

Harper, Suzanne

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
Sent: 03 April 2018 12:44
To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Categories: Blue Category

Application Reference No. : SMD/2018/0046

Site Address: Land Adjacent Gkn Drive Line Ltd HIGHER WOODCROFT LEEK STAFFORDSHIRE ST13 5QF

Comments by: Isobel Knowles

From:

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Higher Woodcroft
Leek West
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Submission: Objection

Comments: The proposed development site should be considered greenfield. Much of it has never been developed, and any areas that were have long since been reclaimed by nature. It is woodland that is home to many birds and animals, including badgers. Many trees and saplings have already been chopped down, as evidenced by the huge piles of branches around the site.

There is a badger sett on the site, and the badgers cross the public footpath to be fed by people living on Higher Woodcroft, and this has been happening for over twenty years. Our neighbours are currently feeding 4 badgers who come from the site. The badgers cross the footpath to access Croft Cottage gardens. The badger sett entrance mentioned in the documents was photographed during winter months (snow actually on the ground), when badgers are dormant. A sett will typically have different access points, and these have not been explored. There have been no formal interviews regarding the badgers with residents of Higher Woodcroft who see and feed them each night.

I also object on safety grounds. It is not practical to have a new road on a steep slope dropping into a factory yard. Higher Woodcroft road is extremely narrow, and cars/delivery vehicles often have to reverse out from Higher Woodcroft into the factory entrance. My property is on the corner directly opposite the factory, and my garden wall has already been damaged by a large vehicle struggling to reverse into the yard. Lorries reverse by driving onto Higher Woodcroft, and then back into the factory grounds. They would have no visibility of cars waiting to drop down from the proposed site. Reversing into the factory yard would also be made more difficult by the proposed pavement extension. The road leading to Higher Woodcroft meets Newcastle Road opposite the entrance to Morrisons supermarket. It is already extremely congested. At rush hour the traffic queues into town extend far beyond this junction.