

## **Objection to Planning Application No 2025/60/93572/E**

I wish to object to this application for the following reasons.

The proposed site is not allocated within the Kirklees Local Plan. The site has been identified as designated Greenbelt. It is currently productive agricultural land and has been so for centuries.

The site is within an area of natural beauty, which enhances this scenic parts of Upper Cumberworth and the surrounding area.

The proposed development will be for 123 houses in a village which currently has approximately 350 established houses, a 35% increase in housing density! There is absolutely no way that the existing infrastructure could withstand this increase. There are insufficient school, medical, transport and most of all, sewage and water facilities to cope with this size of population increase.

Within the Haigh Huddleston Flood Risk Assessment report submitted within the "Supporting Information" part of the planning application, there is a letter from Yorkshire Water stating that the site is not "allocated under the Kirklees Local Plan, has not been considered under their Asset Management Plan and, most importantly, that the existing system has insufficient capacity, in both Foul and Surface water disposal, to deal with the proposed development". They finish the paragraph on Foul Water by stating that

"Yorkshire Water would likely not support the development."

Within that same flood risk report(H.H.) the authors highlight the high risk of flooding by surface water due to the increase in impermeable buildings and hard landscaping plus the impermeable nature of the subsoil and increased heavy rainfall from climate change. Their recommendation is to dispose of this excess volume of water gathered from the whole site by the construction of a large attenuation tank which will then pump / drain surface water, via an open outlet into the Park Dike stream. This will require an extensive and expensive construction facility. Can Vivly afford this or will they take shortcuts?!! Soak aways will not solve the problem.

Park Dike is a stream approximately 50 metres to the south of the development boundary which runs through the upper part of the Upper Stephen Woods, an area of Ancient Woodland. This stream adjoins the Upper River Dearne within the woodland area. It runs through land which is already very boggy and liable for serious flooding when it rains. To introduce a huge volume of potentially contaminated / polluted water into this water course should not even be considered. The present flooding of the Dike already causes difficulty in accessing the main part of the woods. At the ford at the end of Greenwood Lane, there will be a high risk that the increased water flow will avoid the present flood defences and flood onto the paths towards the pond and other parts of the woods with disastrous effect to the ecology.

The increased water flow will also cause even greater erosion to the banking close to its confluence with the Dearne and eventually potential flooding in Denby Dale..

The proposed site is at present agricultural land which, no doubt will have ancient stone land drains within in it. The construction and digging of the site will cause excessive damage to these drains which will then allow uncontrolled land water to filter underground. Due to the steep nature of the ground the uncontrolled water will flow south into the upper part of Park Dike and increase even more the flow of excess water.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> November last year after heavy rainfall there was very severe flooding off the south west corner of the field, through the dry stone walls and flooded the area of Upper Stephen wood, near the stepping stones and all the paths nearby.

The development site may not suffer flooding but the surrounding area to the south most definitely will.

Still on the subject of drainage there are ongoing problems with multiple bursts of mains water pipes very close to the proposed site. Will there be sufficient water available to supply a constant supply to 123 properties?

For these above reasons, and many more recorded elsewhere, the application should be refused outright.