DC Admin

From:
Sent: 21 February 2025 21:58
To: DC Admin
Subject: Planning application objection - 2024-93494

To whom it may concern,

Comment Re: Application for planning 2024-93494

As a regular walker around and on Castle Hill, I have a number of concerns regarding the proposed development. The openness of the current site, offering long distance views in good weather, is fantastic so near to town.

The development appears far too substantial for the site, particularly given the nature of the facilities it will provide to walkers and visitors.

I find the documents submitted confusing, as the application refers to an extension, yet it seems to represent a new application. The labelling of the various plans is confusing, as some documents do not match the file name. Despite this, my comments are:

With the building being partly sunken into the ground it is virtually impossible to understand how far the new structure will stand out if built. Based on the drawings it appears to stand out substantially – which I feel is entirely inappropriate as it removes the open views over the hill top. Surely, it is inappropriate to start excavating into the primary features of an iron age fort, it's flat top with embankments marking its historic defences.

The concept of having members of the public walk along the footpath on the embankments, looking down on the bedrooms, again seems inappropriate and a security risk. The proposed security measures seem excessive and risk turning the flat top of the hill into some form of modern prison, with high gates, overnight lighting and video monitoring - totally inappropriate.

Why is it a good idea to put a restaurant and bar selling alcoholic drinks at the top of the hill with a dangerous access? Having walked up and down the narrow road access I have experienced (or witnessed) near misses and vehicles struggling to pass each other (some even dropping off the edge). This access is completely unsuited to 2-way movement of cars - never mind delivery lorries, vans and (I assume) construction traffic. As a mother with a young child, the concept of so much heavy traffic going up and down, whilst mothers push prams, walk dogs and children ride bikes, is not in the least appealing.

I note the car park is to increase substantially. Again, all this brings is more traffic onto a narrow access that doubles as a pedestrian walkway – every other access has steps.

Personally, I believe the proposed building would be a bad idea. It will flood the hill with traffic and people disinterested in Victoria Tower, the ancient fortification or the views.

I strongly object to the development and believe it should be rejected.