
THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY
The champion for Victorian and Edwardian architecture

Louise Clarke
Planning
Kirklees Council
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HUDDERSFIELD
HD1 2JR

Your reference: 2016/92029 and
2016/92030
Our reference: 2015/01/017

19 August 2016

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Dear Ms Clarke

RE: 20-24 Cross Church Street, Huddersfield (Grade II, C19); application for the extension of the Kingsgate Shopping Centre and the partial demolition of listed buildings

Thank you for consulting the Victorian Society on these reworked proposals for the extension of the Kingsgate Shopping Centre. The scheme has been considered by the Society's Northern Buildings Committee, and I write now to **object** to the applications due to the harm their implementation would cause to the significance of the listed buildings at 20-22 Cross Church Street, the setting of nearby listed buildings and the character and appearance of the Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area.

We welcome the omission of 24 Cross Church Street from the development. However, substantial demolition of 20-22 Cross Church Street is still proposed. Aside from the obvious fact that this would entail significant loss of historic fabric, the precise impact of such extensive demolition on the listed buildings remains unclear and undemonstrated. In addition, while the retention of the majority of the listed buildings' front elevations is undoubtedly an improvement on the previous scheme, the proposed treatment of their ground floors resembles little more than a conventional shopping centre frontage, which, in this context, would be highly damaging to the character and appearance of the listed buildings and the Conservation Area in which they are located. We therefore **object** to this aspect of the scheme.

We **object** also to the crudely detailed canopy proposed to the front of 20-22 Cross Church Street, which would be visually obtrusive and overbearingly large. It is without precedent in the street and would detract markedly from the historic character and rhythm of this part of the Conservation Area. It should be omitted from the scheme.

In addition, we support Historic England's comments concerning the likely adverse impact on the Conservation Area and the setting of numerous listed buildings caused by the sizeable bulk of the proposed cinema extension. It would be highly conspicuous and would represent a considerable departure from the distinctive and prevailing scale and grain of the Conservation Area.

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In light of the above the Society **objects** to these applications and urges you to **refuse** them consent. I would be grateful if you could inform me of your decision in due course.

Yours sincerely

James Hughes

Senior Conservation Adviser

cc Elisabeth Lewis (Historic England)

Lucie Carayon (AMS)

Nigel Hunston (Kirklees Council)