



Bringing Horses and People Together

Reply by e-mail only.
developmentmanagement@barnsley.gov.uk
19/10/2021
For comment only.

**RE: Application Reference, 2021/1090. Hybrid application for residential development for 1,760 dwellings.
Site Address: Land south of Barugh Green Road and east of Higham Common Road, Barnsley. SE 31668
07226 nearest postcode S75 1PL.**

I am responding to this consultation on behalf of The British Horse Society, an equestrian Charity which represents the 3 million horse riders in the UK. Nationally equestrians have just 22% of the rights of way network. In Barnsley, they have just 19% of the rights of way network, increasingly disjointed by roads which were once quiet and are now heavily used by traffic resulting from development such as this.

At a time when health and wellbeing has never been higher on both national and local agendas, horse riding is a sport which engages a high proportion of people with disabilities, women participants, and participants over the age of 45. Nearly 40% of those taking part do not participate in other forms of physical activity. All these factors are very important in recognising that equestrianism is vital to the health of a significant section of the population which is known to be at risk.

Furthermore, the contribution of equestrianism to the economy is far from insignificant. The cost is calculated by the British Equestrian Trade Association to be £4,225 per horse, there are currently 1969 registered equine passport holders in the S75 postcode area, therefore a local contribution of £8,319,025 The national contribution being £4.7 billion.

Barnsley is a district in which there is a surprising number of horse riders. We believe it is reasonable therefore to ask that, in the event that planning permission is granted it is required that where future cycleways are proposed, these are made as routes for all non-motorised users, including equestrians, which would make for a safer off-road provision at a time when the additional traffic from this new development would render the local roads busier. Any footpaths should be upgraded to bridleway providing access to a greater number of users including horse riders and cyclists.

Furthermore, we would ask the Council, to consider using some of the CIL money arising to improve the off-road network for higher status users of the PROW in the surrounding area which would benefit both the existing and new residents. A community horse arena could also be provided an example of a successful community arena can be found here-
https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/attraction/friezland-arena/

We would be very happy to work with Barnsley City Council in making these arrangements.

Yours sincerely
Access Field Officer, Yorkshire.