

Address: 26, St Andrew's Crescent, Bradford, BD12 7EL

About the application

Application number: 2025/93234	
What is the application for?:	Listed Building Consent for removal of the Cross and reinstatement within the gr
Address of the site or building:	The Cross, Wyke Lane/Cross Street, Oakenshaw
Postcode:	HD1 2NF

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No

Oakenshaw Cross is a Grade II listed monument, with significant historical and community importance. Erected in 1702/3 it is a rare memorial to a woman, built by Dr Richardson and dedicated his deceased wife. This monument is one of few in West Yorkshire or indeed the country and should be respected, restored to its original site and cherished by residents and Kirklees Council as custodians.

The Cross had stood for 100s of years as a local landmark, at the junction of Wyke Lane, Cross Street and Sykes Lane, believed to have previously been the site of the village Market Cross. It contributed to Oakenshaw residents' sense of community and identity. The Cross and its position are part of our heritage and this should be respected.

It was removed, illegally, in 2022 by Kirklees after being hit by two vehicles, many months apart, that were being driven recklessly one of which was an HGV that should not have been using Wyke Lane.

Contrary to suggestions that the Cross's location contributes to accidents, the rarity of incidents at the junction suggests these have resulted from careless/dangerous driving and excessive speed rather than the location of the Cross as an obstruction.

Wyke Lane is simple country lane utilised by a variety of individuals: pedestrians, cyclists, families, schoolchildren and farm vehicles. Its visibility aids drivers in recognising the junction ahead and acts as an effective traffic calming measure. Most vehicles, including daily farm traffic, use the route without problems.

Past alterations made to the junction onto Wyke Lane from Bradford Road, narrowing the pavement and widening the road, have in my opinion encouraged drivers to enter Wyke Lane at speed or driving dangerously. Following multiple re-tarmacs to the road surface, the pavement is almost flush with the road level in places near to but not limited to the Cross junction, with incidents of drivers mounting the pavement rather than driving to the speed limit and near misses or injury to pedestrian users.

Relocating Oakenshaw Cross or altering the junction layout risks undermining both road safety and the monument's cultural significance. Not returning the Cross to its original position will also encourage speeding on Wyke Lane and dangerous driving, increase risk of accidents and increase the use of Wyke Lane as a "rat-run" by large and small vehicles alike.

Oakenshaw Cross stands as testament to the shared history and community spirit in the village. The proposed location will diminish its visibility and erode its role as a cherished landmark. Removing it to a small grass verge will adversely impact Cross Street residents and road users.

Its rarity, original heritage position and significance to a broad range of local residents should be convincing reasons to preserve both its location and the current junction layout.

Kirklees Council Officers have a history of ignoring the residents of Oakenshaw, shown by their handling of the Bus Lane planning and destruction of trees and hedgerows on Bradford Road. You have the opportunity to restore our faith in our council and do the right thing now. I urge the planning authorities to reconsider these proposals taking into account these representations and the historical, social, and practical importance of the Cross.