

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 09 January 2026 16:31
To: DC Admin
Cc: Edward Cheseldine
Subject: Planning Applications 2025/93234 and 2025/93235

Importance: High

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Dear Mr Cheseldine

The content of this email is greater than 500 words hence the email to yourself.

Response to Planning Applications 2025/93234 and 2025/93235

To relocate the Cross to the grassed area on Cross St has not taken account of the impact on road safety.

The council erected direction arrows around the monument many years ago thereby creating a roundabout and the site does function as an effective traffic calming measure. To remove this would increase danger of speeding traffic on Wyke Lane and a danger to pedestrians particularly where there is little or no pavement.

Removing the Cross makes safety much worse **UNLESS** the Council commits to road safety measures.

We were told that road safety audits would be conducted before any work, but nothing has materialised yet. Similarly, we were told in February 2025 that the council continues to monitor traffic on Wyke Lane. This was not true and has never been monitored.

Alternative traffic calming measures as previously suggested, including speed limits, **must** be in place **if** the Cross is to be moved from its original position.

A **ban** on 16.5m long articulated HGVs is essential on this rural lane which is single track in part.

We were told at a meeting with the project manager on 7th November that the council would soon erect 'not suitable for HGVs' signs at the junction of Wyke Lane and Bradford Road. This was after the community requests over many years but has still to happen.

The statement in the Highways consideration understood to be from community engagement regarding HGVs from one business is incorrect or not fully understood from community reporting.

The current protective concrete bollards take up more road surface than the original monument and also protect a heritage site that we were told by the Council's conservation officer could not be visually improved as it would be a criminal offence. How can this be tarmacked over?

The construction plan states that the remaining stones should be "removed carefully without any damage due to the heritage vale and set aside for re-use." This stone belongs to Oakenshaw, should be retained there and could be used as a historical feature.

As stated by Historic England (HE) and the Heritage Statement the original location of the Cross in the middle of the village with full site along Wyke Lane is very **significant**.

However, the letter of application states that the Cross would be moved 12m further than its original position. The application form and the DAS both state it will be moved 20m further away but the Heritage Statement by Ecology Solutions states 15m. The latter was the figure sent to HE in pre-application discussions so they may have been misled.

The proposed siting on the plans means that it will not be visible along Wyke Lane and only to those on Cross St which reduces significantly its important heritage position.

IF the Cross is to be relocated, HE favours the nearest position which would be the site of the cherry tree on the grassed area, and this would maintain the visual perspective of its significance. This is

also a flatter area for construction. Surely this is better from a heritage perspective as long as one or two trees are planted further down Cross St as replacements.

It is noted that the Kirklees Trees response to the application does not object to HE's suggestion of this location.

IF the Cross is moved development of a public realm space should include a waste bin and there must be a guarantee that the council maintains it. It has been made clear to the council applicant that the community will not volunteer to maintain such a space.

These are the comments from members of Oakenshaw Monument Preservation Group who have campaigned for the restoration and reinstatement of this rare monument for more than four years.

Regards

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