

About the application

Application number: 2019/91239	
What is the application for?:	Demolition of existing public house and erection of four dwellings
Address of the site or building:	The Shears, 201, Halifax Road, Hightown, Liversedge, WF15 6NR
Postcode:	WF156NR

User comments

Type of comment: An objection
<p>The Heritage of the Spenn Valley Area includes the development of the Luddite movement in the early 19th Century and the influence of the area on the works of the Bronte family. The Shears was central to the Luddite movement in that:</p> <p>The Inn has an important role in the history of the textile industry in the Spenn Valley -- and nationally in the story of the Luddite uprisings.</p> <p>The epicentres of Luddism in Yorkshire was in Huddersfield and the Spenn Valley. The jobs of the Cloth finishers (Croppers or Shearers) were under threat from the introduction of new machinery which could do the jobs of 10 men</p> <p>As there were no trade unions and it was illegal for groups of men to meet, The Shears Inn was used as a secret meeting place for the Luddites -- they met in the upstairs room from February 1812 to plan attacks on the deliveries of machinery to the various mills and later to attack the mills themselves. Croppers from Cleckheaton, Gomersal, Mirfield, Birstall, Brighouse and Elland attended such meetings at the Shears</p> <p>On 11th April 1812 - the infamous attack on Rawfolds Mill, Liversedge occurred. The millowner was prepared for an attack and subsequently the Luddites were forced to retreat and two Luddites were fatally wounded.</p> <p>Charlotte Bronte's novel Shirley is set in the Spenn Valley 1811-12 and the Luddite meetings and attacks in the Spenn Valley is central to the plot.</p> <p>The Shears Inn appears on various heritage trails including the Spenn Valley Heritage Trail and The Brontes in Kirkstiles.</p> <p>These matters could well be forgotten in the demolition of this building</p>