

Address:

About the application

Application number: 2020/94203	
What is the application for?:	Outline application for demolition of dwelling and associated outbuildings and t
Address of the site or building:	Clough House, 236, Leeds Road, Birstall, Batley, WF17 0HW
Postcode:	YO26 8EW

User comments

Type of comment: An objection

Clough House is a historic house, dating back to the 18 th century and originally owned by the equivalent of the local Squire, a gentleman of substantial wealth and therefore is of historical importance to the village of Birstall. The property has been vacant for at least two years, recently demolition crews (employed by the owner) removed the interior and the windows. Historic England became involved and stopped this work when a Listing application was made.

To lose this house and replace it with 30 houses will be detrimental to Howden Clough, not only through the loss of a historical house but also due to the impact of new houses on existing properties.

Residents on Moat Hill Farm Drive will have increased traffic through what is now a quiet cul de sac, many owners purposely bought there due to it being safe for their children. In addition access onto Leeds road will be a major problem as traffic already speeds along there, a fact confirmed by a speed camera outside the property.

Local primary schools are already over subscribed and high school provision for Birstall children is abysmal, hence why many go out of the area, thus adding to daily travel from a new estate as they will be unlikely to go by any means other than by parents driving them there. Not only that, but how will local facilities such as doctors, dentists etc cope with more patients when again they are already full.

Should Historic England decide not to list this house, then Kirklees could make it a Non Designated Heritage Asset. Birstall has historical connections through the Brontes and Joseph Priestley, we have lost many historic houses in the past and Clough House is a prominent local feature of the village, especially in Howden Clough.

The owner has moved away from the area so is not concerned about preserving Birstall's history. However, as a local Historian I have been contacted by many local residents who would like the house to be saved from demolition and restored to its former glory. The barn at the rear and the walled garden are also features of the house and should be saved, there is nothing to be gained by demolishing Clough House and hopefully the Conservation team at Kirklees will realise this and save it.