

Consultation Response from KC, Conservation & Design
2023/91125 Batley Town Hall, Market Place, Batley, WF17 5DE
Listed Building Consent for removal of existing enclosed footbridge linking Batley Town Hall / Brunswick Building and reinstating fenestration to match existing internally and externally (within a Conservation Area)
Date Responded: 3.7.2023 Responding Officer: Sue Brooks Responding Ref: BHS 4/36
The Conservation and Design Team supports the removal of the enclosed footbridge which appears from historic maps to have been constructed in the late 20th century to connect the town hall to Brunswick Building on the opposite side of Brunswick Street. This bridge causes harm to both the significance of the listed building and the character of the conservation area. The bridge is accessed through adapted window openings within the town hall and Brunswick Building, so following the demolition of the bridge the applicant proposes to reinstate both windows as close as possible to the original by using the adjacent windows for reference. We have concerns about the details submitted on drawing PL12 for the proposed window on the east elevation of Batley Town Hall and would recommend that the following condition is applied to ensure the detailing is correct: <i>Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted drawing PL12, the new window within the current link bridge opening on the east elevation of Batley Town Hall shall match the joinery details of the adjacent sash windows on the same elevation in terms of material, profiles, detailing, dimensions and colour, albeit with an increase in the internal section sufficient to accommodate slim double glazing. The slim double-glazed units shall have 4mm glass with an 8mm gap with black spacer bars. Secondary glazing shall not be installed.</i> Reason: To ensure the satisfactory appearance of the development on completion to retain the significance of the designated heritage asset and to accord with Policy LP35 of the Kirklees Local Plan, as well as Chapter 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework. We would also recommend the following condition for the external masonry on both buildings: <i>Following the demolition of the link bridge, the masonry window surrounds and external walls shall be reinstated to match the detailing on the same elevation. Coursed dressed stonework shall be bedded on lime mortar to match the existing, and the window surrounds shall be of natural stone and replicate the adjacent surrounds in terms of stone colour, size, tooling and section. Where stone cleaning is required this shall be carried out carefully to minimise damage to the stonework (sand blasting shall not be permitted).</i> Reason: To ensure the satisfactory appearance of the development on completion to retain the significance of the designated heritage asset and to accord with Policy LP35 of the Kirklees Local Plan, as well as Chapter 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework.