am of the opinion that once any works commence ,all ecological matters will be forgotten and habitats will be uprooted .

The ancient woodland is home to the only colony in Kirklees of hairy ants and these are already in decline due to the extra footfall and domestic pets visiting the woods. The woods are also home to a variety of wildlife which forage in the field and are regularly seen by locals. The woods are also home to the native bluebell providing a beautiful display in Spring . These bluebells are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The delicate natural balance of the health of the woodland would be adversely impacted both during the construction phase and thereafter by water pollution from chemicals used on site ,urban runoff and pollution events (i.e when pumps and attenuation tanks fail) . A polluting episode happened as recently as 8 February when contaminated sewage water overflowed from the main at the top of Stephens wood .

There will be disturbance to habitats in and around the field as well as within the ancient woodland due to noise ,dust and air pollution during construction and then the noise , rubbish and light pollution from the additional dwellings (ie street lights, property lights and car lights) and interference from household pets .

The ancient woodland would be affected by the increased footfall causing trampling of fauna and creature habitats. Wildlife would be affected adversely by cat predation and increased dog activity .Fouling by cats and dogs deters wildlife.

The ancient woodland is currently fed by multiple springs, even in the summer months and therefore to alter the drainage regime of the field would affect the water supply and adversely impact the health of the woodland.

Upper Cumberworth is a small village of just over 300 houses - the impact of building 123 further houses would increase the village by a third - this is not consistent with the housing density set out in the local plan. This is a small rural village with its own identity and a new housing estate would ruin the feel of the village .

The proposed site is adjacent to a conservation area .Views of the church spire currently seen from the dwellings on Park lane and from various walking points on Park Lane , will be lost .

Being a small rural village , there is poor infrastructure - old victorian pipework ,poor bus service and a train station which is 1.7 km away from the site with very little parking at the station . The trains rarely run on time and are frequently cancelled . There is no capacity to improve parking at the station . As the route from the development site is 1.7 km and down an inadequate and poorly lit path ,I think it highly unlikely that the occupants of the proposed site would walk to the station .As there will be 123 dwellings there are likely to be at least 246 cars which is a huge increase for a small village . Barnsley road is a very fast and busy road . Carr hill road is used as a rat run and there is often standing traffic at the junction of Carr hill and The Sovereign junction - both accident hotspots . Carr hill road is only part paved with the latter half unpaved which is dangerous for walkers and dog walkers and will be an accident waiting to happen if the village has a further influx of vehicles .The bus stop heading down Barnsley road has no

shelter and is on a very slim section of pathway and is dangerous for the schoolchildren heading to Scisset and Shelley schools - this pathway cannot safely take any more children .

The immediate occupants of Park Lane ,Carr Hill road and Barnsley road would be the most impacted by both the construction process and the new development . The planning statement suggests short term minor inconvenience when in reality it will be several years of noise ,dirt and air pollution and then blighted views of the conservation part of the village ,more noise ,dust and pollution from the new site .

The residents of Upper Cumberworth are custodians of this village and are fighting to retain the character of the village together with safeguarding of the conservation area and ancient woodland .