

15 Broadacres

Honley

Holmfirth

HD9 6ND

13 July 2026

Dear Mathias and Steve

Planning Application 2026/91468

I refer to the above planning application and the process taken to redesignate the public open space on Broadacres, Honley.

We have lived on Broadacres for nearly 22 years, since December 2004, and one of the reasons we bought our house was the Public Open Space. An area for children to play safely, linking Broadacres with the Public Open Space on Honey Head Lane. There is a purpose-built opening in the dry-stone wall which separated the two to allow children to play from both areas and meet and walk safely away from busy roads.

We have used the Public Open Space over this period as: -

1. A public footpath
2. Our children, families and residents of Broadacres have regularly used the space as a play area
3. As a social meeting place for the local community to hold events such as Easter Egg hunts, and bonfire night celebrations.

All the residents have waited patiently for the developer to finish the Public Open Space, now more than 23 years later, and it has been left to Mr & Mrs Roberts to maintain and tend at least 50% of the area to keep the footpath open and maintain the access to the Honey Head Lane side over that period of time.

The main question is why the Local Authority never enforced the condition of the original planning application, to ensure the Public Open Space was finished. This has effectively allowed the developer to apply to change the use of the land. When the planning notice to build the new house was posted outside 16 Broadacres, this was and I can categorically assure you it was the first time we were made aware of the land being redesignated to a building plot. I now understand that the application to redesignate the use of the land was added to an application for another building plot on Honey Head Lane, land also owned by the same developer. Further questions arise on the Planning Authority as follows:

1. Why the Planning Office did not enforce the original planning application for the development of the Open Space. The land was to be landscaped and handed over to Kirklees Council, effectively completing the original application for the area.
2. Should the redesignation have been a separate planning application on its own merit considering a change of use on a Public Open Space. It feels a transparent, honest or upfront process has not been followed.
3. Why were we not advised or consulted when the redesignation was applied for. Relevant notices were not displayed in the area, or residents advised by letter which I believe is required.
4. We have plans showing the public footpath adjacent to number 18, was this considered.
5. Were all the required and correct procedures followed by the Kirklees Planning Department/Officer.

We would like to see the current planning application revoked, and the area redesignated back to its original use being that of a Public Open Space. The correct process and consultation may then be followed properly, in an open and transparent way. The way the redesignation has been handled so far has been weighed heavily in the interests of the Developers and not the residents, many who have lived here a long number of years.

I hope you will investigate our concerns thoroughly and look forward to hearing from you.

By Email

CC Cllr Charles Greaves and Rt Hon. Paul Davies MP