

Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

KIRKLEES COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday 15th January 2026

Present: Councillor James Homewood (Chair)
Councillor Bill Armer
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor Andrew Pinnock
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

42 Membership of the Committee

No apologies were received.

43 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2025 be approved as a correct record.

44 Declaration of Interests and Lobbying

No disclosures of interest or lobbying were received.

45 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

46 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

47 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

48 Planning Applications

49 Site Visit - Application No. 2025/92335

Site visit undertaken.

50 Planning Application - Application No:2020/92350

The Committee considered a report in respect of Planning Application 2020/92350, an outline application for residential development (Use Class C3) of up to 181 dwellings, engineering and site works, demolition of existing property, landscaping, drainage and other associated infrastructure on land to the south of Heybeck Lane, Chidswell, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury.

RESOLVED –

Strategic Planning Committee - 15 January 2026

That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to refuse the application for the reason set out below:

The proposed development, due to its size and proximity to Dum Wood, and due to the increased residential population that the development would introduce nearby, and the insufficient depth of the proposed buffer, together would result in significant intensification in the use of Dum Wood, and unacceptable harm to and deterioration of this ancient woodland and Local Wildlife Site, contrary to policies LP30 and LP33 of the Kirklees Local Plan, and Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

A recorded vote was taken, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(5), as set out below:

For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, Lee-Richards, Pinnock, Scott and Sokhal (6 votes)

Against: (0 votes)

51 **Planning Application - Application No: 2025/92335**

The Committee considered Planning Application 2025/92335 in respect of the discharge of details reserved by Condition 5 (retaining walls) of previous Reserved Matters approval 2022/91047 for the development of 91 dwellings, pursuant to outline permission 2019/90527 (for erection of up to 127 dwellings, with details of access) on land at Blue Hills Farm, Whitehall Road West, Birkenshaw.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 36(3), the Committee received a representation from Councillor Elizabeth Smaje.

Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received a representation from Andrew Poyner (on behalf of the applicant).

RESOLVED –

That consideration of the application be deferred to a future meeting and that the Head of Planning and Development be asked to negotiate with the applicant, including engagement with ward councillors, on other options such as cladding and green options, for example moss, to achieve a more acceptable, high-quality solution in terms of the visual impact of the wall.

A recorded vote was taken, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 42(5), as set out below:

For: Councillors Armer, Homewood, Lee-Richards, Pinnock, Scott and Sokhal (6 votes)

Against: (0 votes)