

ORANGE DESIGN STUDIO.

ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION JUSTIFICATION DOCUMENT.

MOORLANDS CRICKET CLUB, MEMORIAL PARK, HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, MIRFIELD,
WF14 9HP.

INTRODUCTION.

The purpose of this document is to provide a clear and reasoned response to the objections and comments raised by residents of Mirfield, in regard to the proposed development at Moorlands Cricket Club. This document aims to respond to the comments as seen on Kirklees Planning Portal.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS.

On behalf of our clients at Moorlands Cricket Club, we acknowledge the concerns raised and would like to provide clarity in the points raised:

Tree Felling:

The felling of trees referenced in the objection by Mirfield Town Council was not carried out as part of the current planning application submitted by Orange Design Studio, on behalf of Moorlands Cricket Club. The trees referenced in the objection have never been subject to the Tree Preservation Order (TPO). As such, their removal did not require formal consent and cannot be considered to be unlawful. Furthermore, the trees in question has been previously identified as causing significant damage to the existing structure of Moorlands Cricket Club – striking significant concerns over the safety of the clubhouse, sports people, and park users. While the planning application form notes that no trees would be removed as direct consequence of the proposed development, this remains factually correct – the trees were removed independently due to maintenance and structural safety concerns. The proposal complies with Paragraph 136 of the NPPF and Policies LP24 and LP33, as no tree removal is proposed in connection with the development. Following a tree survey, the design of Moorlands Cricket Club has been revised to ensure no further impacts on any trees.

Parking and Park Usage:

The design of the proposed works ensures there is no disruption to existing parking facilities. Existing parking facilities are retained. Parking facilities can be found to the North and South of the Mirfield Memorial Park access road. However, it is important to emphasize that majority of visitors walk or cycle to the site, in line with the site's location within a highly accessible sustainable location, with strong pedestrian and cycle connections. The access statement, within the planning supporting statement, highlights the strong pedestrian and cycle connections on a map, as provided by Kirklees Council. The proposed works are not intended to significantly increase match-day activity but rather provide more appropriate, modernised facilities for existing users and community groups already engaged at the site. The development will not generate new traffic movement, but instead provide adequate accommodation for current patrons, including team members, coaches and local residents of Mirfield and Kirklees. The proposal complies with Local Plan Policy LP21 by not creating severe impacts on highway safety or network performance, and by supporting access for all users. The club remains a community-serving facility and the extension enhances inclusivity and viability without significant transport impact. Importantly, the primary use remains a community sports facility, where the development seeks to enhance local amenities and sporting provision, which benefits the local and wider community and supports the Council's own objectives around wellbeing, activity, and youth engagement.

Proximity to the Memorial Park Entrance:

We at Orange Design Studio, and Moorlands Cricket Club, fully respect the significance of the War Memorial and the Memorial Park entrance and its commemorative value. The war memorial was designed and erected by Orange Design Studio, on behalf of Mirfield Town Council. The proposed development maintains a respectful distance and will not impact sightlines, access, or the public's ability to visit the memorial park. Furthermore, the proposed development does not impede public access or detract from the setting of the Memorial Park entrance, which was designed and erected by Orange Design Studio, on behalf of Mirfield Town Council. The entrance will remain entirely unaffected, both physically and visually, and we remain committed to ensuring that the character and dignity of this space is preserved.

Sport and Recreation:

The proposed development directly aligns with the aims of Local Plan Policy LP50 by enhancing the usability, inclusivity, and sustainability of an existing community sports facility. While the improved social areas form part of the proposal, they are essential to the long-term viability of the club, helping to support cricketing activity and broader community engagement. Crucially, the development includes much-needed female changing facilities, which will allow for dedicated disabled changing rooms. These upgraded facilities will support participation in the sport of cricket. The clubhouse will remain focused on sport while creating a welcoming, flexible space that encourages physical activity and community cohesion, in line with LP50's objectives.

Unauthorised Fireworks Display:

We respectfully emphasise that this is not a material planning consideration.

Visual Impact on Memorial Park:

We understand the importance of preserving the character and setting of Mirfield Memorial Park, both as a place of remembrance and as a valued local green space, as adopted under the Kirklees Local Plan. The proposed works to Moorlands Cricket Club has been carefully designed to respect this sensitive context. The scale, massing and materials of the proposal have been considered to ensure the building sits modestly within its setting. Importantly, the development will not obstruct public access, nor will it dominate or detract from key views. If anything, improving the facilities at the cricket club encourages a respectful, active use of the wider park area by families and local residents.

CONCLUSION.

We respectfully request that the planning application be considered on its planning merits. Moorlands Cricket Club has been a valued part of the community since 1884 and this proposal seeks to secure its future as a sustainable, inclusive facility for current and future generations.

We remain open to engaging with Kirklees Council and the local community to ensure that any development is carried out in a way that is sensitive, respectful, and beneficial to the town as a whole.