



I wish to formally object to Planning Application 2026/62/90310/E submitted to Kirklees Council.

The proposal would result in the loss of existing urban green space within Batley (WF17). This conflicts with national and local planning policy which prioritises the reuse of previously developed land and seeks to protect valuable open space within existing communities.

Paragraphs within the National Planning Policy Framework emphasise that planning decisions should encourage the effective use of land by prioritising previously developed (brownfield) land, particularly where this land is well located within existing settlements. The proposal appears inconsistent with this principle because the development targets undeveloped green space despite the presence of previously developed sites within the Batley urban area.

Batley is a historic industrial town with a significant stock of previously developed land including vacant commercial premises, former industrial plots and under-utilised urban sites. These types of sites provide clear opportunities for regeneration and housing delivery without the permanent loss of urban green areas. The redevelopment of brownfield land would align with national planning policy objectives by directing development toward land that has already been developed while supporting urban regeneration.

In addition, the loss of green space conflicts with the principles of sustainable development. Urban green areas provide measurable environmental and social benefits including biodiversity value, urban cooling, drainage and flood mitigation, and opportunities for informal recreation. The removal of such land reduces environmental resilience and undermines the quality of life for nearby residents. Once built upon, these spaces cannot realistically be replaced.

The proposal also risks setting an undesirable planning precedent. If development is permitted on accessible green land while suitable previously developed land remains available within the settlement, it undermines the brownfield-first approach embedded in national planning guidance and weakens the long-term protection of remaining open spaces within Batley.

Given the availability of previously developed land within Batley and the wider WF17 area, the development of urban green land cannot reasonably be justified. The applicant has not demonstrated that brownfield opportunities have been adequately explored or exhausted prior to proposing the loss of open space.

For these reasons the application fails to demonstrate compliance with national planning policy objectives relating to sustainable development, effective land use and protection of open space.

I therefore respectfully request that Kirklees Council refuse Planning Application 2026/62/90310/E.