

Address: The Dwelling Leeds Road Birstall WF17 0HH

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
<p>Clough House is a house of historical importance, dating back to the 18 th century and should be conserved as part of the heritage of the historical village of Birstall. By demolishing this and building 30 new houses on the land this will not only have a visual impact on the area of Howden Clough, it will cause parking and traffic problems on an already busy road and housing estate. The owners of the house removed lots of mature trees about two years ago, destroying natural habitat for wildlife, obviously with the intention to apply for planning, this itself was destructive. The interior of the house has been ripped out recently, again on instruction of the owners, and until Historic England became aware (due to several concerned locals contacting them) the house could have been demolished, such was the strong desire to save the house by local residents that they acted promptly to stop work. It is believed that original panelling in the house (now gone unfortunately) came from Howley Hall, another factor pointing to how it's original owner was a man of substantial wealth. The grounds of the house have become neglected since the house became empty and removing more trees and shrubbery will be even more detrimental to wildlife and the environment in general, not to mention destruction of the old walled garden. Instead of building more houses in an already congested area Kirklees should acknowledge the historical importance of Clough House, the hamlet Howden Clough and the village of Birstall, much of it within a Conservation Area. Birstall has connections to the Brontes, Joseph Priestley and John Nelson, all worth recognising. Clough House was built by what was the local Squire, it stands in a prominent position. Something of a local landmark, and will be a detriment to the area if it is demolished. Nearby residents will be subjected to more noise and increased traffic congestion should 30 houses be allowed. The privacy of neighbouring properties will also be affected. Kirklees should look to make this property a Non Designated Heritage Asset should Listing not happen, government policy recommends respecting good urban design, these plans do not adhere to this in our opinion. As residents of Birstall we feel strongly that no more of our local heritage should be destroyed.</p>