

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 15 October 2025 18:21
To: DC Admin
Subject: 2025/48/92443/W. 2025/65/92444/W

Categories:

Subject: Objection to Proposed Planning Application – Huddersfield Open Market

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed planning application concerning the Huddersfield Open Market.

As the owner of **Snack Shack**, a café I have proudly operated within the market for the past **19 years**, I am deeply concerned about the devastating impact these plans will have — not only on my own business but on the entire community of traders and customers who rely on the market every day.

At present, Huddersfield Open Market is **the busiest and most vibrant place in town**. The proposal to close it for **18 months** (or potentially longer) would not only disrupt hundreds of livelihoods but, in all likelihood, **mark the end of the market altogether**.

After the challenges of COVID-19, it has taken years to rebuild trust, resilience, and a strong trading environment. What we have now is something truly special — a bustling, diverse, and authentic market that other towns would envy. Yes, the site requires refurbishment and cosmetic updates, but this can and **should** be done while the market remains operational, as was successfully achieved in the past.

To illustrate the strength of feeling among the traders, we recently launched a petition opposing the closure. In just a few days, **nearly 160 traders signed it**. Despite comments made by Mr. Turner at the Huddersfield Hub, **not a single trader has voiced support** for this redevelopment plan.

The proposed demolition and rebuilding of 5 café units and 5 retail units is, frankly, pointless. These plans claim to reintroduce businesses such as butchers, fishmongers, and greengrocers — all of which the market has had before but sadly closed due to **lack of demand, not supply**. People now choose supermarkets for these items. Rebuilding the same types of units will not magically reverse those consumer habits.

Worse still, these plans will reduce the number of stalls from **120 to just 64** — a drastic cut that will force many existing traders out. Millions would be spent on a scaled-down version of what we already have, minus the character, the soul, and the community spirit.

A particularly absurd feature of the new design is the inclusion of cafés **without any seating areas at ground level**. Instead, customers are expected to carry their food or drinks upstairs to dine. The majority of our customers are elderly or have mobility issues — this design shows a shocking lack of consideration for accessibility and common sense.

It is clear that the architects behind these plans — based in London — **do not understand the needs of a working northern market**. Their design might look impressive on paper, but it is fundamentally disconnected from reality. To many of us, it feels like a case of “spend £16.5 million just to justify the budget,” regardless of the consequences for the people who depend on the market for their livelihoods.

The idea of creating **40 outdoor stalls** near Tesco also demonstrates a lack of local knowledge. Unfortunately, that area is already known for anti-social behaviour. Covered stalls outside would quickly become a gathering place for drug users, rough sleepers, and others — driving away customers and inviting further problems.

Furthermore, the suggested **temporary market** at the Tesco car park is completely unfeasible. The area is less than a third the size of a football pitch — it simply **cannot accommodate** over 100 stalls and several food businesses. To pretend otherwise is unrealistic.

The social impact of closing the market will be **catastrophic**. This market is more than a collection of stalls — it’s a lifeline for pensioners, a meeting point for communities, and the livelihood of over **500 people**, including traders and their families. Shutting it down will cause irreversible harm, both economically and socially.

So I ask you — as decision-makers — to think very carefully about what legacy you want to leave behind.

Do you want to be remembered as the council that **destroyed** the one vibrant, authentic thing this town still had?

Or the council that had the wisdom to **protect and invest** in a market that is **unique in the UK**, full of life, and loved by its community?

I urge you to choose the latter. Please protect and preserve the Huddersfield Open Market — not just for us, the traders, but for the town as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Owner, Snack Shack
Huddersfield Open Market

Sent from my iPad