

## DC Admin

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 08 March 2026 17:04  
**To:** DC Admin  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E

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Please keep my name and address anonymous

Objection to Planning Application Upper Cumberworth 2025/60/93572/E

As a resident in a conservation area of Upper Cumberworth for over 30 years, I am writing to object to the above planning application.

If passed, the proposed development will have an irreversible detrimental environmental impact on this hamlet and nearby historic villages.

The area for the proposed development is located within an area designated as Green Belt in the LDP and there are numerous reasons why this land should remain as protected Green Belt.

1. Refusal of the proposed development will help to preserve the village's character and identity by retaining its physical aspect within the local landscape adjacent to the designated ancient woodland and the wider Dearne Valley.

(See attached photos from July 2025 & February 2026)

Too many local rural communities are being diluted by sprawling house building schemes, destroying their heritage and natural environments, leading to an ever-increasing number of ancient villages becoming anonymous commuter corridors.

2. Refusal of the proposed development will preserve agricultural land which is still used for crop production, grazing sheep and also provides a wildlife habitat which, in turn, is instrumental in enabling the adjacent nationally protected ancient woodland to thrive.

This development will undermine the national policy of conserving / increasing biodiversity. Reducing the availability of agricultural land locally will contribute to the ever-increasing cumulative detrimental effect of such action on crop production, not just in our area but across the whole of Yorkshire and the country as a whole. Why is the local planning committee not taking action to retain local farming, insist on enhanced wildlife protection and reduce our carbon footprint at a time when we are all supposed to be doing everything possible to prevent any further damage to the environment. One of the special attributes of the local area is Denby Dale Butchers which sources most of their meat from within just a couple of miles. The ability to source food from fields such as those proposed for 123 houses should be protected not irrevocably destroyed.

3. Refusal of the proposed development will help to prevent further pressure on the already overloaded infrastructure and so limit further increases in the associated safety issues as well as the unresolved water pressure and drainage problems.

The traffic generated by numerous other developments (all within 2 miles of this latest proposed development) in Skelmanthorpe, Denby Dale and Shepley have contributed to the increase in vehicles on the already excessively busy main Barnsley Road as well as the minor roads of Carr Hill Road and Cumberworth Lane. The roads are at capacity and the current number of parked cars makes access difficult for local residents and the local bus.

Whilst I no longer have school age children, I still remember the challenges faced by my children over 15 years ago - a busy main Barnsley Road (with a good deal of speeding traffic) with narrow pavements, making it dangerous whilst waiting at the school bus stop. Cumberworth Lane is a narrow winding country road, with extremely narrow pavements, between Lower & Upper Cumberworth, coupled with commuter, school & HGV traffic using it as a rat run. It wasn't safe for pedestrians, cyclists, pushchair & wheelchair users then and it's even worse now. Students are faced with similar dangers whilst trying to access the unreliable limited public buses or trains (30 minutes' walk down the main road from UC).

I envisage that the proposed development will overload the local infrastructure still further as even more residents join the throng, travelling by car to the nearest village shops in Denby Dale and at the Sovereign Garage (the infamous road junction with a history of RTA fatalities). Trying to cross the main road to go walking in the woods from the bottom of Eunice Lane is like dicing with death due to the number of speeding cars. Trying to join the traffic at the junction by The Star pub is similarly treacherous, particularly if you have to right.

Broken drains are an ongoing issue at the junction on Barnsley Road, flooding the road, contributing to pot holes. On Cumberworth Lane drains are clearly at capacity as cellars in the older houses are subject to flooding during bad weather and there is an unresolved water pressure issue.

The infrastructure is already unfit for purpose. Imposing a development that will add even more demands is ill-thought through and contrary to common sense.

4. Refusal of the proposed development will help to prevent even more pressure on local services such as schools, health centres and dental practices which are already overstretched.

Currently, there is a minimum of 2 weeks to see a Shepley GP. The last time I tried to get an appointment for my 85yr mother (November 2025) I was advised to take her to A&E because there were no appointments available. The number of NHS places at local dentists continues to decrease as many now insist on their patients going private.

This development is a step too far. It is reminiscent of the 1970s when the planning committees ran rough shod with the heritage buildings in Huddersfield tearing the heart out of its historic centre, demolishing the old market to make way for a modern market which has now also been demolished.

In this day and age, we are encouraged to conserve and celebrate our fragile environment and heritage for future generations.

Kirklees Council planners are in a privileged position; they need to re-assess the long-term impact of their recent planning decisions on local villages. Housing target demands by successive governments are made clinically without any genuine understanding of local areas. Kirklees Council planners cannot make such an excuse and they should make a responsible decision and reject this planning application outright.



