

Re Planning applications

2021/1089 and 2021/1090

I am writing to register my objection to the proposed application 2021/1090 , 2021/1089 and the complete ruination of the surrounding communities, green space and biodiversity.

I along with my parents have lived adjoining this greenspace for 40 years, to say it's removal is upsetting is an understatement, and I cannot stress enough the harmful effect on the mental health of the residents that neighbour " strata city ", people and families that have lived , played and enjoyed this area for over 40 years. Acceptance of this plan will remove all the enjoyment of living in this area and will considerably reduce the well being of those individuals who had hoped to live out their final years in the area they have loved and lived within, in peace and enjoying their privacy and gardens. Instead they will be subjected to the destruction of green space, closure of footpaths they have walked for years, the sight , disruption and noise created by the earthworks and construction for years to come. The planning applications show that, besides the proposed buildings and the new link road, a major, and perhaps less fully appreciated to date, component of the proposals is a programme of extensive and substantial earth moving to prepare the ground and create development 'platforms' for the proposed buildings. This work will extend across the whole of the site; in some places it will involve considerable amounts of excavation, and in other places equally considerable amounts of material being deposited. The effect of this work, which would be not dissimilar to that of a major open cast mine, is something that was never made explicit during either the Local Plan or Masterplan Framework consultation exercises.

The visual impact of this work, which it is said is likely to take several years to complete, together with the inevitable disturbance it will cause, will have a serious and prolonged detrimental effect upon the living conditions of residents in the surrounding area, especially the many people whose homes are immediately alongside the land. On top of the loss of countryside, this will simply add insult to injury, something that no amount of amelioration will compensate for.

Objections

1. Removal of hedgerows, wildlife habitat, greenspace .The UK is ranked in the top 10% worst countries for Biodiversity removal, yet the plans indicate "removal of all trees and hedgerows". We commonly see and hear pheasants, foxes and owls amongst field fare and lapwings.
2. Reduction of air quality Sheffield is now applying a clean air zone due to dangerous pollution levels, how can the addition of 1760 homes , traffic , warehousing improve Barnsley air quality?. How will my health and that of my family be affected by the building, movement of 3500 cars a day not to mention numerous heavy goods vehicles? How can you assess the impact when the developers cleverly only apply for sections at once, to minimise impact. The overall impact of MU1 has never been stated or assessed.
3. Massive disruption to residents Increase in air pollution, dust, noise, air quality, reduction in mental wellbeing.
4. Traffic flow of 3500 vehicles plus warehousing heavy goods moving in and around the surrounding area. Local traffic systems are under pressure and none of the mitigation

currently in place will absorb that. The road through MU1 will merely be of use to residents of MU1. BMBC fail to appreciate that traffic have to use local roads to get to the link road

5. Land adjoining Wharfedale road and Closter close is separate to the rest of MU1 with no vehicular access to the rest of the development including the shops and school. This will add additional traffic to Pogmoor road towards penny Pie Park gyratory. This development will exit onto a narrow lane (farmhouse Lane), then again onto Wharfedale road on a sharp bend. The road layout was originally designed for a residential street of less than 100 houses, this will now be quadrupled with traffic increasing massively due to several hundred houses and the associated multiple car households coming and going each day. This increases the risk to residents and school children coming and going from Gawber Primary school. Neither is Wharfedale road or Farmhouse lane suitable for the earth moving equipment that will be required to level the site. Will traffic calming measures be introduced to reduce the traffic flow up and down Wharfedale road.
6. Adverse structural impact on my property due to the drilling and excavation of land. When I bought my property in 2018 the land behind Wharfedale road was designated “unsuitable” for development. Will BMBC be liable for any subsidence or structural damage to my property over the coming 8 years of earth moving.
7. Construction of 3 storey properties adjoining current properties . Absolutely not an option. The current 2 storey properties on Wharfedale road will be overlooked by numerous properties, however to envisage a towering 3 storey house over shadowing a bungalow is beyond comprehension.
8. At a public meeting a strata representative claimed no 3 storey properties would be included in the development, however this is clearly not the case. It appears that the developer can do as they please and that BMBC planning have no say in the matter. I do not feel this is how the planning process should work.
9. Development will have a negative impact as currently I have no over shadowing issues.
10. Green space was designed to provide a boundary for wildlife but also segregate communities, the MU1 development will merge Gawber, Pogmoor, Higham, Barugh green and the new development into one huge sprawling mass of homes. Loss of any community identity, some that have been in place for hundreds of years in some cases. A semi-rural community is being turned into a major conurbation. If I wanted that I would have moved to Leeds.
11. Covid has changed the world, never mind Barnsley. Housing requirements and plans drawn up in 2014 are not the same now, and certainly won't be in another 8 years' time. What a shame it will be to level the land, destroy the wildlife, and remove the greenbelt to find that most of the houses are not required.
12. Loss of enjoyment of my property and garden due to overlooking, overshadowing and noise from adjoining properties.
13. Loss of privacy and light currently enjoyed. Living rooms are to the rear of our property.

14. Disruption to Gawber school children's health and learning due to air pollution, atmospheric dust and particulates, and constant noise and movement created by earth works and future traffic
15. The application documents acknowledge that the site has a strong existing network of rights of way and footpaths. Despite this, it is stated that all these rights of way need to be closed during the extensive earthworks and construction phase. Denying access to the area for what will be a considerable length of time will be seriously detrimental to all those who are currently entitled to use and enjoy the public rights of way that traverse the site. The degree of denial of these public rights is excessive. This needs to be added to the loss of penny pie park in the same area, removing nearly all green space for residents of Gawber and Pogmoor.
16. Closure of Hermit lane for years will increase local traffic at Pogmoor and Barugh green without any mitigation . This again will force traffic up Wharfedale road / intake lane and redbrook road. The Chaos was clear to see when Hermit Lane was closed for City fibre installation.
17. How does removal of 100's of hectares of green space / arable land/ hedgerows contribute to BMBC and the governments goal of reducing Co2 emissions. MU1 will not only remove a large proportion of the surrounding areas greenspace it will ADD significantly to the CO2 output of Barnsley both throughout the construction process but once the thousands of vehicle movements per day are undertaken.

Even though the proposal MU1 was scrutinised at the Local Plan Examination in Public, now that the full impact has been laid bare through the 2 planning applications, I am firmly of the view that the time has come for the Local Plan proposal to be **scrapped** ,or re-examined in light of the significant change to the original discussions and time frames. What was discussed at the time of the public consultation had information omitted, the scale of the "landscaping" was not considered or should I say divulged by the developers and was lacking in detail or purposefully.

The land behind Wharfedale road / Colster close removed from the plan as completely independent from the rest of the development, therefore causing all the issues mentioned but being unable to access the perceived benefits. It is clear that the developers can ride roughshod over the site seemingly regardless of the consequences with little opposition or appreciation of the residents of the area. A more sensitive approach towards developing the site, which pays far more regard to the living conditions of neighbouring residents, the site's natural features and habitats, and those who enjoy the existing rights of access, is called for.

I ask that those responsible for reviewing the planning application actually visit the site and speak to the residents of the neighbouring properties, rather than simply looking at a drawing and agreeing to anything the developer's request. Stand on Higham common road and look over all the fields full of horses, see the hedgerows and wildlife and imagine what residents currently enjoy, then make the decision to take all that away .

As the applications stand they cannot be accepted without significant conditions applied.