

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
Though the Shears Inn may have changed over the years and none of the original interior fittings and fixtures survive, it provides a tangible link to the industrial, political and social history of the Spen Valley. It is known as the meeting place of the Luddites, and whilst Charlotte Bronte and Frank Peel were writing about the events of 1812 later in the century, the local memory was still strong and they were both able to speak with people who were alive at the time. It is preposterous to suggest that the inclusion of the site of the Shears on a heritage trail or a piece of public art would make up for the loss of the actual building. The Shears and its associations are important to local people and the building is known far beyond. It has been included in the itineraries of visitors from North America and continental Europe; it has been filmed by international documentary makers telling the story of working class struggle. Though it is not listed, it is identified in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. The mid 18th century building is a significant element in the townscape of Hightown and its replacement by a group of undistinguished town houses would have an undue impact on the environment. Kirklees is seeking to attract visitors to the area and has ambitions to make the Spen Valley one of the stopping points for Bronte tourists. The story of the working class struggles of the 19th century are of no less interest to visitors who should have the opportunity to see the real thing and not just a plaque stating that this was the site of Such sites were lost in the past, but surely we now know better and we have a duty to preserve and enhance such sites for future generations. I would urge the committee to reject this application.	