

About the application

Application number: 2018/93591	
What is the application for?:	Erection of cafe/restaurant with bedrooms, interpretation facilities, car parkin
Address of the site or building:	Victoria Tower, Lumb Lane, Castle Hill, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6TA
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection
Planning Application Former Castle Hill Hotel Objections to proposals for new construction work at Castle Hill. The site is a scheduled monument, in an area of green belt. Although the original hotel was built about 100 years ago, it was demolished many years ago leaving the iconic profile of the hillt. It is one of the most important sites in Yorkshire which draws visitors from all over. The Society objects to the proposal as follows: 1. In the Green Belt there is a presumption against development unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. No such circumstances apply in this case. The Council has upheld the Green Belt policies in the past and taken action to get unauthorised development demolished. The Council should continue to apply its policies consistently. 2. The construction of a new hotel and all its associated activities inside and outside of the building would detract from the setting and character of the Scheduled Ancient Monument in which it would sit. 3. The Victoria Tower is also a Listed Building and the setting and character would be detrimentally affected by the construction of the proposed modern hotel, the increase in car-parking and traffic. The increased footfall would have a significant impact. 4. The proposed hotel and its associated development would detract from unique landscape setting of the site and would conflict with the Council's own Conservation Management Plan.

5. The access to the site is completely unsuitable for the additional traffic from customers, staff and delivery vehicles. This additional traffic would constitute a danger to pedestrians and other vehicle users. The additional traffic would also lead to massive erosion of the Hill because the road is not wide enough for two vehicles to pass. This in turn would destroy the archaeological evidence within the Hill. As very graphically demonstrated recently, there are no safety facilities available on site – the emergency vehicles would have difficulty in functioning safely both in getting to site and in performing their duties

6. The proposed visitor facility is totally inadequate and appears to merely be an attempt to create a special circumstance for development in the Green Belt. Integrated visitor facilities should be provided off-site. There are Information Boards around the site which are linked to a path which provides access for wheelchairs and push chairs and also in the Victoria Tower where over 11,000 visitors have been this year (despite the lack of facilities !)

7. Castle Hill is one of the most important archaeological sites in West Yorkshire. It is vital that our cultural heritage is not threatened by inappropriate modern developments which cause demonstrable harm to interests of national and local importance.