

The land subject to the proposed development is clearly designated greenbelt within Kirklees Local Plan, and for this reason alone the application should not even be considered at this stage, as to do so would negate the point of having a local plan in place.

Having carefully considered the likely impact on a small village with a clear identity, a good community, but with amenities limited to one shop, a pub, a church and a small primary school, I find it hard to see any benefit in swamping treasured and well used green belt with a disproportionately large housing estate. I feel strongly that the proposed site and its immediate surroundings are in fact this village's fundamental and defining amenity. Many residents have moved to the village over the years because of the opportunities to benefit from the beautiful natural environment, and for their children to experience a safe, nurturing childhood, where they can learn about the natural world around them. To have this, one has been prepared to accept the scarcity of amenities to be found in more urban areas.

I am concerned that, alongside the agreed development of quarrying operations (for the next 25 years), Upper Cumberwoth will become engulfed by urban sprawl, with concomitant dysbenefits in terms of hugely increased traffic movements on already dangerous and /or damaged roads, loss of ecologically significant landscape, the mental and physical health of our community, and the strain on already woefully inadequate infrastructure.

As far as I can see, any funding intended for schools and other amenities would be paid into Kirklees, with no guarantee that our local area would benefit, as the authority may have what it considers to be more pressing needs in other geographical and social areas of Kirklees. In south Kirklees, we still have many small first schools, and two middle schools feeding into Shelley College. In the light of other significant development in the area, it is difficult to see how our schools will cope.

I would urge consideration of the development of existing brownfield sites, and renovation of unoccupied housing stock, in areas with better public transport, proximity to employment, shops and medical services. I appreciate that people need housing, but see no positive outcome in disregarding all existing regulations regarding preservation of the Green Belt. Upper Cumberwoth may be poor in terms of amenities, but the treasure of its setting and rich natural habitat must not be lost.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Please reject this planning application. as ill timed, inappropriate and disproportionate in scale