

18_01094

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Havant

Conservation Officer Comments – amendments required.

Overview

St Joseph's Church sits on the northern side of West Street within the Havant Conservation Area it is also opposite two grade II listed dwellings on the south side of West Street. The church dates from the Victorian era of high gothic design. Constructed of flint with yellow brick dressings with slate roof with decorative ridge tiles.

The application is in three parts; works to the church and work to the church hall as well as demolition of storage buildings to the rear.

The proposal is for a single storey extension to the west of the church to create a Narthex that includes a disabled access toilet and small kitchen area.

The side facing the road is proposed to be built of flint and brick to reflect the church the rear portion is a more lightweight construction in modern materials.

Whilst the flat roof is slightly incongruous with the very traditional form of the church structure the alternatives would impact more on features of the historic building, as the height of the structure is restricted by the sill levels of the church windows.

However, I still have some concerns regarding the detail of the design including the materials. I would suggest amendments are sought for the use of traditional material of warmer tones than the proposed. In particular the grey zinc slim line frames look very commercial in appearance. Also, the membrane roof covering whilst it is acceptable on the hall I feel that a more traditional material that is not prone to having a shiny appearance would be better suited to the church extension. As a suggestion I have seen some very successful contemporary extensions to churches that are glazed with a timber frame.

I also have some concerns with the relationship of the extension with existing windows. It appears that one window is to be blocked and another truncated. Whilst small these are significant features on this ecclesiastical building. The extension would benefit from having a better relationship with these windows.

The proposed changes to the hall are modest and will not be seen from the road, they also blend well with the existing built form of the hall.

Changes to the church hall are not considered not have an impact on the setting or character of the Conservation Area or the church

The removal of the garages will only improve the aspect to the rear.

Conditions on materials would be required.