

**Consultation Response from KC, Conservation and Design**
**2020/90757 New Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2BU**
**Outline application for erection of 3 sculptural features with a maximum height of 12m**
**Date Responded: 18.5.20      Responding Officer: Sue Oakley      Responding Ref:**

New Street is one of the primary historic shopping streets within the Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area, with numerous listed buildings dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, along with some unlisted buildings which add to the character of the street.

The section between Ramsden Street and Cloth Hall Street is comprised of terraced retail and commercial premises which vary in height, design and age but are predominantly three-storeys with an eaves/parapet height of around 10m although this needs to be confirmed. There are 14 listed buildings along this section, with most of the buildings on the west side of the street listed. The typical facades are in natural stone or light-coloured render with the contrast of the former Prudential building on the corner of Ramsden Street, constructed in red brick and terracotta, and the Yorkshire Building Society building at the northern end which appears to be faced in light coloured faience. As well as the buildings, there are entrances to several yards, ginnels and arcades along New Street.

This wide street was pedestrianised several years ago, laid in brick pavements with geometric patterns. Several café seating areas extend into the street, along with the canopy to Market Avenue, and the street has a mix of open spaces and street furniture including kiosks and advertisement panels, lamp posts, bins, bollards and seating.

This outline application proposes three tall metal sculptures proposed along New Street, between Ramsden Street and Cloth Hall Street, designed to allow planting to grow through and to give the impression of mature trees. The proposed structures are up to 12m high, 3m wide and designed with an open structure to give a feeling of lightness.

The heritage impact assessment states that the proposal is to form part of enhancements to New Street to lift the quality of the streetscape. It is difficult to understand the context of this proposal without details of the other enhancements, and I would like to see the full proposals for this street. I would also like to see decluttering occur in association with these works with consistency along the street rather than piecemeal interventions.

The Heritage Statement acknowledges that the three planters will affect the setting of the listed buildings, but it does not show the locations of the proposed structures, making the impact difficult to assess.

I support a proposal that introduces public art on New Street as it has the potential to provide interest and greenery into this space, enhancing the street scene and the setting of the listed buildings. However, I have some concerns about supporting a proposal of this scale and height without an indication of the design, mass and location, along with whether existing street furniture and clutter will be reduced as part of a larger scheme.

I can make further comments at the detailed design stage although I hope that the proposal for artwork 'up to 12m in height' can be applied flexibly, subject to full details being submitted.

If the applicant submits a full application, they should carry out a heritage impact assessment on the setting of the listed buildings and the character of this part of the conservation area, ensuring that the proposal is designed to enhance rather than harm these heritage assets. The artwork must be of a high-quality design and materials, low maintenance, vandal proof and durable, with consideration

given to lifespan. I hope the design will complement the architectural and historic character of this street, perhaps with reference to the history of Huddersfield. I would recommend that reference is made to the Historic England guidance 'Streets for All'.

The requirements of the Local Plan and NPPF should be considered:

LP24 Design - the form, scale, layout and details of all development should respect and enhance the character of the townscape, heritage assets and landscape. Proposals should promote good design by ensuring the provision of public art where appropriate. Public art can promote a sense of place and pleasure, for example by evoking local history, be inspiring and/or thought provoking.

LP35 Historic Environment – Development proposals affecting a designated heritage asset should preserve or enhance the significance of the asset. Proposals within conservation areas should conserve those elements which contribute to their significance.

Chapter 16 of the NPPF, particularly paragraphs 192 and 200.