

Kirklees Council Planning Policy Group

PO Box B93

Civic Centre 3

Market Street

Huddersfield

HD1 2JR

19/10/2020

Dear Sirs

Re. Café/Restaurant Proposal for Castle Hill

I have previously submitted a formal written objection to the persistent proposals, and having no copy to send to you as a reminder I will summarise my principal views, although all of my earlier objections still stand and should be acted upon.

In addition to its iconic prominence, as well as its green belt status, Castle Hill is an ancient monument, namely a prehistoric hill fort defended by a surrounding bank-and-ditch system. Other local authorities have the sense to treat such places with great respect and do not deface them with modern commercial structures. Examples of substantial ancient remains obviously include Stonehenge, Skara Brae, Housesteads, Fishbourne and Chedworth Roman Villa, but notably also bank-and-ditch forts such as Maiden Castle, Badbury Rings, Melandra Castle and other such forts. All of these are maintained in pristine condition as prime local attractions without any extraneous modern intrusions. Castle Hill should be treated likewise, and this proposal should be rejected outright and for the last time. A café/restaurant with bedrooms is essentially no more than a commercial development which clearly does not constitute a very special circumstance qualifying for exemption from green belt status.

A further matter of serious concern relates to the dangerous access road. Obviously this could only be rendered safer for traffic by very substantial earth-moving work likely to destroy historical aspects of the hill's topography.

All of the foregoing should be read in conjunction with my earlier objection. Please ensure that it is submitted to the Strategic Planning Committee on October 28th.