



I strongly object to the proposal by Vivly living to develop houses on Greenbelt land in upper Cumberworth. I am a village resident.

The issues are as follows;

1. This is green belt land which produces crops on a yearly basis and also currently has grazing sheep. It is not a "hobby farm" as suggested by the landowner and developer, it generates food and provides an income. There is no demonstrable need put forward to justify building on this green belt land. The fact that Kirklees has not got a sufficient plan for housing development is not a justification for building on green belt. Use brownfield, some of which is pre approved, or tackle the empty homes across the Borough. The land is a beautiful part of the village well used as an amenity by villagers and visitors and building on it would adversely impact the beauty and character of this village.

2. Ancient wood land would be adversely impacted by a development only 15 meters from its edge. The roots of the trees must extend well into the field, building would damage the trees in the wood. Many of which have been there since the 1600s. Given that Kirklees does not build on more than a 1/17 incline, significant erosion of the top soil would be required. This would cause further damage to the trees. I also understand archeological remains are likely to exist under the field.

3. The biodiversity of the area will be damaged. There are many species of animals and plants in the woods that will be affected, if this proceeds The Kirklees plan refers to protecting the Hairy Ant. The habitat of the ant will be damaged by the development so close and by increased trampling. 123 new houses will see more cats and this will adversely impact on the bird population.

4. The village is already busy, the newly approved quarry which I understand will soon start operating will bring a further 120 heavy vehicles through the village on a daily basis. This combined with developments in Denby Dale, Skelmanthorpe and Shepley has seen increased congestion and more cars dodging the Sovereign crossroads by diverting up Carr Hill of Cumberworth lane. Congestion at school pick up and drop off times is horrendous, and double parking makes the junction at the post office dangerous. The plans refer to cycling and walking, with footpaths included in the proposals. The reality is most parents use cars to take children to school as they are going to work themselves. The roads simply cannot take any more traffic. This when taken with the developers plans grossly underestimating both movements and distances, must be a worry.

Refuse this application