

## Heritage Statement

### Holmfirth Tech, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AR

### Listed Building Consent for the replacement of windows in a Grade 2 Listed Building

#### Holmfirth Tech Heritage Background

Holmfirth Technical Institute, known as the 'Tech', was Listed Grade 2 on 20 April 2023 [Case Number 1477298]. The Institute was one of series in the UK designed for the further education needs of industrial and technical employers in late Victorian times. It was opened in May 1894 and taught a range of subjects for the needs of the wool manufacturing industry. It was later a secondary school and a Further Adult Education Institute before coming into its current uses [a centre for community and education].

The Consultation Report states that

*'It is an imposing and attractive small-scale further education building, showcasing the importance attached to technical education in the late C19 and the desire to express this in architectural form even in small towns. It is little-altered externally and retains much of its historic interior, including its plan-form and staircase, decorative joinery, plasterwork [some concealed by later ceilings], and ventilation system with arched wall niches and timber box ducts'*

#### The Tech and neighbours as a Holmfirth Gateway



Adjacent to the Tech is 42-150 Huddersfield Road, a row of Grade 2 listed 4 [formerly 5] houses in good condition. The Tech is located on the corner of Huddersfield Road and Bridge Street and this corner site, together with its imposing appearance and neighbours, forms an important 'gateway' for Holmfirth town from the Huddersfield direction. This location is also part of the entrance to Holmfirth Conservation Area, recently removed from the Historic England 'At Risk' list. There are no other nearby Listed Buildings.

#### Impact of current proposals

The current proposal is to replace almost all the windows in the Tech with aluminium framed double-glazed windows, in the same dimensions, layout and colour as existing. [The windows in the 'Dance Studio' have already been placed, see the Design and Access Statement for an explanation]. This will serve only to enhance the appearance and stature of this important building. The new windows will give the Tech, and therefore this entrance to Holmfirth a 'brighter' and more lively appearance. It will have no negative impact on other Listed Buildings or the Conservation Area.

An energy report for the Tech dated April 2024 recommended all windows be replaced with double-glazed units to enhance heating conservation. The number and size of the windows leads to enormous heat-loss, a critical factor in future financial viability of the use of The Tech. The white aluminium frames have a stub cill, and white locking handles. The glass will be 6.8mm laminate sheet to the outside, a 18mm black swiss spacer bar, and a 4mm glass sheet to the inside. The inside sheet will be toughened where required. The glass will be Planitherm insulated and have Argon gas inside every unit, creating an A rated window.

## **Conclusion**

This application forms an important step in the renewal of the life of this building that is vital to the past and present heritage of Holmfirth and its Conservation Area. The Tech is a living reminder of the industrial, social and economic history of this mill town. Some mills still operate; the Tech is finding a new lease of life in its recent purchase by a Community Benefit Society. Replacing the windows will contribute to the visual and economic sustainability of this gateway building, providing both an uplift to its appearance and a major contribution to its financial viability.