

## About the application

Application number: 2024/92105	
What is the application for?:	Alterations to convert former offices to 21 apartments (Listed Building within a
Address of the site or building:	Wesley House, Huddersfield Road, Birstall, Batley, WF17 9AZ
Postcode:	BD4 8ET

## User comments

Type of comment: A supporting comment	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes
<p>Generally we support this application but a few concerns need checking. This former Chapel is an important part of Birstall's history with its connections to John Nelson so it definitely needs preserving. If these apartments are for rent or purchase they will hopefully attract people into the area who may work in surrounding towns and for those commuting via motorway networks. Birstall village has a lot of businesses which should benefit from the residents of the flats, but only if they are mainly occupied by working people and not all social housing or asylum seekers. Maybe Planners should also take into consideration access to the proposed car park as vehicles will have to turn into there from Huddersfield road, at an already congested junction at Brookroyd Lane. Perhaps the existing pelican crossing needs resiting to be actually at the junction? At the moment the hatched markings allow traffic out of Brookroyd but if going towards Leeds they then turn right and views of oncoming traffic is often restricted by traffic queuing towards the Birstall Smithies crossroad. Public transport improvements should also be considered as commuting into Leeds and Huddersfield at the moment is difficult as often buses don't turn up. This needs addressing if the flats are to attract commuters. There is also a Primary school opposite the building, extra security measures to ensure the safety for schoolchildren need putting in place. Chapel Lane is a one way street and vehicles exiting/entering the proposed car park may cause a hazard at school times. And lastly, there are houses directly opposite the Chapel on Huddersfield road, their living/bedroom windows will be directly overlooked from the apartments. The plans are fine in principle but only if these measures are all taken into account. Regenerating a disused historic building is welcomed, but Kirklees also need to do more to promote Birstall as a whole, the village centre is in a Conservation area. Some of the buildings are badly neglected, these issues definitely need addressing if new apartments are to attract residents from out of the area.</p>	