



Historic England

Mr Sebastian Pickles

Direct Dial: 01904 601982

Kirklees Council

<By email>

Our ref: L01555974

24 February 2023

Dear Mr Pickles

Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2021

**THE GROVE UNITED REFORM CHURCH, OXFORD ROAD, GOMERSAL,
CLECKHEATON, WEST YORKSHIRE BD19 4JY
Application No. 2023/90073**

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2023 regarding 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

The proposed conversion of the main chapel space will result in the loss of the existing pews, pulpit and rail. The proposed subdivision of the space into apartments will also impact on the legibility of the original gallery and double-height space. This will cause harm to the significance of the grade II listed building as an example of an early nineteenth-century non-conformist chapel. There are some elements of the design that seek to mitigate this harm, for example the retention of the original pair of staircases, the retention of columns and the creation of a double-height space within two of the units. The harm could be reduced further if a reduced number of units was proposed for the chapel building. We defer to your local knowledge to assess whether there is a "clear and convincing justification" for the intensity of the proposed redevelopment, or whether it would be viable to provide fewer, larger units which would retain more of the original spatial qualities of the building. Whatever scheme is taken forward, we recommend opportunities are also taken to retain or reuse existing joinery within the building.

Recommendation



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Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.



Historic England

Historic England has concerns regarding the application on heritage grounds. 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 199, 200 and 202 of the NPPF.

In determining this application you should bear in mind the statutory duty of section 16(2) 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.

Your authority should take these representations into account and seek amendments, safeguards or further information as set out in our advice. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us.

Yours sincerely
Emma Sharpe

Emma Sharpe

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

E-mail: emma.sharpe@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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