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Sent: Friday, 28 August 2026 11:09:28

To: Simon Brophy <lordbrophy@hotmail.com>; Cllr Simon Brophy <Simon.Brophy@kirklees.gov.uk>

Subject: Birdsedge planning application

**FORMAL OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION – PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT OF 70 DWELLINGS, BIRDS EDGE, HUDDERSFIELD, OFF
THE A629 PENISTONE ROAD**

To: Kirklees Council Planning Authority

Dear Sir/Madam,

**FORMAL OBJECTION – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 70 DWELLINGS AT
BIRDS EDGE, OFF THE A629 PENISTONE ROAD**

I wish to formally submit my objection to the planning application for the proposed development of 70 dwellings at Birds Edge, Huddersfield, off the A629 Penistone Road.

I am Councillor Simon Brophy, Councillor for the Denby Dale Ward and a member of Kirklees Council. Having considered the scale and location of the proposed development, together with concerns raised by local residents, I believe there are significant and material planning considerations which weigh against the proposal.

1. HIGHWAY SAFETY AND THE A629

My principal concern relates to highway safety.

The A629 Penistone Road is known locally as an accident hotspot, particularly as a consequence of its blind bends, restricted visibility, and the number of minor roads, accesses and junctions connecting directly to the main road.

The proposed development would rely upon a single vehicular access onto the A629. A development of 70 dwellings would inevitably result in a substantial increase in vehicular movements entering and leaving the site and joining the A629.

Using an indicative average of approximately 1.7 vehicles per household, 70 dwellings could result in approximately 119 vehicles associated with the development. This is before taking account of visitors, deliveries, service vehicles, taxis, tradespeople and other traffic movements.

This represents a significant increase in traffic for a small rural settlement and would place additional pressure on an already busy and challenging section of the A629.

Given the existing characteristics and safety record of the road, I believe the proposed access arrangements require particularly rigorous scrutiny. The planning authority should be satisfied that the additional traffic can be accommodated safely without creating an unacceptable risk to motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.

2. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

There are also significant concerns regarding pedestrian safety.

The speed limit through the village is generally 30 mph, increasing to 40 mph at either end of the village. There are no traffic lights or zebra crossings within the village.

I understand that the current proposals do not appear to provide for the installation of a zebra crossing, signal-controlled crossing or other substantial pedestrian safety measures.

The addition of 70 dwellings would inevitably increase pedestrian and vehicular movements. This creates the potential for greater conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, particularly given the existing characteristics of the A629.

The safety of pedestrians should therefore be a fundamental consideration in determining this application.

3. SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT ON THE EXISTING SETTLEMENT

Birds Edge is a small rural community, with approximately 170 existing dwellings and a population of around 350 people.

The addition of 70 dwellings would therefore represent an increase of approximately 40% in the number of dwellings within the settlement.

Such an increase cannot reasonably be regarded as a modest extension to the existing community. It would constitute a substantial expansion and would fundamentally alter the scale, character and nature of the village.

Planning decisions should consider not simply the number of individual houses proposed, but the proportionate impact of the development upon the existing settlement.

I am concerned that a development of this scale risks overwhelming the existing village and would result in an unacceptable change to its established rural character.

4. AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

During conversations with local residents, I have also been made aware of a brownfield site within the village which may have potential to accommodate approximately 30–40 dwellings.

If this site is available and capable of accommodating housing, I believe it should be properly considered in the assessment of the need and appropriate scale of development within Birds Edge.

In particular, the existence of a potentially suitable brownfield opportunity should be considered before permitting a significantly larger development which would result in substantial expansion of the village and loss of existing greenfield and rural land.

5. PRESSURE ON LOCAL EDUCATION PROVISION

The proposed development would also create additional demand upon local education provision.

The local primary school currently has an intake of approximately 55–59 pupils, with an overflow capacity of around 90 pupils.

A development of 70 additional homes could generate a significant number of additional school-age children. While the precise number will depend upon household composition, the potential increase in demand cannot be disregarded.

The planning authority should therefore be satisfied that adequate educational capacity exists, or can be provided, to accommodate the additional population generated by the development.

Furthermore, additional school-age children are likely to generate additional vehicle movements associated with school drop-off and collection. This would add to the existing traffic and highway safety concerns identified above.

6. LACK OF LOCAL FACILITIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Birds Edge has very limited local facilities.

There are no medical facilities within the village, no dental facilities, no local food store or supermarket, and only limited public transport provision.

The village is connected to Huddersfield by the D3 MetroBus service, which operates approximately once an hour.

The lack of essential local services means that residents of a development of this scale would inevitably need to travel outside the village for many everyday requirements, including shopping, healthcare, employment and other services.

Consequently, there is a significant risk that residents would be highly dependent upon private vehicles.

This raises concerns regarding the sustainability of locating an additional 70 dwellings in this particular rural location. It would also inevitably contribute to increased traffic on the A629 and surrounding roads, increased vehicle emissions, additional

congestion, increased highway and pedestrian safety risks, and a greater environmental impact associated with travel.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, LANDSCAPE AND CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

The development would also have environmental consequences.

Construction of 70 dwellings would generate additional construction traffic, noise, disturbance and disruption for existing residents over a prolonged period.

There would also be the loss and alteration of existing green space, rural surroundings and agricultural land.

The proposal should therefore be assessed carefully in terms of its impact upon the landscape and the established rural setting of Birds Edge.

The introduction of such a substantial development would have a significant visual and landscape impact and would change the existing character of the settlement.

8. IMPACT UPON THE CHARACTER OF BIRDS EDGE

The scale of the proposal must be considered in the context of the existing size and character of Birds Edge.

A development of 70 dwellings represents a very substantial expansion of a small rural community. It is not simply a matter of adding 70 individual properties; it would significantly change the physical scale and demographic character of the settlement.

I am concerned that the development would result in an unacceptable urbanising effect and would erode the rural character which currently defines Birds Edge.

9. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

I am also concerned that the proposal does not appear to provide sufficient employment or wider economic benefits to justify the scale and location of the development.

The majority of residents are likely to rely upon employment, education, shopping and services outside Birds Edge. This would further reinforce the reliance upon private vehicles and consequently exacerbate the highway concerns associated with the A629.

Any claimed economic benefits should therefore be carefully assessed against the highway, infrastructure, environmental and community impacts of the proposal.

10. OVERALL PLANNING BALANCE

I fully recognise the need for new housing and the importance of delivering appropriate development.

However, new housing must be located in places where it can be appropriately accommodated and where the necessary infrastructure, services and transport connections exist to support it.

In this instance, I consider that the proposed 70-dwelling development is disproportionate to the size and capacity of Birds Edge.

The combination of highway and pedestrian safety concerns, the existing characteristics and accident record of the A629, the significant increase in traffic generated by the development, the scale of the proposed expansion, pressure upon local education provision, the limited availability of local services and facilities, increased reliance upon private vehicles, environmental and landscape impacts, loss of rural and agricultural land, construction disturbance, and the impact upon the established character of Birds Edge leads me to conclude that the proposal would result in unacceptable harm which is not outweighed by the benefits of the development.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully request that Kirklees Council refuse the planning application for the proposed development of 70 dwellings at Birds Edge, off the A629 Penistone Road.

I would also request that the concerns regarding highway safety, pedestrian safety, education capacity, infrastructure, sustainability, landscape impact and the disproportionate scale of the proposal are given full and proper consideration when determining the application.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Simon Brophy
Kirklees Council
Denby

Sent from my iPhone