From: Cllr Paola Davies <Paola.Davies@kirklees.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 July 2025 19:41
To: Nick Hirst <Nick.Hirst@kirklees.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Update on planning application at Castle Hill, reference 2024/93494

Good Afternoon Will,
I want to share my comments on the revised plans for the proposed development at Castle Hill. My direct comments are listed below - you may see that the comments relate more to the whole development than the proposed site rather than the revision. This is deliberate as I feel that the amendments do not address or alleviate any of my original concerns.

I believe that the planned development is too big for the site in terms of physical size and the scale of operation proposed for the new building. In addition, I think that the plans as submitted are not detailed enough to support the proposed development and that additional works required to address these shortfalls mean that the development and its
impact will be far greater than the current plans.

Firstly, in terms of size of the building and operation. Due to its position and location, the building will become a dominant, visible feature for miles around. It will drastically alter, what has become an iconic view of Jubilee Tower on Castle Hill and we need to be mindful of that impact on all residents of Kirklees and surrounding areas who share the view.

It is too big in terms of physical size and in terms of the size of the proposed restaurant. Access to the site is very restricted with a steep, winding single track road. The additional traffic caused by visitors and customers will be detrimental to the peace and beauty of the site. The scale of the operation will mean that large delivery wagons for food and drinks and then the subsequent waste wagons will require frequent access and the road and cause damage and pollution to the hillside and its environment. In the long term, the increased traffic will impact in the peace and tranquility of the areas as traffic queues to go up or down the hill and will block lanes in the vicinity if people choose to park there, rather than go up the hill. It will also increase the risk of accidents to foot visitors to Castle Hill. Many families with pushchairs or wheelchairs, children with bikes or scooters use the roadside to access the top of Castle Hill instead of the stepped access routes. In the short term, this will be even worse due to the size and nature of the vehicles required during construction, deliveries of material, removal of waste and the actual access of the construction vehicles. These will all have a massive, irreversible impact.

The inclusion of bedrooms is at the site also mean that operations will be 24 hours, so the access road – which is currently locked off at night to discourage anti-social behaviour, will need to be left accessible. This will re-open Castle Hill to anti-social behaviour, which was such a blight on the area.

Regarding the lack of detail in the plans. Other consultees have noted there are shortfalls in the details on the plan. One major shortfall is the lack of drainage plan. This needs to be addressed so that the impact of adding sufficient drainage for such a large restaurant, bar and kitchen can be considered properly in line with the application. The lack of lighting scheme is another cause for concern and conflict. The lighting scheme and its impact on the views, at night and in the dark winter afternoons of all residents of Kirklees and surrounding areas who share the view. This needs to be considered as part of the application. Especially, as noted by the Police, security lighting and CCTV will be necessary at the site due to the potential for increased anti-social behaviour.

Our prime aim should be the conservation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument and the protection of the peace and tranquillity of the environment on Castle Hill now and for future generations. I am not confident that the current plans do this.

With Regards,

Paola Davies

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