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

I object to the development for the following reasons…

Access to the site is extremely limited. This will be an issue for visitors and during the construction of the proposed hotel/restaurant which will require heavy vehicles and machinery.
The current parking area blends in with the natural features and current paths. If the new area is to have a tarmac finish, it will detract from the historical look of the site and may cause run off problems.

The addition of the barrier, to limit times when vehicles could access the top of the historic site, was necessary due to significant problems with anti-social behaviour. As a local resident, I have been able to see the improvements this has made. The barrier will not be able to be used in the same manner, if at all, after the construction and anti-social behaviour, including illegal drug distribution and use, and loud noise, is sure to return.

Previously, when the pub was situated on the site, there was a significant problem with litter. It would seem highly likely that this will become a problem again. Part of this was due to the wind distributing rubbish from overflow in the commercial refuse area.

I am concerned that if the hotel/restaurant is not successful, either immediately, or at any point in the future, the historical site will be left with a derelict eyesore, a magnet for vandalism and anti-social behaviour. It will not be easy to restore the site or change the building use as it might be if the restaurant was in a different location. If you were considering staying at a hotel on Castle Hill, I imagine you would expect a view. As the rooms are below ground level, as is needed to keep the profile of the building low, there is no view and this is likely to impact on the success of the hotel and reduce its viability.

Currently, the site is well used by walkers and visitors to Victoria Tower. It represents an interesting historical destination, one which as a teacher, I have taken my class to visit many times. The learning comes from experiencing the geography/history of the area. It does not need a classroom/hotel/restaurant, which is a side show that reduces its historical value and alters the character of the area in a negative way.