

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to Proposed Residential Development at Barnsley Road, Upper Cumberworth

Planning refs; Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development plan for 123 houses on Green Belt land at Barnsley Road, Upper Cumberworth.

First and foremost, the site is Green Belt land. The plans should not be accepted for that reason alone and to allow these plans undermines and makes a mockery of the law and sets a dangerous precedent. Sadly our country's green belt is being whittled away and what is really concerning is the feeling that people are not being heard and that developments such as these are a done deal and our opposition is pointless. We all need to understand that once this land has gone it has gone forever. Our children and our children's children are going to despair of us, wondering how we could have been so shortsighted by allowing our countryside to be given up so thoughtlessly. There are so many brown sites that should be developed first.

The development would also have a severe impact on Barnsley Road (A635) which is already carrying too many heavy goods vehicles and an ever increasing amount of traffic including heavy vehicles as a result of a new quarry. Heavy vehicles that take no heed of speed limits. This presents significant risks to both pedestrians and drivers. Children often cross Barnsley Road on the way to and from school. Speeding is also a huge problem on this and surrounding roads. This is sure to get much worse due to increased traffic. The junction at the Sovereign Garage is a busy and dangerous crossroads. There are many accidents there. Additional traffic will make an already extremely hazardous junction even more unsafe.

We have not got the infrastructure to cope with such a big development. An addition of over 120 houses would bring around 300 new residents to the village, around 80 school-age children. Schools and services would not be able to cope.

The additional cars would present a terrible impact on the area. The area has poor public transport provision so most people have no other option than to use cars. Many need more than one car as most families need more than one wage to manage. Pollution would be increased but one of my main bugbears is that so many drivers have absolutely no respect for speed restrictions on Barnsley Road and on surrounding roads.

The development would irreparably damage the rural landscape of Upper Cumberworth for ever. It would urbanise an area that should remain truly rural.

There are also serious environmental concerns. The development would result in harm to ancient woodland, an irreplaceable habitat which has the highest level of National Protection. It would also lead to the disturbance and destruction of protected species in the surrounding woodlands and countryside.

There is already evidence of existing drainage and sewer capacity problems in the area. Additional development will exacerbate these issues by increasing the risk of local flooding, bringing with it all the horrendous devastation that would result.

Finally, Kirklees Council, I understand, is at present reviewing the "Local Plan" and that developments are not expected to be allocated development sites until 2026/2027. I also believe that this proposal has been submitted prematurely ahead of the completion of the Local Plan review and the formal Call for Sites process is premature and undermines the plan-led system.

For all of these reasons, Green Belt harm, increased danger to pedestrians (particularly children), worsening highway conditions, safety issues, environmental damage, infrastructure pressures, I strongly object to this application and respectfully request that it be refused.

Yours faithfully,

79, Carr Hill Road,
Upper Cumberworth,

HD8 8XN