

About the application

Application number: 2026/91969	
What is the application for?:	Erection of 6 dwellings, with associated access, landscaping, infrastructure and
Address of the site or building:	land off, Fenay Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD5 8UJ
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes
Dear Council Officers and Councillors I am writing to object to the proposed plans to build 6 houses on the land off Fenay Lane. The site is designated D8-14 Green Belt Land under the Kirklees UDP. The December 2024 NPPF permits release of "grey belt" land making only a limited contribution to Green Belt purposes. This site makes a substantive contribution to each relevant purpose: checking the sprawl of Huddersfield at its southern edge; preventing the merging of Almondbury and Fenay Bridge; safeguarding countryside from encroachment; and preserving the setting of Castle Hill. Land recorded as open field on every survey sheet for 170 years, retained in Green Belt across successive development plans, cannot credibly be characterised as making a limited contribution. It constitutes ribbon development. Coalescence: the merging of Almondbury and Fenay Bridge Almondbury is not a suburb of Huddersfield. It is a settlement of considerable antiquity which long preceded it. The village appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as "Almondeberie", held by Ilbert de Lacy. A charter was obtained in 1294 for a market in woollen cloth, and for the following three hundred years a Monday market was held in the village — the most important in the district. Almondbury was the hub of parish activity and, in its early history, a more important centre than the town of Huddersfield. That history is not merely of antiquarian interest. It is embodied in the fabric of the place. The Almondbury ward contains 118 listed buildings recorded in the National Heritage List for England, of which one is Grade I — the Church of All Hallows — and four are Grade II*. The village retains its historic street pattern, its Conservation Area	

four are Grade II. The village retains its historic street pattern, its Conservation Area, and its distinct physical separation from the neighbouring settlement of Fenay Bridge.

That separation is maintained by the open land between them, of which the application site forms part. Fenay Lane descends from the historic village core to Penistone Road through open country. It is that descent, and the openness of the land flanking it, which allows Almondbury to be read as a distinct place rather than as a continuation of the built-up area running out along the A629.

Fenay Lane – history of speed problems.

Fenay Lane is subject to a 30 MPH speed limit. Speeding along it is a long standing and continuing problem repeatedly raised by residents. Many children walk to King James' School a sustained climb with a narrow footpath on one side only. The entrance to the proposed development will involve a section of the pavement being removed at a particularly dangerous point, near to the ending of the speed cushions and at the difficult junction with Birks Lane where sightlines in both directions are restricted. The access driveway to the houses is also opposite a driveway to the house on the other side of the road. A section of the ancient dry stone wall which is part of Almondbury's heritage will need to be removed. The probability of 24 cars accessing Fenay Lane at peak times will cause increased congestion both at the junction with Westgate /Northgate and with Penistone Road. This is likely to result in drivers using the very narrow, steep and ancient Fleminghouse Lane as a 'rat run'. This is also a difficult junction for motorists because there is a poor sight line in both directions and this road is totally unsuitable for even a volume of traffic.

There is a documented history of surface water flooding at the bottom of Fenay Lane near the junction with Penistone Road associated with Fenay Beck and recorded by the Environment Agency. This problem is linked to the water course system. The water course originates in greenfield land north of Fleminghouse Lane where grassland provides natural attenuation. The stream surfaces in the field and there are concerns that excavation of the greenfield land will disturb this natural water course and could increase the risk for further flooding.

Yours sincerely.