

Jane Parry

From: kirsty o'brien [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2021 22:47
To: Planning Admin
Subject: Dorman Long Tower R/2021/0728/PND
Attachments: Dorman Long Tower Objection Notice R20210728PND.docx

Hello

Please find attached my objection notice.

Regards
Kirsty O'Brien

I am objecting to the demolition of Dorman Long Tower, which has been in situ since the 1950's and is a prominent landmark in Teesside. It is a representation of the history of Teesside's industrial heritage and is the focus of recommendations made by the Teesworks Heritage Taskforce.

My concern is that the Taskforce which has been put together to 'preserve' Teesside's industrial heritage is not fit for purpose, and was just a guise to lessen the blow to the destruction of Teesside's heritage. The Blast Furnace is already coming down, and now another prominent structure has already had work started to demolish the building, which is against the planning application and has not allowed the public to air their concerns, thereby removing public consultation on the future of a building which is an iconic landmark for the area. The building should be retained as it currently stands and made safe, preserving any wildlife which uses it and allowing our history to still have a place in society.

I would like to know how essential the land is on which the tower stands, considering the steel works never removed it while continuing to work next to and around the tower. Is the true cost of demolition worthwhile? Has cultural significance been considered and do the Taskforce and Teesworks consider culture and history to have worth? Future generations will be stripped of their visual history; Teesworks are showing a shameful disregard to the physical heritage of our area, highlighted by commencing demolition work before the application is determined and their lack of vision at what could be an exciting project to restore this building as a visual reminder of what made Teesside.

Recommendations proposed by the Taskforce

Recommendation One: Existing Structures

..The Taskforce recommends that work on assessing the future of the Dorman Long coal bunker aka 'Dorman Long Tower' at South Bank as a potential retained built asset on the site be continued.

The Taskforce requests that monies be allocated to it by the Combined Authority to continue work to assess the future potential uses of the Tower.

The Taskforce is mindful that any potential future for the Tower would be subject to the analysis of related costs. Following this further work, the Taskforce will make recommendation/s to Mayor Houchen on this asset.

Why does the Taskforce even exist if public consultation is removed and no recommendations are taken from the taskforce? Why was planning application submitted, just for it to be ignored and demolition commence anyway, removing the structural integrity of a 70 year old building. Teesworks have not been transparent and used legal planning precedent to only apply for a Prior Notice of Demolition notice whereby only the “method of demolition” and “any proposed restoration of the site” can be taken into consideration.

There is no mention that an asbestos investigation or other hazardous elements has been undertaken. As the building is intended to be taken down by using explosives that will send harmful dust into the air. During some of the current demolition of the former steelworks site, black dust has reached as far as Eston, indicating potential to harm residents. There is a public right of way next to the path which will need closure notice. The National Grid have not been consulted. A mitigation licence has not been granted for the safe removal of any bats; a bat survey has not been carried out. This is a legal requirement.

It hurts to see our history destroy in front of our eyes. The Dorman Long Tower is a significant landmark on the Teesdale Way, and with the Coke Ovens gone and leaving a largely unmaintained path; the path will not be attractive to walkers from outside the area, affecting walking tourism in our area. Industrial tourism exists and I want to know if this has been considered when demolishing every part of Teesside’s Industrial Heritage?

I object to the evisceration of our past and complete lack of regard for public consultation on the preservation of Dorman Long.

Regards

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