

About the application

Application number: 2026/92769	
What is the application for?:	Erection of 67 dwellings
Address of the site or building:	East of, Hunsworth Lane, East Bierley, BD4 6RL
Postcode:	LS11 8LZ

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

I formally object to the proposed development of 67 housing units in East Bierley. While I recognise the need for additional affordable and social housing, this scheme is excessive and inappropriate for its setting and would cause lasting harm to the village's historic character, Conservation Area setting, rural landscape, environmental quality and community identity. East Bierley's significance derives not only from its historic buildings, but also from its traditional village form, stone-built character, mature green spaces, open views and relationship with the surrounding countryside. Introducing a dense, suburban-style estate of this scale would erode that distinctive setting, weaken the separation between East Bierley and the wider urban area, and permanently alter the qualities that make the village unique.

The proposal conflicts with the heritage principles set out in Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP35, which require development affecting heritage assets to preserve or enhance their significance, maintain local distinctiveness and retain the elements of the historic environment that contribute to local identity. It is also contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, which treats heritage assets as an irreplaceable resource, requires great weight to be given to their conservation, and expects development to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. Although the site may lie outside the formal Conservation Area boundary, its open character and visual relationship with the historic village form part of the Conservation Area's wider setting and significance. The proposal would not conserve or celebrate that heritage; it would dilute it through development that could be replicated in almost any suburban location. Any identified public benefits must therefore be weighed carefully against the long-term and irreversible harm to the setting, character and significance of East Bierley Conservation Area.

The development would also result in the permanent loss of open land that contributes to local landscape quality, biodiversity, wildlife corridors, surface-water management and the village's valued green-space credentials. Replacing permeable land with buildings, roads and hard surfaces risks increasing runoff and drainage pressure while reducing visual openness and ecological value. At the same time, 67 additional homes would generate substantial extra vehicle movements on a road network already constrained at peak times, increasing congestion and potential risks for pedestrians, cyclists and schoolchildren. The likely dependence on private cars, given limitations in local services and public transport, also raises serious doubt as to whether this is a genuinely sustainable location for development of this scale.

The proposal would place further pressure on already stretched GP services, school places, public transport, parking, drainage, sewerage and community facilities, without sufficient evidence that the necessary capacity and improvements would be delivered in advance of, or alongside, the development. Taken together, the harm to heritage significance, village character, landscape, ecology, highway safety, infrastructure and sustainable travel would be substantial and permanent. Growth in East Bierley must be proportionate, locally distinctive and sensitive to the historic and rural context; this scheme is not.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the planning application be refused.