The Barn House
Ashes Lane
Almondbury
Huddersfield
HD4 6TE

Tuesday 29 July 2025

Re: Planning Application 2024/93494

Dear Sir,

Thirty odd years on from the arrival of the Thandi Partnership, this never-ending saga of Castle Hill continues. I write yet again to object to the creation of a commercial building on the summit of Castle Hill: little has changed.

- The hill fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument
- The only structure on the Hill is the Victoria Tower, itself a Grade II listed building
- The area is designated Green Belt, of special landscape value, the land having reverted to this status when the Thandi Partnership illegally demolished the existing building without planning permission

Any one of the above should preclude building permission. However, further causes for serious concern which would arise from development are:

- Ecological damage; part of the Hill is a nature reserve with a variety of bird species and a sett and badger activity.
- Archaeological damage. The developers have in the past never paid for a thorough archaeological survey, though they did irreparable damage to the original site when they excavated a large, deep cellar under the unauthorised building they previously constructed. Their only attempt at archaeology was to dig a few trenches in an area which had previously been disturbed, so obviously nothing of significance was found.
- The planned excavation for the foundation and lower ground of this hotel was said to be so that the building doesn't stand out on the skyline. Add to that sewage systems and service trenches and one wonders how much more damage to the site can be inflicted?

One insuperable problem cannot be talked round i.e. the question of traffic and parking. No commercial enterprise should be allowed to count a carpark intended for the convenience of the public visiting the Hill as belonging to an hotel.
Not only is the availability of parking spaces insufficient, but the access road up to the Hill is single track and quite unsuitable for trade and supply vehicles needed to service a commercial venture. Never was the site of an hotel more obviously shown to be unsafe and unsuitable than during the recent fire on Castle Hill. It started in the early evening, just the time when diners and drinkers might be on the premises. Either the customers could drive away, or the fire fighters could drive up the single track road, but NOT BOTH TOGETHER. It is a physical impossibility. This is a serious safety issue.

Is Kirklees going to be remembered for allowing the planned desecration of a unique site, said by some authorities to be the most important Iron Age site in the North of England? This is one of the few unspoilt areas of land, in an unrivalled position, which everyone can enjoy - completely free of charge. Why bow to commercialism for the enrichment of the few?

There are plenty grounds for refusing planning permission. Please put an end to this farcical, repetitive attempts at commercialisation.

Yours faithfully