

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 14 October 2025 10:18
To: DC Admin
Subject: OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION - HUDDERSFIELD OPEN MARKET

Dear Sirs

2025/48/92443/W & 2025/65/92444/W Huddersfield Open Market, Brook Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1DY

I writing to formally object to the above planning application - Auto Jumble organiser at the market for over 40 years.

Firstly, I feel it "strange" that because I live outside the area, I am not allowed to file on-line - is this an error - can it be corrected, please ?

BUSINESS

I have been running regular autojumbles at this location for over 40 years and had hoped to continue doing so for many more. These events have not only supported my and traders livelihoods but have also become a longstanding tradition enjoyed by many stallholders and visitors from across the region.

Recently, it has been left to run down slightly and possibly needs a lick of paint, Tannoy repair, some roof leaks, etc, but nothing more. The lock up units have had a checkered life since they were introduced at the last revamp - heavily discounted and only short term take-up, I believe.

The proposed renovations, while perhaps well-intentioned, would result in the loss of approximately one-third of the stalls currently used during the autojumbles. This would make the event no longer viable and will, in effect, bring it to an end by next spring.

Furthermore, this building is a listed structure of significant historic value. Any redevelopment must prioritise the preservation of its character and cultural usage. In my experience, this proposal does neither. Instead, it risks damaging both the heritage of the building and the unique community use it has supported for decades.

To my knowledge, neither fellow stallholders nor regular customers are in support of the proposed changes. There has been a noticeable lack of consultation with those of us most directly affected. I believe a recent petition on Saturday by clipboard had all the stallholders except one! objecting to it.

I respectfully urge the planning committee to reject this application and consider alternatives that would allow for sensitive preservation of the building without sacrificing its current community value and long-standing events.

I understand the market building will be closed for approx. one-and-a-half years. I am old enough to have witnessed previous "renovations" to the building - painting of the entire building, the food hall and lock-up units. During those alterations, the building remained open and I, personally, ran my events under scaffolding used to paint the roof, beams, etc, ie, no loss of revenue for the council.

Stallholders will leave over the 1.5 years of the shutdown and will not come back - the market will be destroyed - see Derby Market for a similar scenario - it has been decimated with stallholders not return and going elsewhere - it is like a ghost town!

PERSONAL

This building isn't just bricks and mortar, and metal and glass – it's a well-known and much-loved part of Huddersfield's heritage. People regularly stop to admire it, take photos, and ask about its history. It's a landmark that means something to locals and visitors alike. Over the decades, I've seen firsthand how much joy and curiosity it brings to people. I feel honoured to hold my events there.

IN CONCLUSION

For over four decades, I've been running autojumbles there – events that have become a tradition for many. These events aren't just about buying and selling; they're about community, conversation, and keeping a piece of culture alive. The proposed changes would mean losing around a third of the stall space, which would effectively end these gatherings after next spring. There's simply no way to run them properly with such a major reduction.

I don't know of a single stallholder or regular visitor who supports this plan. Nobody I speak to wants to see the building changed like this or the events come to an end. It feels like the heart is being taken out of something that's brought people together for years.

I completely understand the need for upkeep and thoughtful care of a listed building — I care deeply about it myself. But this proposal, as it stands, would not protect the building's character or its community use. It would do the opposite.

Please reconsider this application and look at options that preserve the building's unique historic value and the long-standing events and traditions it supports, and no loss of stalls!.

Yours faithfully

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL