

Debbie Campbell

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 September 2021 12:20
To: Planning Admin
Subject: (FAO Dave Pedlow) R/2021/0728/PND Objection

Dear Mr Pedlow,

I write to lodge a official objection to the demolition of the Dorman Long Tower.

I believe the tower is of both historical and cultural importance to the Teesside landscape, not only is it a fine example of Brutalist Architecture but it has been the backdrop to the local senary for over 65 years blending nature and industry. The tower is a monolith to Teesside's proud iron & steel industry, which has now sadly passed, marking the site where iron was first smelted as far back as 1841 where Middlesbrough and surrounding areas were but a hamlet.

Formed in 1876 (the same year as Middlesbrough Football Club) the Dorman Long is a name synonymous with our area and it is a name known around the world for quality, innovation and engineering (these are core values which should be held up as what a 21st century Teesside should striving for). It is a name stamped on the Sydney Harbour Bridge (1932), the Tyne Bridge (1928), the Desouk Bridge (1927) which crosses the Nile in Egypt, The Lambeth Bridge (1932) in London, the Adomi Bridge (1957) in Ghana – and many many more! The name Dorman Long is stamped across the world and should be celebrated, remembered and preserved on Teesside, and what better way than to retain the Dorman Long Tower?

I fully support the regeneration of the area and would even support a change of use/refurbishment of the tower which retained the outer shell and the famous name. Demolition is the easy option, the quick option, the careless option. Look at other towns and cities who have embraced their history and their industrial landmarks – the Baltic in Newcastle, Battersea Power Station in London, Saltaire Mills, Liverpool Docks, to name but a few. They have all added value to their local areas by embracing their past, celebrating it and reusing their buildings. If our area is to be dynamic, focussed on growth and improving the lives of residents then we must be bold, we must promote ourselves and make Teesside really stand out and be unique.

Whilst I appreciate this application falls under Redcar & Cleveland, not Middlesbrough, our area is infamous with built-environment and historic vandalism; the demolition of the avant-garde Odeon, the Victorian Cleveland Scientific Institution, and even the route of the A66 which alienated Middlesbrough's historic centre. We must learn from such rash decisions and ensure that we protect, celebrate and educate the next generations on our proud history so they can shape our future.

I implore you to reject this application, to make the developers ***think*** to make them appreciate and celebrate the site they have the privilege of working on. The Dorman Long Tower should be a focal point of any regeneration, putting up a plaque or naming a road simply won't do. We must move forward, not at the expense of the past, but **with** the past and embracing the past.

Yours sincerely a proud son of Teesside,

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