

**From:**  
**To:** [DCAdmin](#)  
**Subject:** Planning applications 2020/90710 and 2020/90711  
**Date:** 09 May 2020 11:01:09

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Dear Kirklees Council

Although the period for commenting on these planning applications online appears to have ended, a notice on site, dated 5 May 2020, states that representations may be made for 21 days from the date of publication of the notice.

I am also a local resident who has spent many happy hours wandering along the informal footpaths on the site of the former mill and onwards along the River Colne towards the canal towpath.

My first comment is that I am not exactly clear about the substantive differences between the two applications - I am sure I am missing something - but my comments apply equally to both.

Although the Ramblers in principle regrets the loss of any natural site which offers formal or (as in this case) informal access to green space to the public, **we note with approval** the developers' plans here to maximise public amenity, retain as much biodiversity within the site as possible, and (at least as far as the site of the former mill itself is concerned) provide sympathetic restoration to a Grade II\* listed building which has, unfortunately, become an unsafe eyesore since becoming derelict in 1990.

We ask that the developers bear in mind at all times and in all decisions the fact that the site they are dealing with has both historical significance - Low Westwood Mill was one of the earliest to be built in the Colne Valley, in the 18th century - and is a key part of the Linthwaite Conservation Corridor. The site has become an extremely popular place of resort and exercise for local residents, due to its ease of access from Linthwaite, Golcar, Wellhouse, Manchester Road (A62), the canal towpath, and Titanic Mill across Low Westwood Lane.

The Ramblers notes that the developers intend to dedicate a public right of way through the site from Low Westwood Lane to the canal towpath, and **enthusiastically approves of this move**. We ask in particular that the section of the right of way from Low Westwood Lane between the river and the settling pond be a path, for pedestrians only, with no vehicular access to the site. To minimise the effect of the development on users of this path, and to safeguard walkers, we also urge the developers to give consideration to routing this right of way along the river bank for as far as possible, all the way to the play zone if possible, to prevent walkers having to join the road through the development. Ideally the dedicated right of way would run closer to the river between the points marked X and Y on the plan below.