



Ms Kate Mansell
Kirklees Council
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Direct Dial: 0191-2691240

Our ref: L01187810

28 October 2020

Dear Ms Mansell

Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015

**PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH, PARKWOOD ROAD, LONGWOOD,
HUDDERSFIELD, HD3 4TT
Application No. 2020/90480**

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2020 regarding further information on the above application for listed building consent. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the application.

Historic England Advice

We appreciate that the revised design has sought to address some of the issues raised in our previous advice. The number of dwellings has been reduced from 12 to 8; this in turn reduces pressure on parking needs, and the subsequent revised parking arrangement shows a more sympathetic layout, which leaves free from development a larger area of the east terrace, better retaining the remembrance garden and placing the cars on a more discrete location, away from main views towards the building and this part of the conservation area.

Internally, we acknowledge the retention of some original features, in particular, the staircase connecting the church space with the meeting rooms below and the windows to the north west elevation. We also appreciate that duplex apartments are now proposed within the church space, and that their layout allows the windows to remain uninterrupted as well as a better appreciation of the church space.

Although these amendments are an improvement on the previous scheme, the impact of the proposal on the significance of the church remains considerably high, due to the extent of loss of original fixtures and fittings. This is a concern, considering the degree of intactness of the church interior, which contributes importantly to the reasons to its listing as a building of special interest.



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Consequently, we reiterate our previous advice and ask that your authority is satisfied that there is a strong justification for conversion to full residential uses and that commercial or community use are not a realistic alternative.

If residential use is justified, then we consider that further mitigation should be offered through additional refinements to the proposal. For instance, a more regular layout would be more consistent with the building's symmetry. The sense of arrival in to the building would be an important consideration here and to that point, further detailing of entrance areas, proposed and existing staircases, duplex spaces, etc., would help ensuring the proposal responds to and is in keeping with the character of the building. We consider that sections and internal elevations would help assessing these points. These should be discussed and agreed in liaison with your conservation advisors, who will also be able to advise you of any necessary conditions.

Recommendation

We do not object to the proposal, but have concerns about the details described above. We consider that the issues and safeguards outlined in our advice need to be addressed in order for the application to meet the requirements of paragraphs 192, 194, 196 and 200 of the NPPF.

In determining this application you should bear in mind the statutory duty of sections 16(2) and 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to have special regard to the desirability of preserving listed buildings or their setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which they possess and section 72(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas.

Your authority should be satisfied with the justification for conversion on to full residential of the building. We consider that a more sympathetic scheme is possible; this should be discussed and agreed to the satisfaction of your Conservation Officer, who will be able to advise you of any necessary conditions.

Your authority should take these representations into account in determining the application. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us. Please advise us of the decision in due course.

Rosa Teira Paz

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