

12th February 2025

Kirklees Planning Department

Formal Complaint Regarding Approval of Car Wash Site at Wellington Street, Batley WF17 5JE (Site opposite Wards Hill Junction)

I am writing to formally express my concern and dissatisfaction with the recent approval of a car wash site at Wellington Street, a busy junction that serves as a key inlet to the town centre. I believe this decision is ill-considered and contradicts the council's broader objectives for the town, particularly in light of the significant investment being made through the Levelling-Up Fund.

The proposed site, in its current form, appears tacky and out of keeping with the local heritage and character of the area. The design and aesthetic of the development do not align with the town's architectural and cultural identity, which is particularly disappointing given the council's efforts to enhance the townscape. The approval of such a development undermines the vision for a cohesive and attractive town centre that respects and celebrates its heritage.

Furthermore, this decision seems to directly conflict with the goals of the Levelling Up Fund, which is investing over £17 million into the town centre to improve road and customer safety, public realm, and green spaces. The introduction of a car wash at this prominent location will likely increase traffic congestion, pose safety risks to pedestrians and road users, and detract from the improvements being made to the public realm. It is difficult to understand how this development aligns with the council's stated priorities of enhancing the town centre and creating a safer, more welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

I urge the council to investigate this matter thoroughly. If the development is to proceed, I strongly recommend that measures be put in place to ensure the site is designed and operated in a way that is sympathetic to the townscape, respects local heritage, and contributes positively to the town centre's regeneration.

I would appreciate a response outlining the council's position on this matter and the steps being taken to address these concerns. I trust that the council will take the necessary action to ensure that future planning decisions are consistent with the town's long-term vision and the significant investment being made through the Levelling Up Fund.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,