Application for siting of commemorative blue plaque
at King James's School, St Helen's Gate, Almondbury, Huddersfield

Heritage Statement

The proposal is to attach a commemorative blue plaque to the former school house at King James's School, Almondbury.

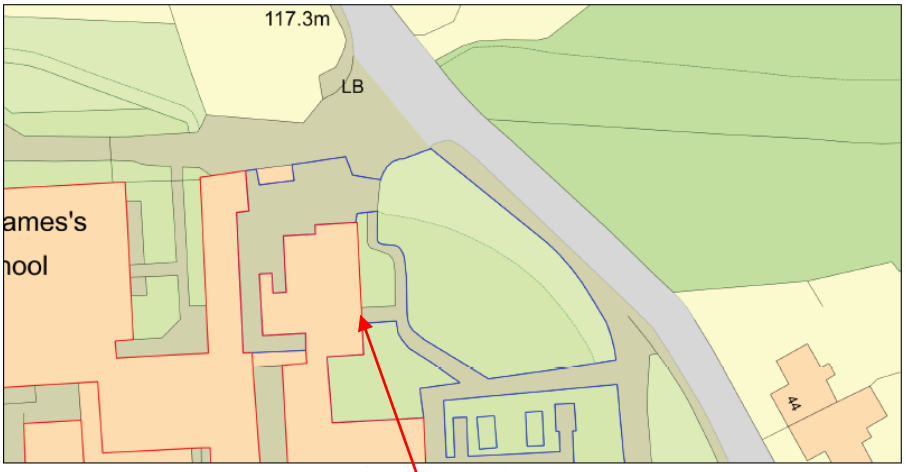
The school house forms part of the Grade II listed building on the school campus, which lies within the Almondbury Conservation Area.

The plaque, 400mm in diameter, will be fixed within mortar joints, not to stonework, is to commemorate the Rev. Francis Marshall, having lived in the school house and been the Headmaster of the then Almondbury Grammar School from 1878 to 1896. He was instrumental in fighting for rugby to remain an amateur sport, which was a major cause of the 'great rugby split', which took place at The George Hotel, Huddersfield in 1895, leading to the formation of The Northern Rugby Union, later to be known as Rugby Football League.

This year sees the 100th anniversary of The Old Almondburians Society, (a group of former staff and students of King James's School) and the 125th anniversary of the founding of The Northern Rugby Union, and it is thought an appropriate time to commemorate these two historic events with this plaque.

The proposal is regarded as 'de minimis' and would have no significant impact on the character and setting of the listed building.

In making this application The Old Almondburian Society ahs the support and permission of the school principal, the governors and the King James's School Foundation



Blue Plaque to be sited above the entrance door to the former school house



Frontage of the Old School House