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Dear Mr Wordsworth,

Refs 2022/93234 LBC museum, 2022/93235 LBC Queensgate Market & art gallery & 2022/93248 Piazza

I'm a historian of the application site. My post-graduate research thesis on Queensgate Market can be found here

https://www.academia.edu/22094237/An_exploration_of_the_development_of_Huddersfields_1970_market_hall_architectural_decoration_with_cheap_greens_an_architects_dream_Christopher_R_Marsden_MRes_Thesis_2012

I was the author of a paper inspired by the building's architectural ceramics; Christopher R. Marsden, *The Architectural Ceramics of Fritz Steller* *Journal of the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society* Vol 13, 2007 pp 3-14.

My 2003 scrutiny report "Take Courage" contributed to the listing application for Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery.

My 2019 book *Huddersfield in 50 buildings* includes both the market hall and library & art gallery.

I wish to give my general support to the application and want to comment on some issues.

1. The application seems to disregard the significance of the grade II listed staircase through ceramic panel 10 onto Queensgate.

The form and geometry of the 1970 staircase was extraordinary with an apparently unsupported raw concrete stringer beam, pale Ballidon limestone with a glistening quartz-like material concrete riser and tread ends with occasional but regular ballusters bearing black profiles.

The staircase and extended quarter landing were designed and built as 'floating' cranked hidden spine-stringer supporting flights of steps with 'floating' balustrading and handrail. Achieved without newel posts or many spindles and at first sight not meeting the walls. The spindles are minimal without compromising the structure and the handrail had hidden supports to masonry.

The continuous tread and riser ends exhibit a pale zig-zag up the staircase. The balustrading and handrail 'floating above'.

This highly sculptural form is unusual and spectacular – not just a utilitarian staircase that has carried many hundreds of people a day for 50 years.

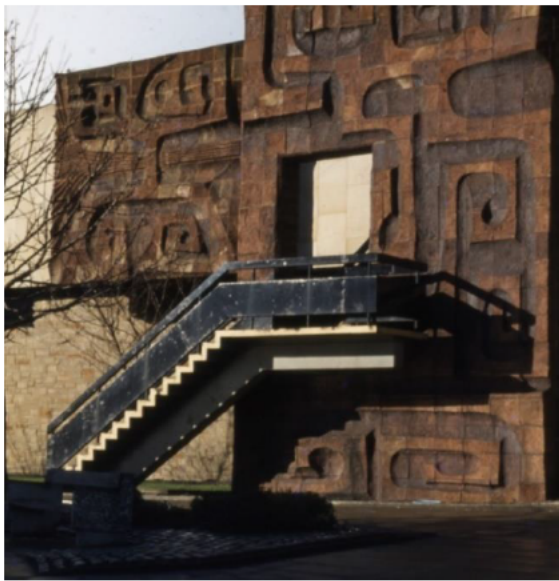
Later replacement parts disregarded the visual significance of the staircase and contrast to the panel. Some really clumsy work was done. I was consulted in 2016-8. And later much of that was undone during renewal work during the pandemic but not all.

The proposed alterations are described in manner I don't understand but disappointing as the 1970 design is disregarded. See 2022-93235_Plan+General_954570 "Note 16. Existing stairs with new metal balustrade with vertical flats".

See also 2022-93235_Plan+General_954577 3.5.3 Stair through panel 10 onto Queensgate

I have been unable to find any justification for this work in the application to a listed heritage asset.

I hope restoration work can be conditioned.



2. The absence in the application of public art or provision for later installation is disappointing. Such works may commissioned, loaned or resited pieces. Public art for streetscape, park & square is needed and should be conditioned.

3. Paint and tiles have been applied to some of the 21 hyper shell columns in an ad hoc or irregular manner. I look forward to this being addressed to restore them to raw boardmarked surfaces. I have failed to find a reference in the application.

4. The Access to Queen Street from the proposed square should be consulted on with the wider public and people with restricted access abilities.

5. The absence of car park access from one side of Queensgate is a surprise. The underpass has worked well. Only anti clockwise access planned! Why? The effects on incoming and outgoing traffic will reach Aspley. Without a comprehensive traffic it is difficult to understand.

6. Managing commercial, traffic and pedestrian interests (access, noise working hours) during demolition and construction needs conditioning.

7. There was underground access, under Peel Street, from the former police station on the site of Queensgate Market. It is reputed to still be there. Is it worth looking at restoring from town hall to food court?

8. I cannot find any reference to the preservation of the unlisted heritage asset of the electron microscopy of mitochondrion inspired GRP panels on Princess Alexandra Walk and Victoria Lane. Reuse, resisting, preservation conditioning?

9. Lighting of food court area and Queensgate exterior needs conditioning.

10. Lighting of park area and public art needs fuller detailing.

11. Queensgate trees - remove the ill-conceived, disfigured, non TPO, non-conservation area trees on Queensgate to enhance the street and listed building elevation. These trees, seen by the architect (Wood) and sculptor (Steller) in 2004 were already overbearing and inappropriate. Not what was specified in 1970. I would welcome more appropriate planting here and throughout the town centre.

12. Not part of the application but the Queensgate advertising is vile- remove the freestanding JCDecaux panel at end of contract.

Embargo on all commercial Adshel / JC Decaux / Clearchannel advertising panels in proximity of listed buildings and on the site. They degrade and pollute the environs.



13. Every effort should be made to reinstate the lost bronzes to library entrance windows.

14. The salvage of 1970 market hall Perspex signage, Pirelli ribbed flooring and lighting should be conditioned for local museum collection.

15. The identification, offer and potential salvage of market hall fenestration should be conditioned for the Brooking Collection of Architectural Detail at Cranleigh.

I hope these comments are useful. I would be grateful for notice of any amendment to the application or scheme. I'm available if you need any information or clarification.