

About the application

Application number: 2018/93591	
What is the application for?:	Erection of restaurant/café/bar, six guest rooms, exhibition/interpretation room
Address of the site or building:	Victoria Tower, Lumb Lane, Castle Hill, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6TA
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection

I am extremely concerned about this unnecessary and damaging application on Huddersfield's most historic site.

Some 15 years ago the iconic Hotel on Castle Hill was destroyed thus depriving the population of Huddersfield of not only their history but also the almost unique opportunity of refreshment on such an historic setting. Since that time the world has moved on, the site has returned to nature and visitors have found alternative to the Hotel.

Firstly, since the destruction of the Hotel there has been a national decline in the use of Public Houses resulting in many closures. The causes are varied, including costs of drinking out, a general knowledge of the dangers of alcohol, desires to lead a healthier lifestyle and concerns over drink driving. For those who wish to drink alcohol they are well served around Castle Hill at Hall Bower, Farnley Tyas and Almondbury. Some of these establishments also cater. There is no need in these enlightened times for yet another similar venue. The last thing Huddersfield needs is another Pub, perhaps a Local Guide could help direct visitors to the existing establishments where their custom would be valued.

Secondly, there is no need for a Guest/Hotel portion to this application. There are already Guest Houses locally on Ashes Lane and Castle Houses for example. Kirklees Council intends to build a Hotel as part of the Leeds Road redevelopment and there is the decaying George Hotel that requires urgent attention, there is no need to destroy the environment at Castle Hill with more guest accommodation. Should the Applicant really want to build a Hotel, why is Newsome Mill site not being considered? It shares a hill location, a (clock) tower, superb views but most importantly good road access and Public Transport.

Thirdly, why is an interpretation room required? A simple display could be housed in the Tower with guidance that a full and precise information experience is available at the Tolson Museum which would benefit from additional visitors.

Fourthly, the road access to this site is totally unsuitable for any traffic let alone an increase. Surely nobody is promoting the widening of the access road by destroying the ancient site? Kirklees Council has recently declared a Climate Emergency. This proposed development flies in the face of this concern as the only realistic travel to and from Castle Hill will be by car adding to pollution, traffic volume and the risk of drink driving on roads that are already very dangerous.

By exploring alternative initiatives and using existing facilities and other proposed development opportunities the need for this Application is deemed quite unnecessary and should be dismissed once and for all.