

HERITAGE STATEMENT

8 Market Place, Birstall, Batley WF17 9EL

1. Introduction

The application site at 8 Market Place, Birstall, is a Grade II listed building located within the Birstall Conservation Area. The building forms part of a cohesive historic streetscape of traditional stone buildings with timber shopfronts that make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the town centre.

2. Significance of the Building

The heritage significance of the building derives from its historic stone construction, traditional proportions, surviving timber shopfront elements, and the recessed central doorway which is a characteristic feature of traditional shopfront design. The building also makes a positive contribution to the wider Market Place streetscape.

3. Existing Shopfront

The existing shopfront retains a traditional overall form, including pilasters, stallriser and recessed doorway. Some later signage and detailing detract from the architectural coherence of the frontage. Works were commenced prematurely and have since ceased. This application seeks to regularise the situation through a sensitive redesign.

4. Proposed Works

The proposal involves a traditional shopfront redesign for use as 'Birstall Barber'. The recessed central doorway is retained, and traditional timber windows and door are proposed. The stallriser remains unchanged. The fascia sign is reduced in height by approximately 200mm and reframed in painted timber with modest traditional lettering. Slim-profile heritage double glazing is proposed within timber frames. An external perforated/open-grid roller shutter is proposed for security, designed to remain visually permeable and minimise impact on the streetscape.

5. Impact on Significance

The proposal preserves the special architectural and historic interest of the listed building. No original structural openings are altered. The reduction in fascia height improves the proportions of the shopfront, and the retention of the recessed doorway and stallriser ensures key heritage features are preserved. The permeable shutter maintains visual interest when closed.

6. Conclusion

The proposed works preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Grade II listed building and the Birstall Conservation Area, and are considered to accord with national and local heritage and shopfront design policy.