

Consultation Response from KC, Conservation and Design
2020/90937 Pioneer House, Northgate, Dewsbury, WF13 1AP
Installation of statue to flat roof of building including support structure (Within a Conservation Area)
Date Responded: 24.6.20
Responding Officer: Sue Oakley
Responding Ref:

Pioneer House is a large prominent Grade II listed building built in four phases from the late 19th to early 20th centuries and a key building within Dewsbury. It is located within the boundary of the Dewsbury Conservation Area and is opposite a Grade II listed railway viaduct and a Grade II listed former Salem Methodist Church, now a mosque. Originally constructed for the Co-operative Society, Pioneer House became vacant several years ago and it has recently been part of a major regeneration project in Dewsbury. Now part of the Dewsbury campus of Kirklees College, this building will house the Art and Design department.

A 2m high statue is proposed on a flat roofed area at the north eastern end of Pioneer House, set directly behind the parapet wall of the building in a prominent position directly facing the railway viaduct and ring road. This statue has been created by the internationally renowned artist Anthony Gormley, and the intention is for it to be a highly visible prominent piece of artwork within Dewsbury town centre.

The proposed base for the statue is a 925mm high and 420mm² square pedestal, fixed onto on a 1m² x 100mm deep lightweight concrete base, and formed onto the flat roof. The pedestal will be the same height as the top of the parapet wall.

The concrete plinth is fixed into the roof structure with 16no L bars resin grouted onto the existing flat roof slab. Works will involve stripping a section of the flat roof membrane recently installed, setting out the new base, re-waterproofing the roof using a matching membrane before erecting the statue on top of the plinth. A section drawing has been submitted showing the structure of the existing roof and how the roof will be waterproofed and insulated.

I fully support this proposal as it will generate positive interest in both the building and Dewsbury, and I do not consider that it will harm the significance of the building or character of the conservation area.