

	Online Comments
Application No:	18/04656/FUL
Comments:	<p>I do not agree that the restoration of historic buildings and their environment (around Courtfield House) should necessitate an accompanying new development. I would suggest that, given its position near Polebarn Road in particular, with its historic orchard and alms houses, any restoration should be afforded the (green) space in which it currently resides - and was originally intended to reside - in order to preserve what remains of the distinct character of this part of Trowbridge town centre.</p> <p>I would place particular opposition to the potential destruction of the orchards, which contain many varieties of tree (some of which are over 100 years old). It is also currently home to a large range of wildlife species, including rare butterflies, bats, and many birds. The space has been used in previous years by the annual town Apple Festival. The entire site would make an excellent community space - particularly given its proximity to Trowbridge town park - and could be a wonderful resource for community groups and projects (Trowbridge Museum, local Scout & Guide groups, etc.).</p> <p>The Design & Access Statement states in point 1.2 that "Courtfield House is on the Council's 'at-risk' register. As such, it is strongly in the public interested [sic] that an acceptable and viable redevelopment scheme is permitted as soon as is practically possible." However, I consider a development of this type, on this small plot of prime town centre land, to be neither "acceptable" nor "viable". The weight of traffic along Polebarn Road at all times of day - accessing the doctors' surgery, nursery, residences etc. - would mean that this already over-used road would be insufficient to cope with additional traffic. Brownfield sites around Trowbridge town centre are still undeveloped and I do not believe that this site must be restored or developed "as soon as possible".</p> <p>I would implore the Council to retain this precious green space in the heart of the County Town - to truly and authentically preserve the heritage of not just a listed building, but a whole district.</p>
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Date:	11/06/2018