

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	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

Planning Portal Reference: PP-07775162

I wish to object, in the strongest possible terms, to the demolition of The Shears in Halifax Road on the grounds that it is a unique and extremely important part of our local, national and international heritage.

It is especially valuable as a rare and irreplaceable testament to working class history and a rebellion by ordinary Kirklees people against an assault on their livelihoods. As a Brontë biographer, I also share a deep interest in the events of April 1812 in the story of the literary family.

The history of the Luddite rebellion is well documented and justly regarded as a pivotal moment in nineteenth century social and industrial history. It has received serious and sustained interest spanning more than 200 years by everyone from historians to film-makers. It is part of the rich history of Kirklees and it is inconceivable that the planning authority would allow such an act of senseless destruction against a building with a role in this history.

There are other ways this property could be used by the applicant, while securing its future for generations to come. Demolition would be a scandal, removing all trace of this landmark Heritage Asset to make way for a quick new development when equally profitable alternatives are available.

The building is more precious than many palaces because it is an ordinary pub used by working people to discuss risking their lives in a cause, rather than a place associated with gentry, aristocracy or wealthy industrialists.

The Shears should be celebrated and held precious by Kirklees Council which, it is to be hoped, will stand firm as custodians of this significant Heritage Asset by refusing this application.

The Luddites of Kirklees fought for what they believed in. Now the representatives of their descendants must have the courage to defend this vital part of their history.

Moreover, The Shears should be awarded Listed Building status to avoid future attempts to destroy it.