About the application

Application number: 2024/93494	
What is the application for?:	Erection of restaurant/café/bar, six guest rooms, exhibition/interpretation room
Address of the site or building:	Victoria Tower, Castle Hill, Lumb Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD4 6TA
Postcode:	

User comments

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

Castle Hill is an ancient hill fort of national importance. It is also a much-loved local landmark that is synonymous with Huddersfield's identity. It provides a large tranquil open space in the middle of a built up area where people are able to enjoy the freedom to walk and to experience wildlife that now abounds there. It is a tourist attraction, offering amazing views of the town of Huddersfield and the beautiful countryside around, and already attracts many thousands of visitors a year. It is well maintained by the Ranger and people respect the site for what it is and most are content with it as it is.

My concern is that its proposed commercialisation is in the hands of someone proven not to be reliable and responsible. These developers have damaged our trust, and based on the heavy-handed way in which they demolished the original pub instead of restoring it - and sold the stone - I strongly feel that they cannot be trusted to stay within the constraints given to them, or to respect the ancient site. Once damaged these things cannot be restored.

If a Visitor's Centre was to be built providing information, shelter, toilets and refreshments, and (in the absence of the original stone from the hotel) a modern low building provided, I feel that there might be some value, but the one proposed is too large. Its current proposed size may have the effect of increasing traffic to such an extent that it will inevitably lead to congestion on all the roads around Castle Hill, parking issues, litter problems, and the access road will become unsafe for pedestrians to use.

I strongly object to any additional excavation to create bedrooms - they seem an unnecessary addition and excavation would be unnecessarily damaging to the structure of the hill fort. The heavy excavation equipment needed would not be able to access the area via the existing narrow route between the ramparts without causing damage to the ramparts. Also provision of overnight accommodation would bring with it problems such as security and access for staff and residents 24 hours a day.