

Mrs Jane Curley,  
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council,  
PO Box 136  
Buxton SK17 1AQ

5<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Sirs

**Ref :SMD/2015/0671**

**Listed Building Consent for change of use of Grade I castle from residential to residential and well-being retreat centre with guest hotel accommodation and associated parking etc.,,**

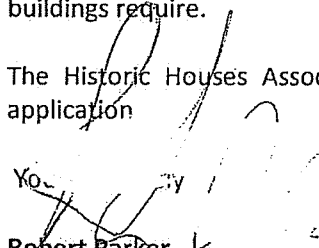
As a member of the Historic Houses Association we are writing to support the above application on the grounds that it will support the long term sustainability of the Caverswall Castle.

The Historic Houses Association represents the interests of 1600 of Britain's historic houses and gardens that remain in private ownership for the benefit of the nation and future generations. The cost of maintaining them thereby preserving the heritage they represent and the associated industry they sustain is huge and met by private individuals. It is recognised by government that the incentive for private owners to spend substantial sums of money and effort is in the long term public and national interest. However a point can be reached when the owner may be discouraged from pouring capital into its constant maintenance in the way that all such buildings require; if the property cannot generate sufficient income to make some financial contribution.

We are aware that a previous application of Caverswall Castle to promote itself as a corporate and wedding venue was refused by the planning inspectorate. It is therefore now even more important that a sustainable solution be found to conserve this Grade I listed building, with its origins in the 13thC is without doubt in the top echelon of historic houses and of national significance. We note that Historic England have no objection in principle to the application and that there is strong support from neighbours for the proposal as being an acceptable use.

The incentive for private owners to spend substantial sums of money and effort on historic property is in the long term public and national interest, but this can often cease if diminishing sustainability materially reduces the enjoyment of occupation. In some situations a point is reached when the owner will be discouraged from pouring capital into its constant maintenance in the way that all such buildings require.

The Historic Houses Association, therefore, would urge the planning authority to approve this application

  
Robert Parker  
HHA Technical Adviser  
cc Robin Macdonald

Please Reply to:  
ROBERT PARKER ESQ DL, BROWSHOLME HALL, NR CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE BB7 3DE  
Tel: 01200 423426 Fax: 01200 429263 Email: robert.parker@hha.org.uk