

We would like to object to this planning application. If the development went ahead the living conditions for the residents of Higham and Barugh Green would undoubtedly be affected. The planning application states that areas of natural open space are important to both existing residents and people moving to Barnsley. It also states that all hedgerows and trees except for the two areas of gully woodland are to be removed. This is contradictory. The green spaces and working farmland in this area is a valuable amenity to the residents of Higham, Barugh Green and other local areas including new developments and should be protected. The proposed high density of housing is not in character with the low density housing in the surrounding communities and would alter the character of these. The large size of the area is a major concern, which is much larger than the area of Barnsley town centre or the entire village of Dodworth. The separate identities of the surrounding villages would be lost. The number of homes proposed will place a strain on the already oversubscribed local schools. Despite this both Barugh Green and Gawber schools are high achieving schools. It is a concern that the changes brought about by the large increase in housing, bringing changes to education in the area could compromise the achievement of these schools. The new proposed school must be in addition to the existing schools not a replacement. This also applies to healthcare provision. The number of new homes suggested is too high against what is required to suit the areas needs. It appears that the housing planned is for Sheffield / Leeds commuters before the needs of the local communities. The site is being considered attractive due to its proximity to the M1. The area around J37 of the M1 as well as the M1 itself is already congested; promoting further commuter homes is only going to add to this. The site doesn't have rail links. Barnsley rail station which has rail links to Leeds and Sheffield is outside of a reasonable walking distance away. Planning for commuter housing to the cities of Sheffield, 16 miles and Leeds, 20 miles away, goes against the philosophy of reducing transport and the related carbon emissions. The proposal is a particular poor site as it relies mainly on personal car transport adding further traffic to an already busy junction 37 feeding onto the M1 on a section that was under consideration for a special reduced speed limit to reduce pollution. The new link road across the proposal has been miss sold to Higham and Barugh Green residents as a by-pass, The road shown on the plan only partially by-passes Higham. This would result in concentrating the areas traffic problems into this part of Higham. The new road is not necessary, as the traffic problem on Higham common lane is due inappropriate use by heavy goods vehicles. A weight limit would be sufficient to solve this. Traffic originating from the directions of Cawthorne and Darton would continue to travel through Barugh Green cross roads and Higham Common lane as this would still be the shorter route. The new road would make travel for current residents of Higham and Barugh Green more difficult to other areas of Barnsley due to having to cross the new greater flow of traffic. Any benefits of the link road would be lost by the increased traffic from the new development. This would further increase pollution and noise. The area would be a construction site for several years resulting in noise, dust and pollution adversely affecting the current residents in the surrounding areas. The land considered for development regularly floods retaining water that would otherwise run off into surrounding areas. Developing this land causing the run off of this water could increase flooding in the Redbrook area.