

**From:**  
**To:** [DCAdmin](#)  
**Subject:** Newsome Mills Pond development - objection  
**Date:** 07 June 2021 22:13:30

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Dear team

I write to add my name to the list of objectors to the planned destruction of the ponds and wildlife on Hart Street and to the development of houses. The ponds and wildlife are an integral part of the community and village life in Newsome.

Over the past year, when so many of us were experiencing social isolation and other forms of exclusion from 'normal' life, being able to engage with nature was key to maintaining our mental health.

We are in a unique position in Newsome of having ponds as part of our local community. For children particularly, living in an area with ponds and wildlife is a huge benefit. During the pandemic, we heard much about families whose mental health and general well-being suffered immensely because of the loss of access to green space. More recently, we have heard about the deleterious effects of pollution on the health of children. Building more houses brings with it more traffic, more congestion and more pollution. Why expose the local community to wholly unnecessary risks of poor health?

There are many alternatives around Kirklees where houses can be built without destroying nature. There are fields and empty spaces where houses can be built without destroying ponds. How many areas in Huddersfield provide such easy access to ponds and water life like the ponds we have in Newsome? During the pandemic, I learnt to appreciate the ponds and on days when I felt I just needed to get out of the house, I and I'm sure many others felt grounded and engaged with nature as we walked around the local area and stopped to breathe in fresh air and to enjoy the calm stillness of the ponds.

Indices of deprivation for Newsome are high. Everything should therefore be done to make sure all families and households have good and free access to resources such as the ponds and wildlife of Newsome. The local authority should be doing all in its power to preserve the natural resources of Newsome and must not allow developers to ruin those resources and deprive the community of its heart.