About the application

Application number: 2023/90348	
What is the application for?:	Erection of community sports complex (within a Conservation Area)
Address of the site or building:	Former Hillhouse Bowling Club, King Cliff Road, Birkby, Huddersfield, HD2 2RR
Postcode:	

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

I write to formally object to the planning application which proposes the construction of a sports centre with a warehouse-type design in a conservation area. I have reviewed the submitted plans and accompanying documents, and I believe that the proposal is not in line with the character of the area and will have several negative impacts on the community and the environment.

My specific concerns and objections are outlined as follows:

Incompatibility with the character of the area: The proposed sports centre's warehouse-type design is a stark departure from the established architectural style and character of the conservation area. This development will significantly detract from the visual appeal and historic fabric of the neighbourhood.

Unsuitable parking provision: The proposed property is on a single lane road that cannot accommodate parked cars due to its narrowness, and the presence of driveways belonging to nearby properties. Parked cars would block access to these driveways, causing inconvenience and potential safety issues for local residents. Furthermore, if both football pitches were in use, for example in a 5-a-side game, this would involve 20 individuals and an estimated 10-15 cars between them, not including those using the proposed gym. There would be no provision for parking for these users, exacerbating the issue.

Dissimilar design to existing properties: The proposed building's design and appearance do not complement or respect the architectural character of the surrounding properties. This development will undermine the cohesive visual identity of the area.

Limited site access: The proposed development is situated in the middle of an unadopted single lane road, which will make access difficult for construction vehicles, emergency services, and users of the sports centre. There have been multiple incidences of bins not being collected due to vehicles obstructing the road which I'm sure you could easily confirm with the Kirklees waste management team. This limited

sure you could easily confirm with the Kirklees waste management team. This limited access raises concerns about the safety and functionality of the development.

Noise pollution and increased traffic: The significant increase in traffic and people due to the sports centre will generate considerable noise pollution, disrupting the peaceful environment enjoyed by local residents and impacting their quality of life.

Inappropriateness of development in a conservation area: Constructing a large-scale sports centre with a warehouse-type design in the conservation area is not acceptable, as it contravenes the principles of conservation and preservation that underpin the designation of such areas.

Impact on highway safety and traffic: The proposed development will exacerbate existing traffic issues in the area, particularly considering the road is a single unadopted lane. This will compromise highway safety and increase the risk of accidents, posing a danger to both pedestrians and motorists.

In light of the above points, I strongly urge the Planning Officer and Kirklees council to reject this application, as it fails to adhere to the established planning policies and guidelines. The proposal would have a detrimental impact on the character, appearance, and amenity of the conservation area and its residents.