

From:
Sent: 10 July 2026 21:10
To: DC Admin
Subject: Objection - Application 2026/60/91495/E

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Objection to housing development on land off Penistone Road, Birdsedge, Huddersfield.

Dear Sir,

I have lived in Birdsedge for 46 years, and value the rural nature of the village, though I would not object to a few additional houses on grey land (such as the 'tractor dump' off Birdsedge Lane (above Highfield Farm), or a small development within the confines of the Mill Yard which is not Green Belt. However I would like to object to the above planning application **2026/60/91495/E** for houses on Green Belt land on the following grounds:

1/ The land is Green Belt, and therefore should not be built on. Full stop. No arguments. That's what Greenbelt is for. The size of the development or number of houses is irrelevant. The land is Green Belt.

2/ That area on the Denby Dale side of the A629 is an area of outstanding beauty and should remain such.

3/ Road infrastructure. The A629 through Birdsedge is a busy road with heavy traffic, especially mornings and evening - i.e. at school start and finish time. A road entry point from any size of housing estate on to the A628 will create a danger spot. Regardless of speed limits a lot of traffic passes through that section of the village at more than the designated speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

4/ Should the estate be built, presumably the houses will be family homes, meaning children will have to cross the busy road to access Birdsedge First School. Even with a school crossing officer or a pelican crossing, it's an accident waiting to happen. How much do we value children's lives. (At the moment the majority of housing in Birdsedge is on the school side of the A629 meaning that children can safely walk to school.)

5/ Medical facilities. There is no doctor's surgery in Birdsedge. The nearest NHS surgeries are Penistone and Shepley. Penistone is already coping with the massive increase in population from the new David Wilson Homes development. Shepley is struggling with the additional pressure of new homes (currently built or being built, or under planning applications). I spoke to one of the doctors at Shepley after the first batch of new houses were built on the A629 at Shepley, and the surgery was already oversubscribed, treating more patients per doctor than the NHS guidelines allow, and would receive no additional resources. It's difficult enough to get a doctor's appointment even now, but with all the additional building in the Shepley/Birdsedge area, the system will become dangerously overburdened. And if planning permission is granted for the proposed development at Cumberworth, too, that could also put additional pressure on the Shepley surgery.

6/ Services. I am told that concerns have been raised that Yorkshire Water swage infrastructure is insufficient (pipes too small) even for the new houses proposed in Cumberworth, therefore additional houses in Birdsedge will only add to that problem.

7/ Water supply. Pressure can be low at the Park Head end of Birdsedge, therefore I worry that water supply infrastructure might also be inadequate.

8/ Public transport. Direct buses to Huddersfield take approximately 40 minutes and only run every 2 hours. Indirect routes take up to 1 hour 20 minutes. It's not a sensible service for anyone living in Birdsedge and working in town, which means more cars on the road. Ditto buses to Holmfirth and Penistone. If you want to live in Birdsedge and travel to work in any of the surrounding towns, you need a car. So families will likely need/use two cars (or more).

9/ Birdsedge First School is a small school which, no doubt, could take (and would welcome) a few extra students, but a large housing estate, right on its doorstep, could overwhelm the school's resources beyond its capacity to accept new students.

10/ This proposal would harm or undermine this specific plot of land's contribution to the character of Birdsedge village. The benefits of this development do not outweigh the harm to this significant heritage asset.

I am happy for my objections to be shown on the planning portal and for my name to be attached to them.

Yours sincerely

Jacev Bedford (Mrs)