DC Admin

From:
Sent: 25 July 2025 10:26
To: DC Admin
Subject: Objection to Planning Application 2024/93494

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Dear Sir, or Madam,

I wish to object to the proposal 2024/93494 to build an hotel on Castle Hill.

Castle Hill stands within the Green Belt, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and one of Huddersfield's most recognisable features; no development should be permitted on a site of this type. Huddersfield Civic Society and the Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society have already made objections to the proposed development.

The National Planning Policy Framework (2024) Para. 154 says that development within the Green Belt is always inappropriate with a few exceptions that are irrelevant to this case. The Applicants attempt to strengthen their claims by asserting that the site is classified as "Grey Belt" in the NPPF because it does not satisfy the requirements for Green Belt status laid out in Para.143. However it is clear that sites of such high quality as this are specifically offered Green Belt protection by the NPPF Para.11d, clarified in Footnote 7. There should be no development of any sort on a site of this quality.

The application depends heavily on the Atkins Management Plan (2006) which suggested that visitors would welcome having facilities such as interpretation, refreshments and toilets on the hill. The Atkins report is now almost 20 years old and badly out of date. Most visitors wishing to know more about Castle Hill today will most naturally interrogate their mobile telephone rather than seek out a gallery containing information boards. Similarly those visitors seeking refreshments have long since gone elsewhere for their outings.

Those who continue to visit Castle Hill are looking for something out of the ordinary and that something would be badly damaged by the presence of a small and undistinguished hotel at the centre of such an extraordinary site. The proposed hotel has little architectural merit and sits low on the ground as if ashamed to be seen.This is the antithesis to the grandeur of the Hill itself and seems to offer little public benefit to counter the damage done to the site and to the environs of the Victoria Tower.

The applicants' suggested figures for numbers of vehicles accessing the Hill seem rather conservative, especially when one considers that to service an hotel usually requires large vehicles bringing supplies and that residents tend to make more than just the one journey in at the beginning and out at the end of their stay.

Any building on Castle Hill will change the feel of the hill and tend to detract from the wild and mysterious place it now is. The proposed hotel would do serious damage to the site and offer little in the way of public benefit. Any facilities that might be wanted by visitors could be provided off-site as they are at all comparable sites. Restricted access to the Hill is not a problem to be solved; it is part of what makes the Hill such a special place.

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